

Class 6

Homework

Huckleberry Finn



Chapter 15

We

judged that three nights more would fetch us to Cairo, at the bottom of Illinois, where the Ohio River comes in, and that was what we was after.

We would sell the raft and get on a steamboat and go way up the Ohio amongst the free States, and then be out of trouble.

Well, the

second night a fog begun to come on, and we made for a towhead to tie to, for it wouldn't do to try to run in a fog; but when I paddled ahead in the canoe, with the line to make fast, there warn't anything but little saplings to tie to. I passed the line around one of them right on the edge of the cut bank, but there was a stiff current, and the raft come booming down so lively she tore it out by the roots and away she went. I see the fog closing down, and it made me so sick and scared I couldn't budge for most a half a minute it seemed to me—and then there warn't no raft in sight; you couldn't see twenty yards. I jumped into the canoe and run back to the stern, and grabbed the paddle and set her back a stroke. But she didn't come. I was in such a hurry I hadn't untied her. I got up and tried to untie her, but I was so excited my hands shook so I couldn't hardly do anything with them.

As

soon as I got started I took out after the raft, hot and heavy, right down the towhead. That was all right as far as it went, but the towhead warn't sixty yards long, and the minute I flew by the foot of it I shot out into the solid white fog, and hadn't no more idea which way I was going than a dead man.

(Huck got lost in the fog. Although he could hear Jim 'whooping' from time to time and he tried to follow the sound, the fog was too dense and the river too big for him to find Jim.

Eventually, he fell asleep in the canoe and when he

awoke it was a bright, sunny morning and he easily made his way back to the raft and Jim. He crept onto the raft without disturbing the sleeping Jim and when Jim finally woke up, Huck pretended to have been asleep on the raft all night, right beside Jim.)

"Hello, Jim, have I been asleep? Why didn't you stir me up?"

"Goodness

gracious, is dat you, Huck? En you ain' dead—you ain' drowned—you's back agin? It's too good for true, honey, it's too good for true. Lemme look at you chile, lemme feel o' you. No, you ain' dead! you's back agin, 'live en soun', jis de same ole Huck—de same ole Huck, thanks to goodness!"

"What's the matter with you, Jim? You been a-drinking?"

"Drinkin'? Has I ben a-drinkin'? Has I had a chance to be a-drinkin'?"

"Well, then, what makes you talk so wild?"

"How does I talk wild?"

"How? Why, hain't you been talking about my coming back, and all that stuff, as if I'd been gone away?"

"Huck—Huck Finn, you look me in de eye; look me in de eye. Hain't y

ou ben gone away?"

"Gone away? Why, what in the nation do you mean? I hain't been gone anywheres. Where would I go to?"

"Well,

looky here, boss, dey's sumf'n wrong, dey is. Is I me, or who is I? Is I heah, or whah is I? Now dat's what I wants to know."

"Well, I think you're here, plain enough, but I think you're a tangle-headed old fool, Jim."

"I is, is I? Well, you answer me dis: Didn't you tote out de line in de canoe fer to make fas' to de tow-head?"

"No, I didn't. What tow-head? I hain't see no tow-head."

"You

hain't seen no towhead? Looky here, didn't de line pull loose en de raf' go a-hummin' down de river, en leave you en de canoe behine in de fog?"

"What fog?"

"Why, de fog!—de fog dat's been aroun' all

night. En didn't you whoop, en didn't I whoop, tell we got mix' up in de islands en one un us got los' en t'other one was jis' as good as los', 'kase he didn' know whah he wuz? En didn't I bust up agin a lot er dem islands en have a turrible time en mos' git drowned? Now ain' dat so, boss—ain't it so? You answer me dat."

"Well, this is too

many for me, Jim. I hain't seen no fog, nor no islands, nor no troubles, nor nothing. I been setting here talking with you all night till you went to sleep about ten minutes ago, and I reckon I done the same. You couldn't a got drunk in that time, so of course you've been dreaming."

"Dad fetch it, how is I gwyne to dream all dat in ten minutes?"

"Well, hang it all, you did dream it, because there didn't any of it happen."

"But, Huck, it's all jis' as plain to me as—"

"It don't make no difference how plain it is; there ain't nothing in it. I know, because I've been here all the time."

(Jim

finally agreed with Huck that he dreamed the whole thing. Huck, however, cannot resist teasing Jim some more. If, Huck wants to know, Jim had simply had a dream, then why was the raft strewn with leaves and rubbish and why was the oar smashed? What did these things stand for, if it had all been a dream?)

"What do dey stan' for? I'se gwyne

to tell you. When I got all wore out wid work, en wid de callin' for you, en went to sleep, my heart wuz mos' broke bekase you wuz los', en I didn' k'yer no' mo' what become er me en de raf'. En when I wake up en fine you back agin, all safe en soun', de tears come, en I could a got down on my knees en kiss yo' foot, I's so thankful. En all you wuz thinkin' 'bout wuz how you could make a fool uv ole Jim wid a lie. Dat truck dah is trash; en trash is what people is dat puts dirt on de head er dey fren's en makes 'em ashamed."

Then he got up slow and walked

to the wigwam, and went in there without saying anything but that. But that was enough. It made me feel so mean I could almost kissed his foot to get him to take it back.

It was fifteen minutes before I could

work myself up to go and humble myself to a nigger; but I done it, and I warn't ever sorry for it afterwards, neither. I didn't do him no more mean tricks, and I wouldn't done that one if I'd a knowed it would make him feel that way.

* Required

Name *

Where would Huck and Jim be when they finally got out of 'trouble'? *

Back in their home town.

In a state where there was no slavery

In a state where slavery was allowed

How were Huck and Jim travelling? *

By steamboat on the river.

By raft at sea.

By raft on the river.

Why was Jim confused when he saw Huck beside him on the raft? *

Your answer should be in full sentences and might need more than one full sentence.

How had Jim felt when he thought he had lost Huck forever? *

Your answer should be in full sentences and might need more than one full sentence.

Did Huck feel guilty about teasing Jim in the way he did and how do you know this? *

Your answer should be in full sentences and might need more than one full sentence.

Why would Huck feel uncomfortable about making an apology to Jim? *

Your answer should be in full sentences and might need more than one full sentence.

/s

Choose the word which is closest in meaning to 'budge'. *

Use a dictionary to help you.

move

run

cry

Choose the phrase which is closest in meaning to 'tangle-headed old fool'. *

Use a dictionary to help you.

A very intelligent young lady.

A very mean and spiteful person.

A nice old person who is a little mixed up.

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