Brian Petersen

Mr. Smith - 2nd Period

Huck Finn Summary

In the opening of the book, Finn tells us of the events that happened in the novel that was before it, Tom Sawyer. Both of these novels take place in St. Petersburg, Missouri. This little town is on the banks of the Mississippi River. Huck Finn, his drunken father who abuses him often and his friend Tom Sawyer who is is friend in the end of the preceding novel found a stash of robber’s gold and all gain quite a bit of money. Huck’s money is put into the bank and is adopted by Widow Douglas who lives with her self-righteous sister, Miss Watson. At the opening of this book, we learn that he is not thrilled with his new life. All is good for him until his father comes back and demands Huck’s money. Widow Douglas and the local judge try to make it that the Widow will have legal custody of Huck, but this fails when the new judge believes that Huck’s father should have custody of Huck. When this happens, Pap kidnaps Huck and locks him in a cabin in the woods across the river. Huck runs away after being beaten to Jackson’s island. On the island Huck meets Jim, a runaway slave. They build a raft and begin floating down the Mississippi river. While floating down, a group of men stop the raft looking for runaway slaves; terrified, Jim says that his father is below deck suffering from smallpox. The excuse works, but they are hit by a steamboat and are separated. Huck finds the Grangerfords, an aristocrat family who constantly fight the Sheperdsons. Jim finds Huck and they begin floating down the river once more. They rescue two men who are con artists, and float down the river with them. After the con artists pull of many scams, some of which include receiving the inheritance of a deceased ‘brother’ and performing shows at other smaller towns, they eventually sell Jim to a local farmer. These farmers are no more than Tom’s aunt and uncle. Huck goes into free Jim, that’s when Tom comes and says he’ll help. He comes up with a plan to free Jim, and then they begin executing it. While doing it, Tom gets shot and reveals that Jim has been free all along ever since Miss Watson, the slave owner, has died and in her will requested that Jim be set free.