U3L3 English

Huck Finn Multimedia Project Graphic Organizer

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Topic

The Mississippi River as a symbol

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Possible Thesis

The Mississippi River is used to symbolize the illusion of freedom and the reality of the short- term escape that Huck and Jim experience during The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

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Character Quotes (2)

What is the bigger idea being presented here?

Why is this important to your thesis?

Chapter 15, page 59. Huck's retelling of Jim's interpretation of his 'dream'.

“The lot of towheads was troubles we was going to get into with quarrelsome people and all kinds of mean folks, but if we minded our buisness and didn't talk back and aggravate them, we would pull through and get out of the fog and into the big clear river, which was the free states, and wouldn't have no more trouble.”

Analysis: In this passage, Huck is explaining that the river is their path to freedom, away from their past troubles. By pulling through the big clear river, they are are travelling away from their stressful lives of slavery and abuse. They assume their problems will disappear when they reach the free states. Their thinking is clouded by

Jim is naive, he assumes he will receive equality in the free states, as he does on the river.

Huck has unrealistic expectations of his life in the free states. He has to support himself as an independent child.

Fog represents clouded judgement and thinking.

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Related Episodes (2)

Chapter 12

Huck and Jim's encounter with the bandits on board the wrecked steamboat during the flood.

Analysis: River is just one exchange of a bad situation for another. They believed their journey would be smooth sailing, but encounter challenges all along the way. When they encounter people on land, they are seeing reality, but prioritize their unrealistic expectations over the reality they fail to percieve.

Chapter 15

Huck gets separated from Jim in a fog. When reunited, Huck convinces Jim of dreaming up Huck's disappearance until he realizes Huck's bluff. Jim is disturbed by Huck's willingness to lie.

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Real-life Connections

Your problems cannot be ignored, you must resolve them yourself to be truly free.

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Twain's Point of View

Twain leads us down the same river of illusion of freedom and gradual realization that Huck and Jim experience by starting their adventure with a mostly positive experience on Jackson's Island and following up with one-after-another miscellanious encounters which only become more and more dangerous as time passes.

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