

Huckleberry Finn, a Helpless Boy Who Helped Other Helpless People!

Huckleberry Finn – or Huck – was born in St Petersburg, a town in the state of Missouri, USA. Although he "got into old rags", he was "free and satisfied". He was helpless and homeless, but he helped some other helpless people during his adventures. He and his friend Tom Sawyer helped the judge's widow named Mrs. Douglas. He helped the black runaway slave, Jim. He helped Peter Wilks' three daughters as well.

Huck led a lonely life as his mother had died and his father had left the town. Tom Sawyer's mother had died too, but Tom lived with his aunt Polly. Unlike his friend Tom, Huck had no relatives to care for and no home to stay in. He didn't go to school or church. He slept in the fields near the Mississippi river in summer and in barns on the farm near St Petersburg in winter.

Firstly, Huck – as his friends always called him – and his friend Tom Sawyer helped the judge's helpless widow Mrs. Douglas. Two bad men wanted to attack and harm her. Her husband – the judge – had sent one of the two bad men to prison many years before. They had stolen some money and planned to get into Mrs. Douglas' house to cut her face and ears. Huck and his friend Tom found out about their evil plan. They told Judge Thatcher about it. Huck sympathized with Mrs. Douglas who was very kind to him. Judge Thatcher and some men caught one of the two bad men, but the other man escaped. He hid and died in a cave where people found the stolen money. Thanks to Huck and Tom, Mrs. Douglas was safe. That was Huck; the helpless and motherless boy who helped the helpless widow of the judge.

Judge Thatcher gave Huck and Tom six thousand dollars. The people of the town and the parents of Huck's friends were pleased with him and they invited him to their houses. Mrs. Douglas was so kind to Huck that she took him to live in her house where her sister, Miss Watson, and her old black slave Jim lived. Huck's father who was always drunk and cruel to his son visited Huck in his room in Mrs. Douglas' house. He asked Huck to give him the

money he got from Judge Thatcher, but Huck refused. So his father hit him. On his way to school, Huck's father took him to an old wooden distant cabin near the Mississippi river where he locked him. He was so unkind that he shouted at Huck and hit him. He also threatened to kill him. So the boy had to leave the cabin to be away from his father. Besides being deprived of mother's care and kindness, Huck got no father's care or kindness although he was still alive!

Secondly, Huck helped Miss Watson's old black helpless slave Jim so much during his adventures along the Mississippi river. When Huck got to Jackson's Island, he met Jim who escaped from his owner Miss Watson who wanted to sell him to a slave trader from New Orleans where slaves had led lives. Jim was so upset that he asked for Huck's help as Miss Watson would try to find him and pay a reward for finding him. Both Huck and Jim built a raft to go south as Jim wanted to go to any free state where there were no slaves. Then, they found a floating raft on which they built a small wooden hut. During the flood, they found a little house floating down the river. Jim climbed into the floating house where he found a dead man. Huck wanted to get into the house to look at the dead man, but Jim refused sadly. Huck's father disappeared and Jim's owner Miss Watson offered to pay a reward finding Jim. Huck – the young white boy – was so sympathetic to Jim – the old black slave – that he was very careful during the day to avoid capturing, selling or sending Jim back to his owner. Huck did not care about the possibility of breaking the law as he was a white person who gave help to a black slave. To keep his friend safe, Huck covered Jim with clothes during paddling. Huck was very brave and intelligent. While two white men were looking for runaway slaves, Huck told them that the man in the hut – Jim – was his father who was very ill. He cried and told them that his father had red marks on his body. So they gave Huck forty dollars and asked him to leave and pay a doctor for his father in the next town. Then Huck and Jim met two American tricksters who claimed to be the King of France and the English

Duke of Bridgewater. Huck did not tell them about Jim's truth. He knew their truth, so he did not trust them in order to keep Jim safe because they might sell Jim or send him back to Miss Watson. The so-called Duke of Bridgewater printed a reward notice for Jim to be able to travel in the daylight easily. So Huck was not happy as he did not want his friend Jim to be tied.

In a small town, a young man called Tom Collins met the King, the Duke and Huck on a pier. He told them about Peter Wilks' story. The King claimed to be Peter Wilks' English brother Harvey who was a minister. He also claimed that the Duke was Peter Wilks' other brother William who was deaf and dumb. Peter Wilks' daughters trusted their false uncles, so they gave their dead father's letter and bag in which there were six thousand dollars to their false uncle; the King. They believed that the uncles would look after them and their wealth. Thirdly, it was Huck's duty to help the three helpless girls. He got an idea to help Peter Wilks' daughters: Mary Jane, Susan and Joanna. He decided to take the bag of money and hide it to help the oldest daughter to keep her father's wealth and to stop the false uncles' trial to "rob her of her money". Huck did not want to have troubles because he always wanted to keep Jim safe. He went to the false uncles' room where he found the bag. He hid it in the coffin, under Peter Wilks' body! He did not tell Mary Jane about the bag after the lid was put on the coffin. He told the King and the Duke that he knew nothing about the bag. He told them about Peter Wilks' slaves whom he freed before his death. Those slaves went south by sea. So the King and the Duke, who were very angry, thought that the slaves might have taken the bag of money. Huck thought about writing a letter to Mary Jane to tell her about her father's bag after leaving the town. Other two uncles came to the town where there was a conflict between two groups of uncles. Peter Wilks' doctor, friends and neighbours went to his grave after he had been buried. They wanted to know about the mark on Peter Wilks' body to decide which group of uncles was true. While the neighbors were digging up the coffin and taking the

screws out of the lid, somebody found the bag of Peter Wilks' money. Thanks to Huck's plan and actions, Peter Wilks' helpless daughters got their father's bag of money back safely. Huck, the King and the Duke traveled away.

Huck was sad and worried when the King sold his friend Jim to a farmer called Phelps. Later, Huck went to Mr. Phelps' farm where he saw a wooden hut with a strong lock on the door. Jim was inside that hut. To comfort Jim, he called through the door. Aunt Polly's cousin – called Sally Phelps – opened the door. She believed that Huck was Tom. So Huck decided to be Tom to stay at the farm and to help Jim. Tom Sawyer himself came and recognized his friend Huck. Huck told Tom and Aunt Sally about his adventures. They told Huck that Miss Watson died and that she freed Jim before her death, so Jim was no longer a slave. Thanks to Huck, Jim was safe and "he was already free". Jim told Huck that the dead man he found inside the floating house during the flood was his father. Huck decided to start traveling again.

It was not strange for such a motherless, helpless and homeless boy to sympathize with other helpless people's hardships. Huck, who was deprived of mother's kindness, helped and kept the judge's widow Mrs. Douglas safe. He, who was deprived of father's care, helped and kept the old black slave Jim safe, happy and free. He, who had no brothers or sisters, helped Peter Wilks' three daughters to keep their dead father's wealth. To sum up, that is Mark Twain who sheds more light on the fine human qualities that make life better.

Samir Mohamed Yousef Omara