

Name _____



Tom's Games

As *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* nears its end, Huck Finn has grown and changed. He has learned to think for himself and to trust his own sense of right and wrong. But when his old friend, Tom Sawyer, enters the story again, Huck's confidence is tested. Tom's arrival brings back adventure and excitement, but it also creates challenges for Huck, especially when it comes to freeing Jim.

Before Tom arrives, Huck has already decided to help Jim escape from slavery. He has struggled with the idea of right and wrong and has chosen friendship over what society has taught him. He believes that helping Jim is the right thing to do, even if it means breaking the law. Huck is serious and focused on getting Jim to freedom as quickly as possible.

However, when Tom joins Huck, everything changes. Tom treats Jim's escape as a game, turning it into an elaborate adventure instead of a simple rescue. He insists on adding unnecessary and dangerous steps—like digging a tunnel, sending secret messages, and even pretending Jim needs to write a farewell letter in his own blood! Huck, who had been making careful and practical decisions, follows along with Tom's wild ideas. It is as if he forgets the lessons he learned on the river and starts acting like the boy he used to be.

Eventually, Huck begins to see the problems with Tom's plan. Tom is making the situation more difficult just for fun, while Jim's freedom is at stake. In the end, Huck learns that Tom had known all along that Jim was already free. Tom was willing to risk Jim's safety for the sake of adventure. This makes Huck realize how much he has changed—he no longer sees everything as a game.

Tom's arrival shows the difference between Huck's growth and Tom's immaturity. Huck has learned that real life is more important than pretend adventures. He understands that Jim is a person, not just part of a game. Tom's actions help Huck see that doing what is right is not about excitement—it is about responsibility. This realization helps Huck grow even more, proving that he is no longer just a boy following others, but someone who can think and act for himself.