

Paper 5



The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was written by Mark Twain. His real name was Samuel Clemens but he chose the name 'Mark Twain' while working as a Mississippi river pilot. It was a term used for a water depth of 2 fathoms at which it was considered safe to sail along. After working on the river he then became a reporter, until finally spending his time as an author. He lived from 1835 to 1910.

The character Huckleberry Finn was one of an outcast. He was abandoned by his father at a young age. He never wished for a 'normal' life of going to school and having home-comforts around; instead, he liked the freedom to spend his days however he wanted, living close to nature. This produced many an adventure!

We judged that three more nights would fetch us to Cairo, at the bottom of Illinois, where the Ohio River comes in, and that was what we was after. We would sell the raft and get on a steamboat and go way up the Ohio amongst the free States, and then be out of trouble.

Well, the second night a fog begun to come on, and we made for a tow-head to tie to, for it wouldn't do to try to run in fog; but when I paddled ahead in the canoe, with the line, to make fast, there warn't anything but little saplings to tie to. I passed the line around one of them right on the edge of the cut bank, but there was a stiff current, and the raft come booming down so lively she tore it out by but the roots and away she went. I see the fog closing down, and it made me so sick and scared I couldn't budge for most a half a minute it seemed to me – and then there warn't no raft in sight; you couldn't see twenty yards. I jumped into the canoe and run back to the stem and grabbed the paddle and set her back a stroke. But she didn't come. I was in such a hurry I hadn't untied her. I got up and tried to untie her, but I was so excited my hands shook so I couldn't hardly do anything with them.

As soon as I got started I took out after the raft, hot and heavy, right down the tow-head. That was all right as far as it went, but the tow-head warn't sixty yards long, and the minute I flew by the foot of it I shot out into the solid white fog, and hadn't no more idea which way I was going than a dead man.

Thinks I, it won't do to paddle; first I know I'll run into the bank or a tow-head or something; I got to set still and float, and yet it's mighty fidgety business to have to hold your hands still at such a time. I whooped and listened. Away down there, somewheres, I hear a small whoop, and up comes my spirits. I went tearing after it, listening sharp to hear it again. The next time it come, I see I warn't heading for it but heading away to the right of it. And the next time, I was heading away to the left of it – and not gaining on it much, either, for I was flying around, this way and that and t'other, but it was going straight ahead all the time.

I did wish the fool would think to beat a tin pan, and beat it all the time, but he never did, and it was the still places between the whoops that was making the trouble for me. Well, I fought along, and directly I hears the whoop *behind* me. I was tangled good, now. That was somebody else's whoop, or else I was turned around.

I threw the paddle down. I heard the whoop again; it was behind me yet, but in a different place; it kept coming, and kept changing its place, and I kept answering, till by-and-by it was in front of me again and I knowed the current had swung the canoe's head down-stream and I was all right, if that was Jim and not some other raftsmen hollering. I couldn't tell nothing about voices in a fog, for nothing don't look natural nor sound natural in a fog.

From *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Answer these questions.

1 Where did Mark Twain get the idea for his name?

2 Huckleberry Finn was an 'outcast'. Describe what is meant by 'outcast'.

- 3 Where was Huckleberry Finn heading? _____
- 4 With whom was Huckleberry Finn travelling? _____
- 5 On which night did the fog descend? _____
- 6 The river current is described as 'stiff' (line 8). Which event in the passage illustrates this?

7-8 Find two pieces of evidence from the passage that help us appreciate how thick the fog was.

9-10 Huckleberry Finn felt 'scared' and 'excited' in this passage. Describe why you think he felt each of these emotions.

scared _____

excited _____

11 Why was Huckleberry Finn travelling at night?

12 Find a word in the passage that means 'shouting' or 'shouted'. _____

13 What was Huckleberry Finn frightened would happen as he untied the canoe and began to move?

14-16 Which three things combined made Huckleberry Finn feel so lost in the canoe while trying to track the sound?

17 Why do you think 'nothing don't look natural nor sound natural in a fog' (lines 36-37)?