

Credits:

Chapter 3, from *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain. Read by Carole Bos, creator of Awesome Stories.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Adventures-of-Huck-Finn-by-Mark-Twain-Chapter-3-Audio-0>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Adventures-of-Huck-Finn-by-Mark-Twain-Chapter-3-Audio-0>

Questions 2 Ponder

What is the Difference between Telling a Story and Telling Lies?

Huck Finn isn't educated, but he thinks a lot. A literalist, he concludes Tom Sawyer is telling lies when Tom makes-up games based on what he's reading in his story books.

Tom Sawyer gets many ideas from books. How does that "book knowledge" influence Tom's imagination? How does it influence his own, *original* thinking?

Why does Huck have trouble understanding Tom's book-influenced ideas?

Huck seems to be more of a realist than Tom. How does that impact their friendship?

Huck seems to think that Tom's imaginary musings—and his way of making-up pretend people and situations—is the same thing as Tom telling lies. What could explain Huck's point of view?

How Does Imagination Fuel Childhood Play?

Using their imaginations, children make-up games and engage in pretend play. Tom Sawyer excels at this, but Huck Finn doesn't always find that pretend games are fun.

Childhood play consists of many different forms, but at the heart of the play is the sheer joy of doing it. With the joy of play comes the desire to repeat what is fun.

Repeating what is fun leads to mastery, and with mastery children develop a sense of accomplishment. A sense of accomplishment leads to confidence.

Tom Sawyer is imaginative, but he often bases his imaginative game-development on play which becomes boring for a realist like Huck Finn. There are only so many times Huck is willing to hear about genies in a bottle. As Huck says:

I thought all this over for two or three days, and then I reckoned I would see if there was anything in it. I got an old tin lamp and an iron ring, and went out in the woods and rubbed and rubbed till I sweat like an Injun, calculating to build a palace and sell it; but it warn't no use, none of the genies come...

What makes Huck Finn think that everything Tom Sawyer says—about genies, diamonds and other pretend people and places—is actually real?

Tom says that pretend people, places and things come about “by enchantment.” What does he mean by that? Might Huck “not get” what “enchantment” is all about because he has had a different life experience than Tom Sawyer has had? Explain your answer.

Have you ever known a child who is such a realist that it’s hard for him/her to understand that a game is pretend-based, not reality-based? What happened?

Do People have a Sixth Sense?

Huck Finn had a “Pap” who regularly beat and abused his child. Although people thought Pap was dead, Huck wasn’t so sure. He seemed to have a sixth sense about his father.

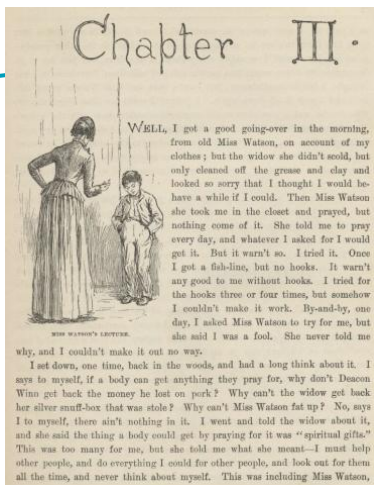
When it seemed as though his Pap really was dead, Huck was relieved. He didn’t have to be afraid of him anymore. Then Huck began to think about things and concluded that Pap might not be dead after all. He began to worry that he might come back:

So I was uncomfortable again. I judged the old man would turn up again by and by, though I wished he wouldn't.

Huck seemed to have a “sixth sense” about his father (and other things, too). Do you think people actually have a “sixth sense,” or is this just something we read about in books or hear about in movies?

Have you ever had a “sixth sense” about something? Explain your answer.

Media Stream



Huck Finn Gets a Scolding from Miss Watson

Image, described above, online via Archive.org.

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Turnip Cart

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Huck Finn Gets in Trouble

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Huck Finn Tries to Summon a Genie

As Tom Sawyer concocts plans for his "Gang," he relies on his imagination to conjure-up elephants, camels, people-to-battle and a host of other cool things.

Huck Finn thinks all of Tom's ideas are real and is mightily disappointed when he doesn't see what he's expecting:

I didn't believe we could lick such a crowd of Spaniards and A-rabs, but I wanted to see the camels and elephants, so I was on hand next day, Saturday, in the ambuscade; and when we got the word we rushed out of the woods and down the hill. But there warn't no Spaniards and A-rabs, and there warn't no camels nor no elephants. It warn't anything but a Sunday-school picnic, and only a primer-class at that.

Then Tom tells Huck about genies, and how a body could summon a genie to "come forth" out of an old tin lamp or an iron ring. Huck thinks he'll give that a try.

This image, by E.W. Kemble, appears in the third chapter of the first edition of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Part 1). It illustrates these words of the story (describing Huck's efforts to summon a genie):

I thought all this over for two or three days, and then I reckoned I would see if there was anything in it. I got an old tin lamp and an iron ring, and went out in the woods and rubbed and rubbed till I sweat like an Injun, calculating to build a palace and sell it; but it warn't no use, none of the genies come. So then I judged that all that stuff was only just one of Tom Sawyer's lies. I reckoned he believed in the A-rabs and the elephants, but as for me I think different. It had all the marks of a Sunday-school.

Why does Huck take so much of what Tom says in a literal way? Why would Huck think he could actually summon a genie by rubbing on an old tin can?

Would you consider Huck to be:

- Naive?
- Innocent?
- Something else?

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