***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

***Chapter 10:***

***Translation:***

After breakfast I wanted to talk about the dead man, to figure out how he had gotten killed. But Jim didn’t want to talk about it. He said it would bring bad luck. Besides, he said, the dead man might come and haunt us. He said that a man that hadn’t been buried was more likely to haunt people than one that was planted comfortably in the ground. That sounded reasonable, so I kept quiet about it. Still, I couldn’t help but think it over and wish I knew who had shot the man and why. We rummaged through the clothes we’d gotten and found eight dollars in silver coins sewn up in the lining of an old blanket overcoat. Jim said he figured the people in that house had stolen the coat because they wouldn’t have left it behind if they knew there was money in it. I said I figured they killed the dead man too, but Jim didn’t want to talk about that. I said: “Now you think it’s bad luck. But what did you say when I brought in the snakeskin that I found on the top of the ridge the day before yesterday? You said it was the worst luck in the world to touch a snakeskin with my hands. Well, here’s your bad luck! We’ve raked in all this loot and an extra eight dollars to go with it. I wish we could have had some bad luck like this every day, Jim.” “Nevermind, honey, nevermind. Don’t get all worked up. The bad luck is coming, mind you. It’s coming.” It did come. It was Tuesday when we had that conversation. Well, after dinner on Friday we were lying around in the grass at the upper end of the ridge and we ran out of tobacco. I went to the cave to get some more and I found a rattlesnake inside. I killed it and curled him up at the foot of Jim’s blanket. I made it look like it was alive, thinking it would make a good prank to play on Jim. Well, by night I had forgotten all about the snake. When Jim plopped down on the blanket while I lit the lantern, another snake, which had followed after its mate, was there and bit it him. He jumped up yelling. The first thing the light of the lamp showed was the critter curled up and ready to strike again. I killed it in a second with a stick. Jim grabbed pap’s jug of whisky and began to drink it in gulps. Jim was barefoot, and the snake had bitten him right on the heel. And it all happened because I’d been a fool and forgotten that a dead snake’s mate always comes and curls around it. Jim told me to chop off the snake’s head and throw it away and then skin the body and roast a piece of it. He said it would help cure him. I did this, and he ate it. He also made me take off the rattles and tie them around his wrist; he said that would help. Then I quietly left the cave and threw the snakes far away in the bushes. I wasn’t about tot let Jim find out that this was all my fault if I could help it. Jim drank and drank from the jug. He would lose his mind and yell and jerk around every now and then. Every time he’d come to, he’d start drinking from the jug again. His foot and leg swelled up pretty big. But after he got good and drunk, I figured he was okay. Still, I’d rather be bitten by a snake than get drunk off pap’s whisky. Jim was sick for four day and four nights. Then the swelling went down and he was able to move around again. Now that I’d seen the bad luck that came from it, I made up my mind never to handle a snakeskin with my bare hands again. Jim said he bet I would belive him next time. He said we might even be in for some more bad luck because handling a snakeskin brought so much of it. He said he’d rather see a new moon over his left shoulder a thousand times than pick up a snakeskin with his hand. Well, I was starting to feel that way myself, even though I’d always felt that looking at a new moon over your left shoulder was one of the most careless and foolish things a person could do. Old Hank Bunker did it once and bragged about it. In less than two years, he got so drunk that he fell off the shot-tower. He landed so hard that his body spread out over the ground and formed a flat layer, you could say. They had to bury him in the space between two barn doors because he was too flat for a coffin. That’s what pap said anyway, but I didn’t see it. Well, whatever the case, it happened because he’d been a foolish enough to look at the new moon that way. Well, the days passed and the river receded to normal levels again. The first thing we did was to bait one of the big fishhooks with a skinned rabbit and catch a catfish as big as a man. It was six feet two inches long and weighed over 200 pounds. We couldn’t handle him, of course—he would have tossed us all the way to Illinois. Instead, we just sat there and watched him thrash about until he died. We cut him open and found a brass button and a round ball, along with other junk, in his stomach. We split the ball open with the hatchet and found a spool of thread in it. Jim said the fish must have had the spool in his stomach for a long time for it to get coated and form a ball like that. Jim said he’d never seen a bigger fish, and I figured it was the biggest fish that had ever been caught in the Mississippi River. It would have been worth a lot of money in the village, where they sell fish by the pound in the market house. Everyone would buy some it because his meat was as white as snow and fried up pretty well. The next morning I said things were getting pretty boring and that I wanted to get up and do something. I said I figured I’d cross the river to see what was going on. Jim liked that idea, but said I should go in the dark and be careful. He thought about it for awhile and suggested I dress up like a girl by putting on some of the old clothes we’d found. That was a pretty good idea. We adjusted the length of one of the calico dresses, and I rolled up my pant legs and put it on. Jim tied me up in the back with the hooks. It fit pretty well. I also put on the sunbonnet and tied it under my chin, which made it seem like my face was down in a stovepipe. Jim said people wouldn’t recognize even if it was daytime. I practiced pretending to be a girl all day to get the hang of it. Eventually, I started doing pretty well. Jim said I didn’t walk like a girl, though, and said I had to stop pulling up my dress to reach into my pants pocket. I took his advice and started doing better. After dark, I took the canoe over to the Illinois shore. I headed toward the town that was just below the ferry landing, and the current took me right to the southern tip. I tied up the canoe, got out, and head up the riverbank. There was a light burning in a little cabin that had been abandoned for some time, and I wondered who had started living there. I snuck up and peered in the window. Inside was a woman about forty years old inside knitting and a pine table with a candle on it. I didn’t recognize her—she was a stranger, since there wasn’t a person in that town that I didn’t know. This was lucky for me because I was starting to lose my nerve. I was starting to regret having come, since people might recognize my voice and figure out who I was. But this woman could tell me everything I wanted to know, even if she’d only been in our tiny town a couple days. So, I told myself not to forget that I was a girl, and then I knocked on the door.

***Summary:***

* The next morning, Jim doesn't really want to talk about the dead man on the grounds that it will bring back luck.
* Of course, Jim had predicted bad luck the day before on account of Huck touching a snakeskin with his hand.
* And here they are having scored a slew of supplies (and $8) from a dead man's floating house! Bad luck schmad luck, he says.
* But Jim insists the bad luck is on its way.
* Three days later, Huck plays a prank on Jim; he kills a rattlesnake and puts it in Jim's bed to scare him.
* Unfortunately, the rattlesnake's mate comes and lies down with its dead partner (aw), and then bites Jim when he gets into bed.
* Yeah, not so much bad luck as, well, Huck being a doofus.
* Huck feels awful but isn't about to let on that the whole thing is his fault. Still, he follows Jim's detailed instructions to ward off any more bad luck.
* Jim slugs away at some leftover whiskey to help the pain, and Huck declares he'd rather be bitten by a rattlesnake than drink any of that stuff.
* Now we get to the good stuff: Jim decides that Huck should dress up like a girl and go to town to try and find some news.
* Huck, obviously, thinks this is a great idea.
* He puts on a dress (part of the supplies he and Jim found in the floating house), paddles in, and comes to the door of a little shanty. Through the window he can see a middle-aged woman sitting alone and knitting—prime bait for his scheme.

***Synopsis(Ch7-10):***

Huck wonders about the dead man, but Jim warns that it’s bad luck to think about such things. Huck has already incurred bad luck, according to Jim, by finding and handling a snake’s shed skin. Sure enough, bad luck comes: as a joke, Huck puts a dead rattlesnake near Jim’s sleeping place, and its mate comes and bites Jim. Jim’s leg swells but gets better after several days. A while later, Huck decides to go ashore to get information. Jim agrees, but has Huck disguise himself as a girl, using one of the dresses they took from the houseboat. Huck practices his girl impersonation and then sets out for the Illinois shore. In a formerly abandoned shack, he finds a woman who looks about forty years old and appears to be a newcomer to the town. Huck is relieved because, as a newcomer, the woman will not be able to recognize him. Still, he resolves to remember that he is pretending to be a girl.relieved because, as a newcomer, the woman will not be able to recognize him. Still, he resolves to remember that he is pretending to be a girl. Despite Twain’s disdain for the romantic, sentimentalized novels, these chapters are a tightly constructed mix of the romantic and the practical. Huck and Jim’s meeting on the island begins the main story arc of the novel. Huck and Jim, both alienated from society in fundamental ways, find themselves sharing a pastoral, dreamlike setting: a safe, peaceful island where food is abundant. From this point in the novel forward, their fates are linked. Jim has had no more say in his own fate as an adult than Huck has had as a child. Both in peril, Huck and Jim have had to break with society. Freed from the hypocrisy and injustice of society, they find themselves in what seems a paradise, smoking a pipe, watching the river, and feasting on catfish and wild berries. Two episodes in these chapters, however, remind Huck and Jim of the looming threat from outside and give us the sense that this fantasy on the island is unlikely to last. The first involves the house that floats down the river past the island. The man inside the house has clearly been murdered, and the house bears other marks of human vices: playing cards, whiskey bottles, and obscene graffiti. Although Huck and Jim gather some useful goods from the house, it reminds them that Jackson’s Island is not completely isolated from the outside world. The second incident involves Jim’s rattlesnake bite, a direct result of a stupid prank Huck tries to play on Jim. As in the biblical Garden of Eden, snakes lurk on this island paradise and hurt people who behave unwisely. Once again, Huck and Jim are reminded that no location is safe for them.

These two incidents also flesh out some important aspects of the relationship between Huck and Jim. In the episode with the rattlesnake, Huck acts like a child, and Jim gets hurt. In both incidents, Jim uses his knowledge to benefit both of them but also seeks to protect Huck: he refuses to let Huck see the body in the floating house, for it is the body of Huck’s father. Jim is an intelligent and caring adult who has escaped out of love for his family—and he displays this same caring aspect toward Huck here. While Huck’s motives are equally sound, he is still a child and frequently behaves like one. In a sense, Jim and Huck together make up a sort of alternative family in an alternative place, apart from the society that has only harmed them up to this point.

***Critical Analysis:***

After exploring Jackson's Island, [Jim](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/character-analysis/jim) and [Huck](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/character-analysis/huckleberry-finn) find a cavern to hide in high on a steep ridge. They hide the canoe and then haul their traps and supplies up to the cavern. Huck thinks the location is too difficult to reach, but Jim argues that it will help protect them against people and the rain. Just as Jim predicted in Chapter 8, a large storm comes.

The river rises for 10 or 12 days, and the flooding waters give Jim and Huck the opportunity to explore and capture useful debris. One night, they discover a two-story frame house drifting along. Inside the house, Jim sees a dead man and instructs Huck not to look at the dead man's face because " . . . it's too gashly." Avoiding the body, they search the house and find an "old speckled straw hat," among the clothes, bottles, and other household items.

Back at the cavern, Huck tries to get Jim to discuss the dead man, but Jim avoids the subject saying it would bring bad luck and the man could "ha'nt us." They search the odds and ends they took from the floating house and discover eight dollars in an overcoat.

Because of the money and supplies, Huck argues that they are having good luck despite what Jim has told him. Later, Huck tries to play a prank on Jim and places a dead rattlesnake at the foot of Jim's blanket. When Jim lies down to sleep, the snake's mate is there and bites him. Jim is sick for several days and uses Pap's whisky to kill the pain of the snakebite. Eventually, he regains his strength, and Huck realizes the danger of defying superstition and Jim's expertise.

After a few days, Huck and Jim decide to sneak into town to learn of any news. Huck disguises himself as a girl and goes to the shanty of a woman he does not know.

Jim's ability to predict the storm is an understated but important moment in the novel. As readers are aware, Pap Finn does not fulfill the role of father or parent except when it is convenient to Pap. In contrast, Jim's protective and caring nature is clear throughout the novel. An example of Jim's parental role is when he does not allow Huck to view the face of the body on the floating house. The motion is subtle, but the protective action is more apparent later in the last chapter of the novel when readers learn that the dead man is Pap.

With the discovery of the dead man, Huck's earlier label as the "Angel of Death" comes into play again in Chapters 9 and 10. Despite the fabrications of death and the superstitions surrounding it, Huck does not confront death until he and Jim discover the body inside the house. Huck's initial reluctance is replaced by a strong curiosity with the man and the events that caused his demise. "I couldn't keep from studying over it wishing I knowed who shot the man, and what they done it for," Huck says.

In contrast to Jim's protective nature, Huck plays the first of three failed pranks directed at Jim. Despite his respect for Jim's knowledge of superstition, Huck still acts in a careless and impractical manner, and the first prank results in Jim's snakebite. Huck's regret at the outcome demonstrates the growth of his character and indicates that Huck does value Jim as a companion and a friend. This value, however, is pitted against Huck's belief that he shouldturn Jim in to authorities. The result is a constant clash between Huck's feelings of admiration and friendship for Jim and his fear of being judged for helping a runaway slave.

Glossary

**Barlow knife**a jackknife with one blade.

**two bits**25 cents.

**reticule**a small handbag or sewing bag, orginally made of needlework and usually having a drawstring.

**curry-comb**a metal comb.

**peart**pert, lively, chipper, or smart.

***Critical Study:***

[Huck](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Huck) wants to know more about the dead man and how he died. [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/symbols/#Jim) insists that it is better not to discuss the dead man because it could bring bad luck. Huck is skeptical because [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Jim) mentioned he would have bad luck when he touched the snake skin, and that has not come to pass.

Bad luck does come. Huck finds and kills a rattlesnake and leaves it at the edge of Jim's blanket, intending it as a prank. The snake's mate appears and bites Jim's heel. Jim drinks [Pap](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Pap)'s whiskey to escape the pain. A few days later Jim recovers, and Huck swears off snakes.

To alleviate boredom Huck decides to go to St. Petersburg for the news. At Jim's suggestion, Huck dresses up as a girl for his visit to ensure people will not recognize him. He knocks at the door of a woman's house whom he does not know.

[Huck](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Huck)'s childish and mean act reminds the reader that he is still a child. While Huck has gone through a number of hardships and has set out on his own, he is not yet mature. Just as there is evidence of his childishness here, the reader can also can see his maturity. When Huck realizes what he has done and how it hurts [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/symbols/#Jim), he instantly feels sorry and resolves never to do it again. His latter actions also show respect for [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Jim) whom he sees as an equal.

Jackson's Island seemed like a final destination and paradise when Huck got there and for a time afterward. However, even this paradise is not safe. The dead body in the house that floats by is a reminder that evil and danger still exist. Then nature, in the form of the snake, invades. Just like the Garden of Eden the snake is a sign of trouble and leads to eviction from paradise. Huck's initial exit is voluntary. As much as he enjoys being on the island with Jim, Huck is looking for more. He is restless and will never be satisfied long term with the conditions as they are. There is a yearning for society despite all its warts.

***Significance(Ch6-10):***

Huck is thrilled with all the things they managed to get from the house and tells Jim that he wishes they could have fun like that more often. Huck is also still curious about the man in the house but Jim refuses to talk about him. Huck mentions that he thought they would have bad luck after he brought a snakeskin into the cave, not great luck like what they were having. Always superstitious, Jim warns Huck that the bad luck is still coming.

Three days later, Huck tries to play a trick on Jim by leaving a curled up dead rattlesnake under Jim's blanket. But when Jim crawls into the bed he gets bitten in the ankle by the snake's mate. Huck kills the mate and sheepishly carries both snakes far away from the cave, embarrassed by the results of his behavior. Jim takes the jug of Pap's whiskey and drinks himself into a drunken stupor to avoid feeling the pain of his swollen leg. It takes Jim four entire days to recover from the bite and Huck vows to never touch a snakeskin with his hands again.

In order to catch up on what is happening in the town, Huck dresses up as a girl and goes to the village. He stops at a house where he sees a woman knitting. Since she is new to the town, Huck figures he can talk to her without being recognized.

These five chapters reveal a great deal about Huck as a person. Huck emerges as a vibrant character who fights powerfully for his life. Huck's capture and escape from Pap demonstrate his genius for innovation, as does his ability to live alone on Jackson's Island. Huck does not need anyone's help to survive, and the only indication that he is not completely happy is his comment that he sometimes gets lonely.

Huck's personality is quite uniquely established throughout these chapters. He exhibits humility in that he constantly underplays his brilliant ideas. Thus, when he fakes his death, he says that even Tom Sawyer would have been proud of the charade, indicating that Tom would have been able to fake it better but that it was a good enough to earn some praise. The innocent side of Huck is also revealed in his encounter with Jim. Jim swears him to secrecy before revealing that he has run away from Miss Watson. Huck is immediately faced with the responsibility of protecting Jim or telling the town the truth. He chooses to stay with Jim because, as a young boy who has lived outside of main stream society for quite some time, he still lacks the prejudices of the older folks in his town. This youthfulness is reinforced by the image of Huck dressing up as a girl at the end of Chapter 10.

The strength of character that leads Huck to refuse to reveal Jim at this juncture of the novel is tested many times during the course of their travels. In a sense, it is Huck's desperate need to not be alone anymore that overcomes his fear of damnation for not turning in a runaway slave. While Tom Sawyer may be his best friend as a playmate, Huck seeks someone who will care about him as a person rather than as a simple play friend. While it is not at all clear that Jim will be able to assume this role, early indications lean towards the development of this relationship as Jim works to get Huck safely inside the cave and out of the rain.

Jim's motive for keeping Pap's death from Huck is unclear. Jim could simply be trying to protect Huck's feelings, but there is also very likely a selfish motive. Jim has just revealed to Huck that he ran away from the widow. Were he to tell Huck that Pap died, there would be no reason for Huck to remain with Jim on the island. Jim fears that Huck might at some point return to town and tell people where he is hiding. Thus, for Jim, it is a life and death decision whether or not to inform Huck of Pap's death.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) wonders who shot the dead man he and Jim discovered, and why, but [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/jim) doesn’t tell him because “it would fetch bad luck.” The pair finds money stashed in a coat, which leads Jim to speculate that the people in the house stole the coat; otherwise they would have known money was in it and wouldn’t have left it. Huck wants to discuss the dead man more, but Jim refuses.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Jim withholds the identity of the dead man from Huck not because he superstitiously thinks that doing otherwise “would fetch bad luck,” but to protect Huck. In doing so, Jim shows himself to be a caring, loving, gentle, and emotionally intelligent human being—traits that slavery never grants to slaves.

***Summary Part 2:***

In response, [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) reminds [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/jim) of how, a few days earlier, Huck had fetched a snakeskin with his bare hands, which Jim thought would bring the very worst luck. However, Huck says, all it’s brought are the eight dollars, and, on account of that, Huck wishes he had such bad luck every day. Jim warns that the bad luck is coming. And it does. That Friday, Huck finds a rattlesnake in the cavern he and Jim are hiding in and kills it, curling it up on Jim’s bed as a prank. When Jim throws himself into bed that night, however, the dead snake’s mate is there and bites Jim’s ankle. Huck kills the second snake as Jim gulps down some of Pap’s whisky, yelling in pain, his foot swelling up all the while. Jim is incapacitated for four days and nights, by the end of which Huck resolves never to touch a snakeskin again for fear of bad luck, nor do other things that bring bad luck, like look over his left shoulder at the moon.

***Analysis Part 2:***

While Jim sometimes invokes his superstitious-ness to protect other people, like Huck, Huck sometimes invokes his superstitious-ness to relieve himself of responsibility for his actions. After all, he plays a mean prank on Jim by putting the snake in Jim’s bed, but, instead of holding himself responsible, he blames the bad luck he generated by touching the snakeskin. Also note how Jim, held by slavery to be sub-human, always treats Huck kindly, while Huck, held by slavery to be superior to Jim because of his whiteness, plays mean pranks. The novel continues to eat away at the idea that slavery’s categorization of blacks is in any way accurate.

***Summary Part 3:***

The next morning, bored, Huck wants to go exploring, which [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/jim) thinks is a good idea, but he reminds Huck that he mustn’t get caught. Huck decides to dress up as a woman using clothes found in the drifting cabin, an idea that Jim praises. Huck practices acting like a girl all day, and paddles in his canoe up the Illinois shore just after dark. He lands at a town, and, after walking around, peeps in at a window to see a woman, later identified as Mrs. [Judith Loftus](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters), knitting. She is a stranger, so Huck decides to ask her about what he wants to know. He knocks and reminds himself not to forget that he is pretending to be a girl.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Just as Huck likes to mix up all the foods on his plate, crossing boundaries others wouldn’t cross because of arbitrary rules, so too is he willing to cross the boundary of gender by dressing up and acting like a girl. It is by acting with such freedom that Huck preserves his freedom. However, this scene foreshadows later scenes in the novel in which dressing-up is not an expression of freedom, but rather a means of conning people and satisfying one’s desire for money.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

It's YOU, at last!—AIN'T it?"

I out with a "Yes'm" before I thought. (10.8, 10.9)

***Explanation 1:***

Here's Tom Sawyer's aunt Sally asking Huck, "Is that you?" By now, Huck is so used to lying that he says "Yes" before he even knows who "you" is supposed to be. In other words, Huck will be whoever you want him to be. Just like your imaginary boyfriend.

***Quotation 2:***

AFTER breakfast I wanted to talk about the dead man and guess out how he come to be killed, but Jim didn't want to. He said it would fetch bad luck; and besides, he said, he might come and ha'nt us; he said a man that warn't buried was more likely to go a-ha'nting around than one that was planted and comfortable. That sounded pretty reasonable, so I didn't say no more; but I couldn't keep from studying over it and wishing I knowed who shot the man, and what they done it for. (10.1)

***Explanation 2:***

Jim uses superstition to deceive Huck, the way the duke and the king later use religion to deceive others.

***Quotation 3:***

"Now you think it's bad luck; but what did you say when I fetched in the snake-skin that I found on the top of the ridge day before yesterday? You said it was the worst bad luck in the world to touch a snake-skin with my hands. Well, here's your bad luck! We've raked in all this truck and eight dollars besides. I wish we could have some bad luck like this every day, Jim." "

Never you mind, honey, never you mind. Don't you git too peart. It's a-comin'. Mind I tell you, it's a-comin'." (10.3, 10.4)

***Explanation 3:***

Jim refuses to waver in his superstitious beliefs, even in the face of contrasting evidence.

***Quotation 4:***

Jim told me to chop off the snake's head and throw it away, and then skin the body and roast a piece of it. I done it, and he eat it and said it would help cure him. He made me take off the rattles and tie them around his wrist, too. He said that that would help. (10.7)

***Explanation 4:***

Although he is skeptical, Huck still humors Jim and his superstitions. This goes along with his general respect for others’ beliefs, and his open-minded attitude regarding different ways of looking at the world.

***Quotation 5:***

Jim said he reckoned I would believe him next time. And he said that handling a snake-skin was such awful bad luck that maybe we hadn't got to the end of it yet. He said he druther see the new moon over his left shoulder as much as a thousand times than take up a snake-skin in his hand. Well, I was getting to feel that way myself, though I've always reckoned that looking at the new moon over your left shoulder is one of the carelessest and foolishest things a body can do. Old Hank Bunker done it once, and bragged about it; and in less than two years he got drunk and fell off of the shot-tower, and spread himself out so that he was just a kind of a layer, as you may say; and they slid him edgeways between two barn doors for a coffin, and buried him so, so they say, but I didn't see it. Pap told me. But anyway it all come of looking at the moon that way, like a fool. (10.9)

***Explanation 5:***

Just as he is faced with different systems of morality, Huck also chooses between the different superstitious beliefs presented by various characters.

***Quotation 6:***

Jim sucked and sucked at the jug, and now and then he got out of his head and pitched around and yelled; but every time he come to himself he went to sucking at the jug again. His foot swelled up pretty big, and so did his leg; but by and by the drunk begun to come, and so I judged he was all right; but I'd druther been bit with a snake than pap's whisky. (10.8)

***Explanation 6:***

Pap’s alcoholism has left Huck with only negative associations of alcohol. Huck is able to see, however, that everyone who drinks isn’t as harmful as his Pap is; he understands that his father is an extreme case.

***Quotation 7:***

Well, I was getting to feel that way myself, though I've always reckoned that looking at the new moon over your left shoulder is one of the carelessest and foolishest things a body can do. Old Hank Bunker done it once, and bragged about it; and in less than two years he got drunk and fell off of the shot-tower, and spread himself out so that he was just a kind of a layer, as you may say; and they slid him edgeways between two barn doors for a coffin, and buried him so, so they say, but I didn't see it. (10.9)

***Explanation 7:***

Huck blames the negative affects of alcohol on bad luck.