



Huckleberry Finn Three Pairs of Liars

In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain uses lying to delineate his characters, express themes, and structure the narrative. To appreciate Twain's craftsmanship, look at the chapter grid and the color-coded columns. Then answer the questions. Note the chapter of each supporting quote.

Chapter Grid

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	

Chapters 1–4	Chapters 8–31	Chapters 19–33	Chapters 32–42+
Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer	Huck Finn and Jim	The King and the Duke	Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer
1. What tall tales does Tom Sawyer tell his gang? <i>Arabs and Spanish merchants were coming with a load of treasure.</i> Chapter 3	1. In chapter 8, what does Huck promise Jim in exchange for the truth?	1. Why do the two con artists tell lies?	1. Where does Tom get his ideas for how to free Jim?
2. Where does Tom get the ideas for his games? <i>“out of pirate books, and robber books”</i> Chapter 2	2. In chapter 16, why does Huck lie about who is on the raft?	2. In chapters 24 and 25, how do the King and the Duke work their con game?	2. In chapter 33, how does Tom Sawyer lie by keeping back the truth?
3. Does Huck Finn believe Tom's tales? How do you know?	3. What is the result of Huck's lie in chapter 16?	3. What is the outcome of the con game from chapters 24 and 25?	3. Who is the worse liar, Tom Sawyer or Huck Finn? Why do you think so?

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.

W.11-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.