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A Character Sketch of “*Huckleberry Finn*”

Huckleberry Finn is the main character in Mark Twain’s novel **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**. Huck is a young boy living in St. Petersburg with an old woman called Mrs. Douglas who is attempting to convert him to a good boy with the assist of her sister Miss Watson. Throughout Mark Twain’s other novel **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**, he talked about the adventures of Tom Sawyer, Huck’s friend.

In this part it’s so clear that Huck is very affected by many things and characters around him, especially Tom, his friend.

Huck is a young boy with many ideas and hopes which are enthusiastic and reckless. He seems to have a lot of adventures without taking into consideration the outcomes. Mrs. Douglas did her best with Huck to change him to a good boy. Huck appreciates her efforts, but finds the “civilized life” unsuitable for him.

Huck’s father is a man who is usually drunk and he is still trying to hurt him and steal his own money which Mrs. Douglas saves for him with the lawyer Tatcher. Pap is Huck’s father who changed his life forever with his sudden appearance.

Huck as a rebellious young boy refused to stay in his prison, which is his father’s backwoods, where Huck is kept locked inside.

Huck made a lot of adventures and lies to keep going on with his adventure. While living quite comfortably along the Mississippi, Huck happily encounters Miss Watson's slave Jim on an island called Jackson's Island. Huck knows that he has also ran away, after Miss Watson threatened to sell him downriver, where conditions for slaves were even harsher. Then Huck will be affected with Jim’s attitude and loves him very much. Firstly, Huck thought of telling someone about Jim's running away, but once they travel together, Huck

begins to know more about Jim's past and his difficult life. As these talks continue, Huck begins to change his opinion about "Negros", slavery, and life in general.

As a favor, Jim decided not to tell Huck that he found his father killed during one of their explorative journeys to find food, wood, and other stuff and he refuses to let Huck see the man's face. In the cascade of events the effect of Tom Sawyer on Huck's mind appears. For example, when Huck was trying to enter a sunken ship, Jim tried to stop him, but Huck said: "Do you think that Tom was left to miss such an adventure?"

Huck is driven by an enthusiasm of a young man hoping to practice his life the way he sees it. Jim tries to keep him safe from all dangers, sometimes he did but in others he failed.

Through the coming events of this novel we can see another bad aspect of the American society during this time, "Revenge". When you see this aspect you can find out that there is no difference in a lot of societies, however there is and the human nature is the same in the entire world. Huck and Jim's raft is swamped by a passing steamship, separating the two. Huck is given shelter by the Grangerfords, a prosperous local family. He becomes friend with Buck Grangerford, a boy about his age, and knows that the Grangerfords are engaged in a 30-year blood feud against another family, the Shepherdsons. The "Grangerfords" and Shepherdsons go to church. Both families bring guns to continue the feud, despite the preaching of the church on brotherly love. The Revenge comes ahead when Buck's sister, Sophia, elopes with Harney Shepherdson. In the resulting conflict, all the "Grangerford" males from this branch of the family are shot and killed, although "Grangerfords" were survived to carry on the feud. Upon seeing Buck's corpse, Huck is too devastated to write about everything that happened. However, Huck does describe how he avoids his own death in the gunfight, later reuniting with Jim and the raft and together fleeing further south on the Mississippi River.

Then Huck found two escaping criminals who introduced themselves as a Duke and a King. They asked Huck and Jim to serve them and deal with them as a Duke and a King. It didn't take a long time with Huck to know that they are liars but he didn't care to tell Jim or to face them. He was surprised with the two men skills to make a lot of tricks to gain money. He tried more than once to escape with Jim and let them go but he failed. Finally, during the last trick they made, Huck escaped but the king sold Jim to a new family, so Huck decided to stay and keep trying to save Jim and help him to escape to freedom and he rejects the advice of his "conscience," which continues to tell him that in helping Jim, he is stealing Miss Watson's property. Accepting that "All right, then, I'll go to hell!"

Jim's new temporary owners are Mr. and Mrs. Phelps, who turn out to be Tom Sawyer's aunt and uncle. Since Tom is expected for a visit, Huck is mistaken for Tom. He plays along, hoping to find Jim's location and free him. When Huck encounters Tom on the road and tells him everything, Tom decides to join Huck's scheme, pretending to be his younger half-brother Sidney. Jim has also told the household about the two hustlers, so this time the townspeople are ready for them. The Duke and King are captured by the townspeople, and are tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail.

Although Huck's love to adventures, he remains innocent compared to Tom. All he cares about is to free Jim, but Tom still insists on making it a big adventure.

Tom developed a sophisticated plan to free Jim, involving secret messages, hidden tunnels, a rope ladder sent in Jim's food, and other things from popular novels. During the resulting pursuit, Tom is shot in his leg. Jim refused to leave him and escape. Huck has long known Jim as "white on the inside". Although the doctor admires Jim's decency, he betrays him to a passing skiff, and Jim is captured while sleeping.

After Jim is recaptured, events quickly resolve themselves. Tom's Aunt Polly arrives and reveals Huck's and Tom's true identities. Tom announces that Jim has been free for

months: Miss Watson died two months earlier and freed Jim in her will, but Tom chose not to reveal Jim's freedom so he could come up with an elaborate plan to rescue Jim. Jim tells Huck that Huck's father is dead and that he may return safely to St. Petersburg. In the final narrative, Huck declares that he is quite glad to be done writing his story, and despite Tom's family's plans to adopt and "civilize" him, Huck intends to flee west to an Indian Territory.

In conclusion, Huck represents a good kind of youth. His wish to free colored slave proves that he is good at heart. He may be uncivilized but he is still affected by his surroundings and society conditions, but he totally gave a good example for a good boy. Huck lied a lot all along the novel but he only did that when he was compelled. Although, he was so smart in many situations that appeared during his plan to escape from his fathers' room.

We Can See how our author wanted us to understand the mentality of the American society in this period and how with his words made us understand what is inside this society from struggles and injustices. And to remind us that there is nothing called utopia. And in every society you will find a lot. Thanks to Mark Twain, we know more about the American people and we can sense the sarcastic way in how he reveals his own society.

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