



Huckleberry Finn Effects and Outcomes of Conformity

For Huck Finn, conformity is a survival skill—he continually has to adapt to new circumstances. Twain uses Huck's shifting priorities to structure the narrative chronologically, geographically, and by cause and effect. To appreciate Twain's artistry, read the text closely and answer the questions. Note where you found evidence to support your answers.

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Chapters 1–4	Chapters 5–7	Chapters 8–16, 19	Chapters 17–18
Huck lives in St. Petersburg with the Widow Douglas, who is trying to civilize him.	Huck lives with his father, Pap Finn, in a remote cabin on the Illinois side of the river.	Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, float down the Mississippi River on a raft, heading for Cairo, Illinois.	Huck goes ashore in Tennessee and gets caught up in a feud.
What are the results of Huck's staying in school? <i>Huck “could spell, and read, and write just a little . . .”.</i> <i>Chapter 4, paragraph 1</i>	Why does a court of law give custody of Huck to his drunken father?	How does Jim's legal status affect when and where Huck and Jim travel?	What nonconformists help Jim while Huck stays with the Grangerfords?
<i>Look ahead:</i> In chapter 5, how does Huck prove that he can read? <i>At Pap Finn's command, he reads “something about General Washington and the wars.”</i> <i>Chapter 5, paragraph 11</i>	What is Huck's legal status after he escapes from his father?	How do Huck and Jim know that they have missed Cairo?	How do Huck and Jim feel after they escape the feuding families and are back on the raft?
<i>Look ahead:</i> How does Pap Finn respond to Huck's reading?	<i>Look ahead:</i> How does Huck's experience with his father affect his behavior toward Jim?	<i>Look ahead:</i> What happens when a steamboat deviates from its usual channel?	<i>Predict outcomes:</i> Who will help or threaten Huck and Jim as the Mississippi River carries them even farther south?

RL.11–12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11–12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.11–12.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

RL.11–12.6 Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).