

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

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I read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* more than once and each time I find the same fun and excitement and that is what prompted me to research about the history of the author of the novel and about the importance of this novel, which though written 126 years ago it is still under study and research in many countries around the world.

Author of the novel

The author of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel is one of the most famous authors in the nineteenth century. He is the American author Mark Twain or Samuel Langhorne Clemens, who was born in 1835 and died at the age of 75 years in 1910, leaving behind a group of the finest literary fiction in the history of classical American literature. One of his best novels is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The life of Mark Twain had many ups and downs and difficult challenges. He began his life as a poor worker and then he worked in the field of printing. Then he worked as a sailor. This work had a great effect on the whole Mark Twain's life as we see in his novels. After that, he worked as a journalist then he became a writer and a famous one. Unfortunately, he ended his life unhappily because of the death of his wife and children, however leaving a legacy of beautiful 'classical' literature.

The Adventures of Huckleberry was published in 1884 and it was considered the second part of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* which was published in 1876. For fully enjoying the two novels, you must read them both. These two novels, especially *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, that we're talking about, is a great novel. When you start reading it you can not stop until the end

because of the excitement and rapid pace of events faced by the heroes of the novel.

The Adventures of Huckleberry is written in forty-three chapters. It is an exciting story and an exotic adventure. The events show the ability of the author and his unusual imagination, which create wonderful and unusual solutions for many of the problematic events and risks which happen throughout the novel.

The events of the novel were created in an interesting variety of places where the dangers and crises occurred. In fact this novel tells the story of real people and real events that the author met with when he worked as a sailor.

The most prominent evidence that this novel is still alive in the hearts and minds of its readers, is what the U.S. writer Ron Powers (5 May 2010), writes in an article about the novel:

One hundred thirty-five years after its first publication in the United States, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1883) continues to enlarge its international claim as a masterpiece. For uncounted millions of readers and scholars, it still stands as the greatest novel yet written by an American.

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Proof of the book's enduring popularity is not hard to find: it sells an estimated 200,000 copies a year, dwarfing sales by all but a handful of contemporary novelists. It has been translated into more than 50 languages and published in more than 700 editions around the globe. Three hundred thousand visitors a year — many from Europe, Russia, Asia and South America — descend upon Hannibal, Missouri (population 17,500), Mark Twain's boyhood hometown and the fictional launching-place for Huck and Jim's great Mississippi River odyssey

The depth of the ideas

Despite the passage of all these years and despite a lot of books and research articles that have analyzed and discussed this novel, you can always find new feelings and new ideas covered in the novel.

This novel represents a scathing criticism of life in the USA before the civil war. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* criticize the traditions, customs and social conditions of the American community in this period. American society at this time considered dark-skinned people as sub-humans, and they were slaves and they had no rights.

One of the most brilliant scenes of the novel is the scene of the escape of Jim with Huckleberry on the raft. Jim was a young man with dark skin and worked as a servant to Miss Watson who was his owner..This scene is one of the greatest scenes of the search for freedom in all classical novels of America.

The relationship between Huckleberry Finn and Jim represents an important dramatic line in the novel. Huckleberry Finn had the same views as the society in which he grew up as he considered dark-skinned people had no rights. After that, when he and Jim became friends, he was surprised because he found Jim a cultured person with wonderful feelings and manners. He also felt true friendship and he and Jim enjoyed many adventures together. Finally, when Jim was caught, Huckleberry forgot what he learned in his society and went to save Jim when he was sold in one of the bars. Then, Jim obtained his freedom.

When reading the novel, you can notice ironic or harsh critical remarks of the role of Europeans in the United States which had begun to wane in this period. You will find that in the personality

of the fraudulent English Duke and the French king. Huck found out that they were fraudulent. This is shown when he took the money and gave it back to those they had stolen it from

Charges brought against the novel

Since the publication of the novel, it was considered the first novel by an American published in coarse language of everyday speech. Numerous criticisms were made about the novel because of its language. Some writers also said that this novel supported racism because of the appearance of the word "NEGRO" 211 times in the novel, and this charge succeeded in preventing the teaching or reading of this novel in the U.S. schools for more than forty years.

One of the best answers to these charges is its success until now despite the death of its author a century ago. The use of this coarse language is considered a way to criticize this period of time by using words which were used in this community.

Also, this novel is against racism and discrimination and this was evident during the events of the novel as one of the most important heroes of the novel is Jim, who is owned by Miss Watson. Jim showed the extent of his loyalty and sincerity of feelings towards the community he lived in and its values and ethics. He finally gained his freedom at the end of the novel.

Conclusion

The novel is very exciting and is greatly enjoyed by readers, whether young or old. It is a great novel even if you read it without fully understanding all the different implications of all its social and political views. The novel attracts you to read on without paying attention to all the dimensions of historical, social, or political background. But when you know the background,

your enjoyment and excitement will increase.

Thanks to the American author Mark Twain for all his novels and creativity. He left us a literary treasure and although he did not witness the great success of his novel, reaching the hearts of people around the world, he still lives in our minds and hearts.

Sources

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