

Education of Huck Finn

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is about Huck Finn, a boy of 13 or 14, who travels down the Mississippi River with an escaped slave named Jim. They have many adventures together on Jim's road to freedom, and form an inseparable bond that made this book an American classic. Another aspect that makes it a great book is how Huck grows and develops over the novel through his adventures on a small raft. He learns about slavery and the morals of the people along the river. Between the adventures he has time to think about life, and overall he matures emotionally, grows wiser, and gets a better understanding of his morals.

Huck Finn had grown up alone after his mother died and his drunk of a father left. He preferred living alone in the woods, but he was adopted by an old widow who tried to civilize him. During this time, he sneaks out at night to meet with Tom Sawyer and their friends. They plan to become highway robbers, kill people, and have adventures. They do lots of playing and pretending, but never anything serious. But soon Huck's father returns to take Huck, and Huck realizes he wants to live a wild life. Huck decides to run away down the river, and there he meets Jim and becomes close with him. They also pick up two con men who call themselves the King and the Duke. They only cheat and steal from people, and Huck and Jim do not enjoy their presence.

Huck grows emotionally from the different people he meets and experiences he has. His time with Jim causes Huck to start this great bond between the two of them, despite Jim being a runaway slave. This really shows when they are separated in the fog around the city of Cairo. When they meet back up, both express how much they were worried about each other. Also when

they are separated by a steamboat and Huck stays with the Grangerfords, they again express their feelings of worry when reunited. Huck also never really cared for strangers, but immediately liked Mary Jane, one of three sisters that the King and Duke tried to cheat. She was the oldest and most mature of the sisters and Huck talked to her often. When he revealed the fraud, Huck told her directly and showed he cared for her safety. Huck came a long way from not caring about most other people to trusting almost complete strangers.

Huck also grows much wiser. He realizes that what the King and Duke were doing was wrong, and decided to tell Mary Jane. That was a wise decision because otherwise she would have been very hurt by them and the thieves would have gotten away. I think the wisest thing he did was after Tom Sawyer was shot while trying to free Jim. Tom didn't want help, but Huck realized his safety was more important than their secrecy. He went and got a doctor and didn't waste time confusing the doctor like Tom instructed him. That decision could have saved Tom's life.

Huck's biggest change is his moral development. All his life he was raised in a society that saw blacks as slaves and property. But Huck treated Jim as an equal, and although Jim was black, he was the same. This makes Huck question slavery, and he decides Jim should be free. Huck knew that was against the law, and he even believed he would go to hell, but still he did what he thought was right. Huck also realized that stealing from others is wrong. Huck, Tom, and their friends always pretended to be highway robbers and kill people, but never did. But when Huck was out in the world, he saw people killing and stealing and realized it was wrong. He tried to stop the King and Duke from stealing all the inheritance from the real brothers because he saw

it was mean and dishonest. That was almost what he wanted to do with Tom and his gang, but now he realized it was wrong.

Over the course of the novel, Huck becomes a much better person. He realizes the wrongs of slavery, learns to care for others, and learns to make wise decisions in life. These are important life lessons that everyone should learn. Even today the same lessons apply: to see the wrong in society, to love and care for others, and to make good decisions.