

Mark Twain

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

This is the story of Huckleberry Finn, or Huck to his friends, and his adventures on the Mississippi River. Huck's father takes him away from his new life with a kind old lady called Widow Douglas, and hides him in a hut. Huck runs away and goes down the river. He meets Jim, a black slave, and they travel down the river together. Read about their adventures and problems, and how they meet Tom Sawyer again.

In this reader you will find:

- Information about Mark Twain's life
- Focus on section: The Mississippi River, Black Slaves in America
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A1 Movers style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Family | Love | Friendship | Society

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● STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1	Movers
STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/Key
STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

Classic - American English

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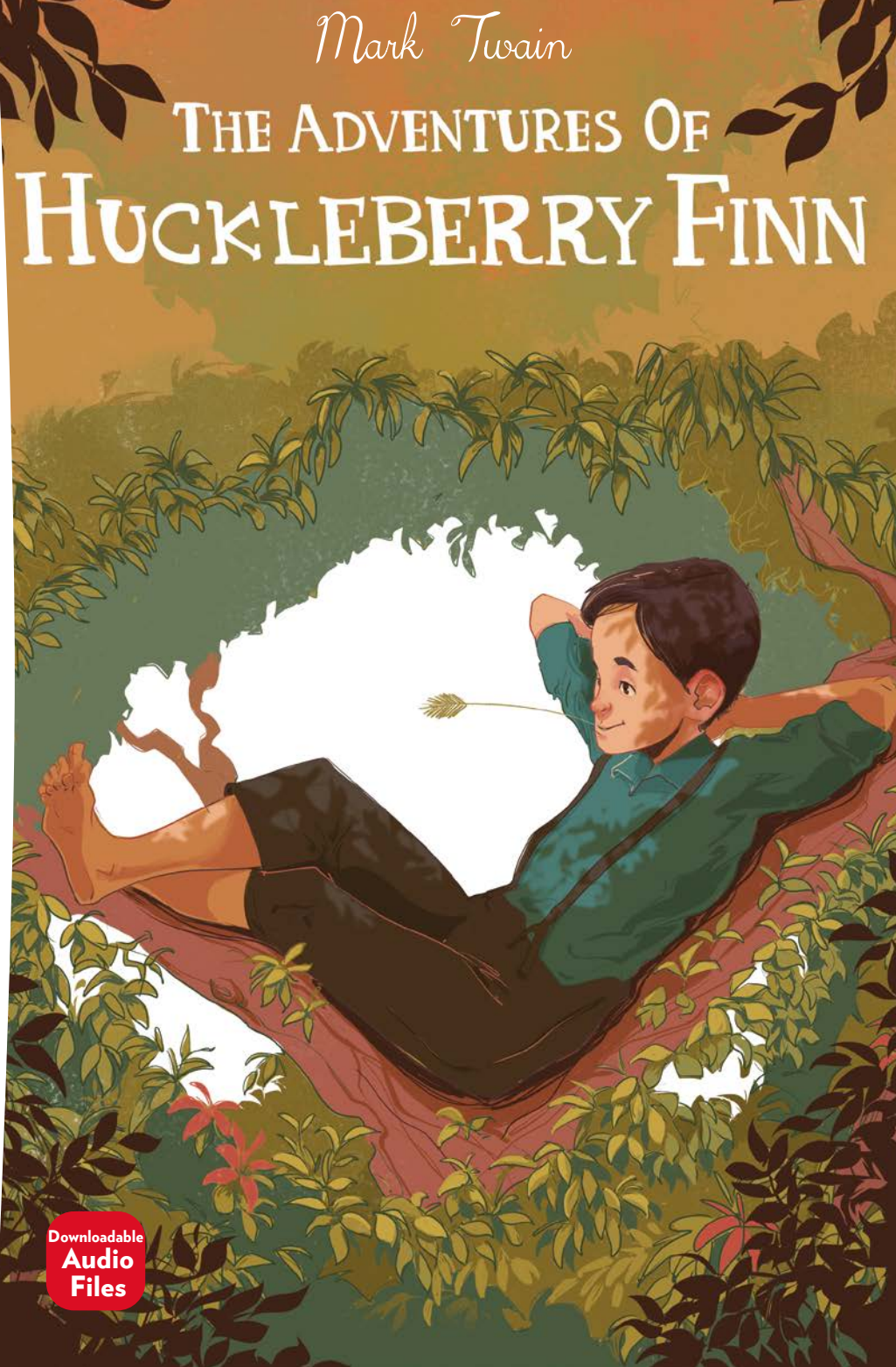
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Mark Twain
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

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Mark Twain

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

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Book brief

- 1 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a novel by American writer, Mark Twain, first published in the UK in 1884, then in the US in 1885.
- 2 Known as one of the “Great American Novels”, it gives the reader a clear idea of America at that time.
- 3 It’s one of the first novels in American literature written in everyday spoken English.
- 4 The story is told by Huckleberry Finn, a young boy who has lots of adventures on the Mississippi River. This novel is a direct sequel to *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
- 5 There are colourful descriptions of people and places along the Mississippi River and themes include race and identity.

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The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Retold and Activities by
Claire Moore

Illustrated by
Alessandro Pugiotto

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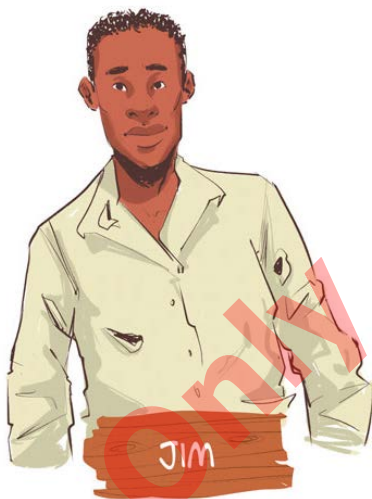
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Main Characters



HUCKLEBERRY FINN

*His friends call him Huck.
He tells the story of his
adventures.*



JIM

*Miss Watson's slave:
he runs away and has lots
of adventures with Huck.*



THE DUKE

*He isn't really a Duke and
does lots of bad things to get
people's money.*



WIDOW DOUGLAS

*She's a kind woman who
gives Huck a home.*



HUCKLEBERRY'S DAD

He drinks too much and wants Huck's money.



THE KING

He isn't really a King and, like the Duke, does bad things to get people's money.



MISS WATSON

She's Widow Douglas' sister but she isn't as nice to Huck as her sister is.



TOM SAWYER

Huck's best friend: he likes having many adventures.

Before you read

Writing

- 1 Look at the picture on the front cover of this book. What can you see? Write some sentences. Use the words in the box to help you.

boy sit tree summer happy

Reading and Writing

MOVERS

- 2 Choose the correct word for each sentence about the story.

In this story, you can read about Huckleberry Finn's adventures in the 1880s.

on at ~~in~~

- 1 The story _____ in a town on the Mississippi River in the southern states of America.

goes starts comes

- 2 Huckleberry Finn _____ with a kind old woman.

lives does has

- 3 Then Huckleberry Finn's father takes _____ away from the old woman.

his her him

- 4 Huckleberry runs away _____ his father and travels down the river.

by from at

- 5 He does _____ of exciting things on the river.

lots lot much

Speaking

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Skills

- 3 Find the Mississippi River on a map. Then answer the questions. Use the Internet to help you.

- 1 How long is the river?
- 2 How many states does the river run through?
- 3 Where does the Mississippi river end?
- 4 Would you like to live near a river?
Why? / Why not?
- 5 What names of rivers do you know in your country?



Vocabulary

- 4 Match the pictures to the words in the box.

cave raft footprints rags barrel



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____

Listening

- 2 5 Read the sentences. Listen to the first part of Chapter 1 and tick the ones you hear.

- A ☐ This is a story about my cousin.
 B ☐ This is a story about me and my adventures...
 C ☐ I find \$4 on a raft.
 D ☐ ... more than we know what to do with!
 E ☐ I sometimes wear rags.
 F ☐ I hate my new clothes.

Chapter 1

I'm Huckleberry Finn

► 2 My name's Huckleberry Finn, or Huck to my friends, and I come from St. Petersburg, a town on the Mississippi River. This is a story about me and my adventures¹ on a raft down the river.

This story is about Huck and his adventures on a raft on the Mississippi River.

There's another story, too, called *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Tom Sawyer's my friend and we have great fun together. At the end of the story with Tom, we find some money in a cave. It's a lot of money - \$12,000 - that's \$6,000 each²!

In another story, Huck and his friend Tom find a lot of money. Now it's in the bank and Huck gets a dollar a day.

But Judge Thatcher takes our money and puts it in the bank. Now we get interest³ on our money - a dollar a day each - more than we know what to do with!

My mother is dead⁴ and I don't know where my father is but I'm a happy boy. I sometimes wear rags and I like living in a barrel by the river but everyone says I can't do that anymore.

So I go to live with a nice old woman called Widow Douglas in her big house. She wants me

¹ **adventure** something exciting

² **each** all the people in a group

³ **interest** money you get from a bank

⁴ **dead** not living anymore

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to be her son and she wants me to be a nice, clean boy. So I sleep in a bed and I wear nice clothes. She reads me stories and I eat at the table but sometimes I really miss¹ my old life. All I really want to do is wear my old rags and sleep in my barrel, but my friend, Tom Sawyer, says I have to be good.

The old woman is nice to Huck but sometimes he misses wearing old rags and sleeping in a barrel.

Then her sister, Miss Watson, comes to live with us too. She's tall and thin and she wears glasses. She always shouts at me and tells me what to do.

"Don't put your feet on the table, Huckleberry!" and "Sit nicely at the table, Huckleberry!"

Miss Watson lives with Huck too. She always shouts at him. Huck doesn't like her, but he likes her slave, Jim.

I don't like Miss Watson very much. She always says prayers² before dinner.

Miss Watson has a black slave³. He's a big, strong man called Jim. I like Jim.

One night, I'm in my bedroom looking out of the window. I hear a noise. I jump out of the window and see Tom Sawyer. We run along the path⁴. ■

▶ 3 Then we see Jim sitting by the kitchen door. He gets up and shouts, "Who's there?" We don't

¹ **miss** a feeling when you want something you had in the past

² **prayer** people say prayers when they want God to listen to them

³ **slave** somebody who has to work very hard for somebody else

⁴ **path** a small road where you can walk, usually in the country

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move. Tom and I wait and then Jim falls asleep with his hat on!

Huck has fun playing with Tom but the next morning Miss Watson is angry with him because his clothes are dirty, but the old woman isn't.

Then we run to the top of the hill and find Joe Harper and Ben Rogers and some more boys. We have some great adventures that night. Tom wants us to be a band of robbers¹ and call it Tom Sawyer's Gang. We all promise never to tell anyone our secrets. I go back to my bedroom exhausted² – my clothes all dirty!

Miss Watson is very angry with me the next morning but Widow Douglas isn't. She cleans my clothes and doesn't say a word.

Huck is worried because nobody knows where his father is. He goes to school and starts to like it. He likes living with Widow Douglas too. But, one day he sees his father's footprints in the snow.

I'm worried³ about my Pap (that's what I call my father). I don't know where he is. Some people say he drowned⁴ in the river but I don't think so. But I continue⁵ going to school. I learn to read and write. At first I hate⁶ school but slowly I start to like it. I even like living with Widow Douglas too.

One winter day, after breakfast, I go into the garden and I see some footprints in the snow. I look around but I don't see anybody. But I know it's him – my Pap.

¹ **robbers** people who take something that isn't theirs

² **exhausted** really tired

³ **worried** to feel anxious about something

⁴ **drown** die under water

⁵ **continue** not stop doing something

⁶ **hate** not like at all



Huck has to be a good boy when he's sitting at the table or Miss Watson shouts at him.



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Jim looks at his magic ball but he doesn't know what Huck's father wants to do.

So I go to Jim because he has a magic¹ ball. I tell him Pap is here again. "What does he want to do?" and "Does he want to stay?" I ask Jim. He looks at his ball and says something. He listens to it. Then he says, "Your father doesn't know what to do."

But that night when I go to my bedroom there he is – Pap is back!

Huck's father comes. He's dirty and he's wearing rags. He wants Huck's money. Huck gives him the dollar he has. His father tries to get all Huck's money but Judge Thatcher doesn't give it to him.

I stare² at him. His hair is long and dirty. He's wearing rags. His face is white.

"Look at your new clothes!" he says.

"They're from Widow Douglas," I reply³.

"You go to school. Do you think you're better than your father?" he continues.

"No," I reply "but I'm learning to read."

"Well, I can't read and you don't need to read. I hear you have money. I need money."

"I haven't got any money. Judge Thatcher has got it. Here, I only have one dollar." I say, giving him the coin⁴.

Then he goes. The next day he goes to Judge Thatcher but he doesn't get my money. Judge



Huck is living with his father now and they fish in the river, Huck likes fishing but he doesn't like living with his father.

¹ **magic** you do magic with this 

² **stare** look hard at something

³ **reply** answer

⁴ **coin** 



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Huck's Pap takes him away from Widow Douglas and they live in a log cabin in the wood. Huck can't get away because Pap locks the door.

After two months, Huck decides to escape because his father hits him a lot. He uses a saw to make a hole in the wall.

Thatcher and Widow Douglas try to stop Pap from taking me away but there's nothing they can do. He stays around. He gets drunk¹. I go to school.

Then one day he takes me up the river in a boat. After about three miles we stop. There's a wood² but no houses, only a log cabin³. We live there. He locks⁴ the door at night and he has a gun⁵. We fish⁶ and sometimes he goes to town but he always locks me in the cabin.

Two months pass. I have no books and my clothes are dirty and like rags again. I like the cabin. I think about Widow Douglas's house. I like fishing in the river and living in the forest but Pap beats⁷ me and I have lots of bruises⁸. Then he goes away for three days and locks me in the cabin. I'm very lonely⁹. I'm scared¹⁰ so I decide¹¹ to escape¹².

¹ **drunk** how you feel when you drink too much beer or wine

² **wood** a place with lots of trees

³ **log cabin** small wooden house

⁴ **lock** close with a key

⁵ **gun** 

⁶ **fish** see page 15. Huck and his father are going fishing

⁷ **beat** hit someone

⁸ **bruise** 

⁹ **lonely** when you feel sad because nobody is with you

¹⁰ **scared** afraid

¹¹ **decide** when you think about something then do it

¹² **escape** run away

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There isn't a window and the door is locked, but one day I find an old saw¹ so I start to make a hole² in the cabin wall. Then Pap comes back so I hide³ it under a blanket. Pap is angry and talks and talks, then he drinks some whisky and falls asleep.

The next morning, Pap sends me out to get fish for breakfast. I see a canoe⁴ on the river. There's nobody inside. I look around. Pap is in the cabin. So I jump in the canoe and hide it. That night Pap goes out but he leaves the gun. I take the saw and finish the hole in the wall. I take some food and other things and get out. I have a plan⁵.

I find a pig and kill⁶ it. Then I put its blood⁷ around the cabin. Pap must think I'm dead. Then I get in the canoe and go down the river. ■

Huck escapes down the river in a canoe. He kills a pig and puts blood around the cabin so Pap thinks he's dead.

¹ saw 

² hole 

³ hide put something where nobody can find it

⁴ canoe 

⁵ plan if you have a plan you decide the things you want to do before doing them

⁶ kill if you kill someone, they die

⁷ blood 

Think

What do you think of Huck?

Would you like him as a friend?

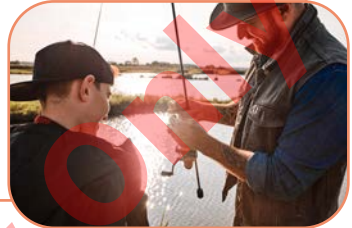
Why? / Why not?

Speaking

1 In Chapter 1 Huck plays with his friends and goes fishing with his father. Answer these questions about you.

- 1 What do you like doing with your friends outside?
- 2 What do you like doing with your family at home?
- 3 Do you like fishing? Why?/ Why not?
- 4 What do you do in your free time when it's raining?
- 5 Do you think it's better to have a lot of friends or one best friend? Why?

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Vocabulary

2 Choose the correct word for each picture.

1



barrel slave judge robber

2



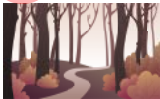
raft barrel coin snow

3



glasses saw canoe table

4



path river house room

5



cabin cave saw footprint

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

3 Choose the correct word(s) for each sentence about Chapter 1.

Huck doesn't know where his father is at the start of the story.

~~doesn't~~ don't does

- 1 Widow Douglas wants Huck _____ her son.

be being to be

- 2 Miss Watson always shouts _____ Huck.

to at from

- 3 Huck _____ to read and write at school.

learns teaches can

- 4 Huck has _____ of money in the bank.

lots lot much

- 5 Huck _____ down the river in a canoe.

goes runs plays

Before-reading Activity

Listening

- 4 4 Look at these sentences. Tick (✓) the ones that you think are true in Chapter 2. Listen and check.

- 1 ☐ Huckleberry sees his father at the cabin.
- 2 ☐ Huckleberry goes to another island.
- 3 ☐ People are looking for him.
- 4 ☐ They find Huckleberry and take him back to town.
- 5 ☐ He goes fishing.