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Quotes and Notes from Huck Finn

Conflicts:

Person vs. self

“That’s just the way: a person does a low-down thing, and then he don’t want to take no consequences of it. Thinks as long as he can hide it, it ain’t no disgrace. That was my fix exactly.” This quote comes from chapter 31 when Huck decides to keep helping Jim. It shows the conflict Huck is having with himself about what to do. Huck decides that there’s no disgrace in helping Jim if he can hide the “low-down thing.”

Person vs. God

“I knowed very well why [the words] wouldn’t come. It was because my heart warn’t right; it was because I warn’t square; it was because I was playing double. I was letting on to give up sin, but away inside of me I was holding on to the biggest one of all.” This quote also comes from chapter 31 when Huck tries to pray. It shows all the different angles he is seeing the conflict of giving Jim up to the authorities or continuing to help him. I think Huck is very mature for seeing the religious conflict in his actions as well as the personal ones.

Character development:

“Now was the first time that I begun to worry about the men—I reckon I hadn’t had time to before. I begun to think how dreadful it was, even for murderers, to be in such a fix.” This is Huck’s thoughts in chapter 13 after he and Jim steal the raft and float off. I think this is showing the change Huck’s journey is having on him. He is growing up and becoming more of a man. They stole the raft from bad people, but Huck is still thinking of their well being.

“Work? Why, cert’nly it would work, like rats a-fighting. But it’s too blame’ simple; there ain’t nothing to it. What’s the good of a plan that ain’t no more trouble than that?” This quote from Tom speaking about Huck’s plan to free Jim shows how little Tom has changed in this novel. He is always seeking adventure from the books he reads, and Tom’s antics often are at the expense of others. In this case it’s Jim.

Themes:

“But I reckon I got to light out for the territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she’s going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can’t stand it. I been there before.” These last few lines in the book emphasize a theme of adventure, especially with Huck. He has spent the entire book seeking more than just to be “sivilized” and this is a continuation of that line of thinking.

“I felt just the way any other boy would a felt when I see that wreck laying there so mournful and lonesome in the middle of the river. I wanted to aboard of her and slink around a little.” This is the part of the book in chapter 12 where Huck comes across a wrecked ship. This is an example of the theme of adventure in Huck Finn. The characters are always off on one adventure or another whether they make them up themselves, like in the case of Tom Sawyer, or by necessity like Jim.