**American Literature: Realism**

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

**Directions: W**e will be reading the first 18 chapters of Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. On each day that reading is due, a reading log is also due. Please use the questions/quotations listed with each chapter set as a guide for your log. There will also be a short quiz on the day your reading log is due, so be prepared. It is difficult to have a discussion in class if you haven’t read. The goal is to engage productively in discussion about the events of the novel, its place in American history, and its connection to the broader Realist worldview.

**Reading Schedule:**

**Chapters 1-5: Status Quo and Conformity: Civilizing Huck -- Due Wednesday, March 13**

*Possible questions/quotations to consider in your reading log:*

1. How and why does Twain establish Huck’s voice as storyteller? What do we learn about Huck from

what he reveals of other characters’ assessments of him?

2. Huck’s upbringing is at issue in the book. What has he been taught that forms his core self? What do

other characters want to teach him and how do they wish to change him?

3. These chapters establish components of Huck’s self that others hope to influence: his emotions, his

intelligence, his fiscal responsibility, his spirituality, his social self, and his physical health and habits. To

what and whom does Huck conform and when/how does he reject conformity in these chapters?

4. “Pap he hadn’t been seen for more than a year, and that was comfortable for me; I didn’t want to see

him no more. He used to always whale me when he was sober and could get his hands on me; though I

used to take to the woods most of the time when he was around” (21).

5. “I liked the old ways best, but I was getting so I liked the new ones, too, a little bit” (24).

**VOCAB QUIZ Thursday, MARCH 14.**

**Chapters 6-11: Escape and the Wealth of Self -- Due Friday, March 15**

1. What sort of person does Huck reveal his father to be? What is Huck’s relationship with his father?

2. What are Huck’s feelings about the river and living closely with nature?

3. Why does Huck tell Jim he won’t turn him in, when he is so frankly opposed to abolition? What does

this reveal about Huck’s character?

4. “I didn’t want to go to school much before, but I reckoned I’d go now to spite pap” (31).

5. “People would call me a low-down Abolitionist and despise me for keeping mum— but that don’t

make no difference. I ain’t a-going to tell” (50).

**Chapters 12-18: Bonding Over Inhumanity -- Due Wednesday, March 20**

1. What role does Huck play in discussions with Jim? What has Huck learned in school, from reading, or

from Tom Sawyer that he has retained and found useful? How and when does Huck compliment and

denigrate Jim?

2. What lessons from Pap does Huck remember and evaluate during his moral dilemmas with Jim?

3. How do both Grangerfords and Shepherdsons exhibit religious hypocrisy? Explain Twain’s use of the

families’ feuding as satire of Civil War mentality.

4. “Pap always said it warn’t no harm to borrow things, if you was meaning to pay them back, sometime;

but the widow said it warn’t anything but a soft name for stealing, and no decent body would do it” (70).

5. “I got aboard the raft, feeling bad and low, because I knowed very well I had done wrong, and I see it

warn’t no use for me to try to learn to do right; a body that don’t get started right when he’s little ain’t got

no show” (94).