***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

***Chapter 2:***

***Translation:***

We tiptoed along a path that ran through the trees toward the back of the widow’s garden, hunching over so the branches wouldn’t scrape our heads. Just as we passed by the kitchen, I made a noise as I fell over a tree root that was sticking up. We crouched down and laid still. Miss Watson’s big n-----, Jim, was sitting in the kitchen doorway. There was a light behind him, so we could see him pretty clearly. He got up, stretched his neck out for a minute to listen.

Then he said, “Who’s that?”

Jim listened some more, then he tiptoed toward us until he was standing right between us. He was so close we could have almost reached out and touched him. It seemed minutes passed without a sound. My ankle started to itch, but I couldn’t risk scratching it. Then my ear began to itch and my back too, right between my shoulder blades. I itched so much I felt like I was going to die. I’ve noticed this a lot, actually: If you’re around important people or at a funeral or trying to fall asleep when you’re not sleepy—basically, any place where you just can’t scratch—then your body is going itch in a thousand places.

Pretty soon Jim said, “Say now, who’s there? Where are you? I’ll be damned if I didn’t hear something. Well, I know what I’m going to do—I’m going to sit down right here and listen until I hear that sound again.”

He sat down on the ground between me and Tom. He leaned up against a tree and stretched his legs out until one of them almost touched mine. Then my nose began to itch so much that I almost cried. But I couldn’t risk scratching it. It began to itch on the inside of my nose, then underneath. It was so bad I didn’t know how I was going to stay still. This misery went on for six or seven minutes, but it felt a lot longer than that. Pretty soon I itched in eleven different places. I figured I couldn’t stand it any longer, but I gritted my teeth and told myself to be patient. Just then Jim began to breathe heavily and then snore—and then I could scratch all over and be comfortable again.

Tom signaled to me by making a little noise with his mouth, and we crawled away on our hands and knees. When we’d crawled ten feet, Tom whispered that he wanted to play a joke on Jim by tieing him up to the tree. I said we better not, because he might wake up and start shouting, and then everyone would know I’d snuck out. Then Tom said that he didn’t have enough candles, and that he’d sneak into the kitchen to grab a few more. I didn’t want him to do it and said that Jim might wake up and investigate. But Tom wanted to risk it, so we snuck into the kitchen and got three candles. Before we left, Tom put five cents on the table to pay for them. I really wanted to leave, but Tom wanted to play a joke on Jim. Tom crawled over to him while I waited in the still and lonesome night for what seemed like a really long time.

As soon as Tom got back, we continued along the path around the garden fence, and then headed up the hill behind the house. Tom said he’d taken Jim’s hat off and hung it on a branch right above his head, and that though Jim had stirred a little, he hadn’t woken up. Later on, Jim explained the hat in the tree by claiming that witches cast a spell on him that put him in a trance. He said they made him ride his horse all over the whole state before putting him back under the tree. They had hung his hat on the branch to show him what they’d done to him. The next time he told the story, though, he said they’d made him go all the way down to New Orleans. Each time he told it, he seemed to go a little further so that pretty soon he was saying they’d made him ride all over the world, which gave him saddle sores and nearly killed him. Jim was pretty proud about all this, and he liked telling the story to the other n------, who would come from miles away to hear it. He became the most respected n------ in the county. Even n------ he didn’t know would stare at him with their mouths open as if he were a great wonder. n------ love to sit in the dark around the kitchen fire and tell stories about witches. Whenever Jim would walk into the room and hear someone else talking about such things he’d say, “Hmph! What do you know about witches?” The n----- who was all talking would have to sit down and let Jim have the floor. Jim always kept Tom’s nickel around his neck with a string, saying it was a charm that the devil himself had given to him. He said that he could cure anybody with that charm and fetch witches whenever he wanted just by saying a little chant—though he never told us what the chant actually was. n------ would come from all over and give Jim whatever they could just for a glimpse of that nickel, but they’d never touch it because they believed it had been touched by the devil. Jim became worthless as a servant because he thought he was so special for having seen the devil and been put in a trance by witches.

***Summary:***

* Huck and Tom traipse through the dark. They pass the kitchen and see Jim, Miss Watson's slave sitting by the window.
* Welcome to the [**pre-Civil War South**](https://www.shmoop.com/antebellum/).
* Side note: Twain frequently uses the word "n\*\*\*\*\*" to refer to the black slaves. This is a testament to the times and a true record of vernacular in the setting. Shmoop is from a kinder, gentler time (we hope), so we'll be sticking with "the n-word."
* Jim hears some noises and comes outside to investigate.
* The boys freeze in place, and Huck makes the most astute comment ever: when you can't move, you always itch all over the place.
* Jim is determined to wait the situation out, so he sits down.
* And promptly falls asleep.
* Obviously, Huck and Tom can't resist this situation. They decide to punk him, and much [**hilarity ensues**](http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/HilarityEnsues).
* Tom sneaks into the kitchen to take a candle, and leaves five cents on the table for payment.
* Honest kid.
* Then he takes Jim's hat off his (sleeping) head and hangs it on the branch above him.
* When Jim finally wakes up, he tells everyone that witches came and rode him all around the world.
* He becomes the famous authority for all things witch-related, which is knee-slappin' hilarious for Huck.
* Back to the night at hand: after setting the prank in motion, Tom and Huck pick up a few more of their friends and bring the boys to a cave in the woods.
* Fortunately, all Tom Sawyer does is start a gang. In a burst of creativity and selflessness, he calls it "Tom Sawyer's Gang."
* This is all fun and games until the boys have to sign a blood oath, which no one seems to have any qualms about.
* Obviously Tom got the idea from books about pirates and robbers and so forth.
* Someone thinks it would be a good idea to kill the family of any boy that breaks the oath.
* All agree.
* This creates some difficulties for Huck; we find that his father used to lie around drunk with the hogs and is nowhere to be found these days.
* Why is this a problem? It would render killing him a problem, in the event that he broke the oath.
* Huck, always a problem-solver, offers up Miss Watson instead, to everyone's great satisfaction.
* Tom says they're all supposed to be robbers, but they can't steal—that would be burglary, and very, very wrong. Again, he speaks with authority, having gotten all his information from children's fiction.
* Tom debates with one of the boys, Ben Rogers, about the proper way to ransom a person.
* Women are easy. You just bring them to your cave and are "polite as pie" to them. Obviously, they then fall in love with you while you're all waiting for them to get ransomed. (Twain probably [**had some inspiration for this**](http://www.theatrehistory.com/british/musical002.html).)
* What day to start the robbing and killing? Sunday is obviously out of the question, since that would be totally wicked. In the evil sense.

***Summary in Brief:***

Huck and Tom encounter Miss Watson's slave, Jim, sitting in the kitchen floor. They try to be quiet, but Jim hears them, but then ultimately falls asleep. Tom takes some candles from the kitchen, but leaves five cents behind. Tom takes Jim's hat off and hangs it on a tree besides him. This ultimately leads to Jim's creation of a fabulous tale of how he had been kidnapped by witches and rode until dawn, making him a kind of celebrity in regards to witchly voyages and his encounter with the Devil himself, who gave him a five cent piece to hang around his neck.

After their adventure with Jim, they find several of their friends and begin the process of starting a gang. Of course, an oath is required. If anyone tells he must be sued and then killed, along with his family. Everything is fine until they realize that Huck doesn't have a proper family. The process is stalled until they decide it is all right to Miss Watson because they doubt they will ever find Huck's Pappy who is too inaccessible to be murdered easily. They have a few scheduling problems, but realize they will finally be able to get together for their proper quotient mayhem and murder.

***Analysis in Brief:***

This chapter introduces Jim who is going to be a constant companion of Huck's for much of this book and who has his own intractable sense of ego, mostly revolving around his superior grasp of the superstitions of the times. His story about his abduction by witches is told in a droll and characteristically Twainesque way by Huckleberry. If that isn't sufficiently funny, the formation of the "gang" is incredibly funny as they debate about themselves the nature of the oath they wish to take, the meaning of the term, 'ransom,' which they fail to understand and how to integrate robbing stagecoaches and killing passengers into their busy schedules.

***Summary in Detail:***

Huck and Tom tiptoe through the Widow’s garden. Huck trips on a root as he passes by the kitchen, and Jim, one of Miss Watson’s slaves, hears him from inside. Tom and Huck crouch down and try to stay still, but Huck is struck by a series of uncontrollable itches, as often happens when he is in a situation “where it won’t do for you to scratch.” Jim says aloud that he will stay put until he discovers the source of the sound, but after several minutes, he falls asleep. Tom wants to tie Jim up, but the more practical Huck objects, so Tom settles for simply playing a trick by putting Jim’s hat on a tree branch over Jim’s head. Tom also takes candles from the kitchen, despite Huck’s objections that they will risk getting caught.

Huck tells us that afterward, Jim tells everyone that some witches flew him around and put the hat atop his head. Jim expands the tale further, becoming a local celebrity among the slaves, who enjoy witch stories. Around his neck, Jim wears the five-cent piece Tom left for the candles, calling it a charm from the devil with the power to cure sickness. Huck notes somewhat sarcastically that Jim nearly becomes so “stuck up” from his newfound celebrity that he is unfit to be a servant.

Meanwhile, Tom and Huck meet up with a few other boys and take a boat to a large cave. There, Tom names his new band of robbers “Tom Sawyer’s Gang.” All must sign an oath in blood, vowing, among other things, to kill the family of any member who reveals the gang’s secrets. The boys think it “a real beautiful oath,” and Tom admits that he got part of it from books that he has read. The boys nearly disqualify Huck because he has no family aside from a drunken father who can never be found, but Huck appeases the boys by offering Miss Watson. Tom says the gang must capture and ransom people, although none of the boys knows what “ransom” means. Tom assumes it means to keep them captive until they die. In response to one boy’s question, Tom tells the group that women are not to be killed but should be kept at the hideout, where the boys’ manners will charm the women into falling in love with the boys. When one boy begins to cry out of homesickness and threatens to tell the group’s secrets, Tom bribes him with five cents. They agree to meet again someday, but not on a Sunday, because that would be blasphemous. Huck makes it home and gets into bed just before dawn.

***Critical study:***

As [Huck](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/character-analysis/huckleberry-finn) and [Tom](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/character-analysis/tom-sawyer) sneak off from the Widow Douglas' house, Huck trips, and the noise alerts Miss Watson's slave, [Jim](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/character-analysis/jim). Jim tries to find what made the noise and almost discovers the boys, but after a while he falls asleep. While Jim is sleeping, Tom takes Jim's hat and hangs it on a tree-limb. Afterwards, Jim tells everyone that witches put a spell on him and took him all over the state. Jim's story grows with each telling until finally slaves come from all over to hear Jim's tale of being bewitched. After this episode, he is considered an authority on witches.

Huck and Tom meet the rest of the town boys, and they all go to a hidden cave two miles down the river. In the cave, Tom declares that the band of robbers will be called "Tom Sawyer's Gang" and "Everybody that wants to join has got to take an oath, and write his name in blood." The boys all swear that, if a gang member tells the gang's secrets, they will cut his throat and then kill that boy's family. One of the boys says the oath is not fair because Huck Finn does not have a family unless you count a father who can never be found. A solution is found when Huck offers Miss Watson as his family and says, "they could kill her."

Using pirate books as a reference, Tom describes the future business of the gang as robbery and murder. The other boys wonder why everything must be so complicated and involve ransoms and guards, and Tom replies that he's "seen it in books; and so of course that's what we've got to do."

Chapter 2 introduces Jim, Huck's future companion and friend. In Missouri, most slaves were domestic servants, not workers on plantations that most people today identify with slavery. Jim's initial behaviors as interpreted through Huck are stereotypical traits attributed to blacks at the time: laziness, a tendency toward exaggeration, and conceit. Jim's belief in superstition mirrors that of Huck, and his explanations of what had happened to him that night could be interpreted to reveal either a gullible nature or an opportunist who makes the most of the circumstances that he encounters. [Twain](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/mark-twain-biography) not only taps Huck's prejudices in the early portrayal of Jim, but he also taps the prejudices of the reader. Jim gains handsomely from his witch adventure and wisely uses the fictional kidnapping to boost his stature among his peers. Nevertheless, the suggestion that Jim displays negative traits has been partially responsible for the opposition to teaching *Huck Finn* in the classroom.

The character of Jim, however, is much more complex than the sleepy man who has seen the devil and been kidnapped by witches. Moreover, this simplistic interpretation of Jim in the beginning of the novel enhances the prejudicial nature of the stereotype when the true depth of his character is revealed later in the novel. As readers learn about Huck, they also learn about Jim and the admirable character he is.

Also introduced in Chapter 2 is the character of Tom Sawyer. Tom is a contrasting character (a foil) to Huck, despite their obvious bond and friendship. Tom is a romantic, insensitive representative of the society Huck dislikes. His tendency is to take control, romanticize, and exaggerate all situations. Tom bases his expertise in adventures on the many pirate and robber books he has read. His humorous exaggerations symbolize Twain's dislike of popular and glorified romantic novels. Later, in Chapter 3, Tom mentions [Don Quixote](https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/d/don-quixote/book-summary) as a model of the romantic novels. Ironically, Cervantes was satirizing romantic adventure stories in this work much the same as Twain does in this work. Obviously, Tom was unaware of the satiric nature of the novel, but Twain was not.

Unlike the playful humor of Tom Sawyer, the humor of Huck Finn is bitter satire using the hypocrisy, violence, and squalor in the society that Twain observed. For example, when Tom decides that the gang will rob and murder people "except some that you bring to the cave here and keep them till they're ransomed," the boys discover that no one, including Tom, knows the meaning of "ransom." The boys assign a meaning to the word by conjecturing what it means ("keep them until they are dead"). This meaning, of course, is wrong, but, as in the greater society, because the group believes it to be true, it becomes their truth, and the rest of their action is based on this error, a serious subject matter undercut by humor.

Glossary

**the quality**word used by the South to describe aristocracy,

**five-center piece**monetary equivalent of a nickel. Nickels were not minted until after the Civil War.

**skiff**a flat-bottomed boat propelled by oars.

**high-toned**aristocratic or snobbish.

**blame**a milder slang alternative for "damned."

**the nation**slang for "damnation."

***Critical Analysis:***

As [Tom](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Tom) and [Huck](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Huck) are making their getaway Huck slips and makes a noise, which stirs [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/symbols/#Jim) who is "Miss Watson's big nigger." [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Jim) looks around but doesn't see them. The boys hide until Jim falls asleep. Tom insists they play a trick on him, even though Huck isn't interested. Tom removes Jim's hat and puts it on a tree limb. Later Jim tells a story about this, and slaves come from all over to hear about it.

The boys continue on and meet up with some others who are interested in joining the gang. They go to a cave, sign an oath in blood, and swear they will not tell others about the gang, including their plans to waylay, rob, murder, or otherwise "ransom" strangers. According to the blood oath whoever reveals gang secrets will be murdered and burnt. The boys then decide that oath-breakers' families should be killed as well. Since Huck has no family, he offers up Miss Watson. The boys accept her and Huck remains in the group.

Tom goes on to explain what the gang will do. He tells them that he got the ideas from pirate books and insists this is the way everything must be done.

Upon introducing [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/symbols/#Jim), [Huck](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Huck) appears to share society's prejudice against slaves/black people. He views [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Jim) as lazy, conceited, and prone to exaggeration. As the two of them spend time together Huck will come to recognize Jim's finer qualities, realize his own prejudices, and question the legitimacy of slavery. The book is ultimately about Huck's growth and changed view about slavery.

[Tom](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Tom) Sawyer takes a central role in this chapter. Unlike Huck, who is sincere and acts according to his own moral compass, Tom is silly and his plans make no sense. He gets his ideas on behavior from books and lives in a (somewhat violent) fantasy world. Tom is able to make up such nonsense and be a romantic because he is part of society and accepted there. On the contrary Huck is an outsider and is in need of civilizing. Even the other boys are ready to toss Huck out of the group when he has no family that can be offered up to be "killed." The boys' behavior comes off as completely silly when they decide "it would be wicked to do it [meet] on Sunday." The reason given is that Sunday is the Lord's Day. Clearly religion is being mocked here; it's okay to do bad things as long as one does not do them on Sunday.

***Significance:***

While the boys are sneaking away, Huck trips over a root and makes a noise when he falls. Miss Watson's slave [Jim](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/study-guide/character-list#jim) hears the sound and comes outside to look around. Huck and Tom hunker down to hide, and Jim ends up sitting down right between them to wait to hear the sound again. At first, Huck thinks they will never get away, but Jim soon gets tired and falls asleep against a tree.

While Jim sleeps, Tom wants to play a trick on him. He and Huck climb into the house and steal three candles, for which they leave a nickel as "pay". Then Tom quietly makes his way to Jim, takes off Jim's hat, and places it on a tree branch above Jim's head. He soon returns and tells Huck what he did.

After Jim wakes up, he believes he has been bewitched, and keeps the nickel as a token around his neck for the rest of his life. According to Huck, Jim tells all the other slaves that he had been ridden around the world by some witches, and that the nickel was given to him by the devil.

Tom and Huck sneak down to the river and meet some of the other boys who are supposed to be members of Tom's robber band. Together, they steal a skiff and float down the river several miles to an area where Tom has discovered a cave. Tom shows the boys a hidden room in the cave which they make their robber headquarters. Tom then reads them an oath that he has written, taken mostly from robber books and pirate stories. The boys argue over what Huck Finn's role in the gang will be, because Huck does not have a family for them to kill in case he reveals any of the gang's secrets. Huck finally offers them Miss Watson in place of his real parents, and the boys then sign an oath in blood to join the band. Tom is elected captain.

Tom explains that as robbers, they will only attack carriages and take the things inside. The men will be killed and the women will be brought back to the cave. He also mentions that they will ransom some of the people, because that is what they do in books, although he has no idea what "ransom" means. After that, all the boys agree to meet again soon. They return home exhausted and Huck climbs into bed having muddied up his new clothes, and feeling dead tired.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

As [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) and [Tom Sawyer](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/tom-sawyer) sneak away from the [Widow Douglas](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/the-widow-douglas-and-miss-watson)’s house, Huck trips and makes a noise. One of Miss Watson’s slaves, [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/jim), hears the noise and leans out of the kitchen doorway and asks who’s there. Huck and Tom are silent, hiding in the dark, even though Huck needs to scratch an itch, which Huck says is even itchier because he knows he can’t scratch it without making a noise. Jim comes outside and searches for the source of the sound but, finding nothing, eventually sits down and falls asleep.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Jim is a good man: even though he detests his enslavement, he investigates the noise to make sure that there is nothing dangerous outside threatening Miss Watson or her interests. Huck’s predicament shows that making a bid for freedom can be uncomfortable, but he would rather be uncomfortable now and free later than otherwise.

***Summary Part 2:***

Despite [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn)’s protests, Tom takes some candles from the [Widow Douglas](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/the-widow-douglas-and-miss-watson)’s kitchen, leaving five cents in payment, and then tricks the sleeping [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/jim) by taking Jim’s hat off of his head and hanging it on a nearby tree branch. Afterwards, Jim tells his fellow slaves that a witch possessed him and rode him everywhere that night, hanging his hat on the branch to show that she had ridden him so. Jim’s fellow slaves would come from far and wide to listen to Jim’s story.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Tom takes risks, like stealing the candles, that Huck objects to. Huck is more practical, perhaps because Tom comes from a more privileged background than Huck. Like Huck, Jim explains unknown phenomena, like how his hat got into the tree, with superstitious explanations. It seems silly for the other slaves to believe Huck's stories, but later in the novel many religious whites will believe stories just as ridiculous.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Tom](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/tom-sawyer) and Huck meet up with some other boys, and, after a short excursion, end up in a cave, where Tom announces that the boys present can be members of his band of robbers, which he calls Tom Sawyer’s Gang. All the boys want to be members, and, after swearing an oath that Tom fashioned after what he read in robber and pirate books, are inducted into the Gang. However, the oath requires that, if a member reveals a secret of the Gang, his family be killed. Huck doesn’t have a family other than a drunkard father who no one can ever find, and so the boys debate whether he should be inducted into the Gang at all. Huck at last offers [Miss Watson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/the-widow-douglas-and-miss-watson) to be killed, which his fellows accept.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Here, the boys play at making their own society. Like the society of the South, that of the boys is rooted in silly traditions, those Tom derived from his robber and pirate books. But the boys also demonstrate that they are more flexible than members of the society of the South. They are willing to bend their own rules so that Huck can be a member of the Gang.

***Summary Part 4:***

The members of [Tom Sawyer](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/tom-sawyer)’s Gang debate what their purpose will be. Tom declares that the Gang’s purpose is to rob people on the roads of watches and money, and then to either kill or ransom those whom they rob. One boy questions whether the Gang should ransom people, but Tom insists that it must, because that is what happens in the books that he reads. The only problem is that no one knows what it means to ransom someone. Tom concludes that it is to keep someone until they die, and the boys agree this must be the case. The boys also agree not to kill women, but to keep them in the cave and treat them very sweetly. The Gang decides to pull off its first robbery, but can’t do it on Sunday because that would be wicked. The Gang disperses, and [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) returns home.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Tom’s Gang, like society, is rooted in arbitrary traditions that have lost their meaning. The boys don’t know what ransoming is, but adopt it as a practice only because of tradition. While it is okay for a make-believe gang to do so, it is childish for adults in society to do so, especially considering that, while the violence done by Tom’s gang is pretend, that perpetrated by society is very real, with bloody, sometimes deadly consequences. This passage also points out how ridiculous it is to obey the letter of Christianity but not the spirit: the boys are going to do something bad, rob people, but insist that they can’t do it on Sunday, because Sunday is a holy day. But wicked things are no more wicked on one day than another—the boys are mixing up looking like good Christians with actually being good Christians, just as it becomes clear many adults also do.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

Ben Rogers said he couldn't get out much, only Sundays, and so he wanted to begin next Sunday; but all the boys said it would be wicked to do it on Sunday, and that settled the thing. (2.38)

***Explanation 1:***

Let's get this straight: murderous band of robbers, sure. Murderous band of robbers on Sundays, no way. It sounds like only some of those Sunday School lessons are sinking in.

***Quotation 2:***

"Yes, he's got a father, but you can't never find him these days. He used to lay drunk with the hogs in the tanyard, but he hain't been seen in these parts for a year or more." (2.13)

***Explanation 2:***

When is a father no longer a father? Well, maybe when he's abandoned his son for a year after lying around drunk with the hogs. We're pretty sure that throws your parental role into question.

***Quotation 3:***

"Now, we'll start this band of robbers and call it Tom Sawyer's Gang. Everybody that wants to join has got to take an oath, and write his name in blood." (2.10)

***Explanation 3:***

Tom has some pretty intense ideas about friendship, too—like the idea that you have to swear your loyalty to your friends in blood. Oh, and offer up your family as [collateral](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/collateral).

***Quotation 4:***

Tom he made a sign to me – kind of a little noise with his mouth – and we went creeping away on our hands and knees. When we was ten foot off Tom whispered to me, and wanted to tie Jim to the tree for fun. (2.6)

***Explanation 4:***

Huck and Tom have in common the playfulness of youth.

***Quotation 5:***

Little Tommy Barnes was asleep now, and when they waked him up he was scared, and cried, and said he wanted to go home to his ma, and didn't want to be a robber any more. (2.36)

***Explanation 5:***

The reader is reminded that Huck and Tom are children because of the kids they spend time with.

***Quotation 6:***

Afterwards Jim said the witches bewitched him and put him in a trance, and rode him all over the State, and then set him under the trees again, and hung his hat on a limb to show who done it. And next time Jim told it he said they rode him down to New Orleans; and, after that, every time he told it he spread it more and more, till by and by he said they rode him all over the world, and tired him most to death, and his back was all over saddle-boils. Jim was monstrous proud about it, and he got so he wouldn't hardly notice the other n\*\*\*\*\*s. N\*\*\*\*\*s would come miles to hear Jim tell about it, and he was more looked up to than any n\*\*\*\*\* in that country. Strange n\*\*\*\*\*s would stand with their mouths open and look him all over, same as if he was a wonder. N\*\*\*\*\*s is always talking about witches in the dark by the kitchen fire; but whenever one was talking and letting on to know all about such things, Jim would happen in and say, "Hm! What you know 'bout witches?" and that n\*\*\*\*\* was corked up and had to take a back seat. Jim always kept that five-center piece round his neck with a string, and said it was a charm the devil give to him with his own hands, and told him he could cure anybody with it and fetch witches whenever he wanted to just by saying something to it; but he never told what it was he said to it. N\*\*\*\*\*s would come from all around there and give Jim anything they had, just for a sight of that five-center piece; but they wouldn't touch it, because the devil had had his hands on it. Jim was most ruined for a servant, because he got stuck up on account of having seen the devil and been rode by witches. (2.7)

***Explanation 6:***

The superstition of the black slaves appears foolish to Huck and Tom – yet they themselves express similar beliefs repeatedly throughout the novel.

***Quotation 7:***

Afterwards Jim said the witches bewitched him and put him in a trance, and rode him all over the State, and then set him under the trees again, and hung his hat on a limb to show who done it. And next time Jim told it he said they rode him down to New Orleans; and, after that, every time he told it he spread it more and more, till by and by he said they rode him all over the world, and tired him most to death, and his back was all over saddle-boils. Jim was monstrous proud about it, and he got so he wouldn't hardly notice the other n\*\*\*\*\*s. N\*\*\*\*\*s would come miles to hear Jim tell about it, and he was more looked up to than any n\*\*\*\*\* in that country. Strange n\*\*\*\*\*s would stand with their mouths open and look him all over, same as if he was a wonder. N\*\*\*\*\*s is always talking about witches in the dark by the kitchen fire; but whenever one was talking and letting on to know all about such things, Jim would happen in and say, "Hm! What you know 'bout witches?" and that n\*\*\*\*\* was corked up and had to take a back seat. Jim always kept that five-center piece round his neck with a string, and said it was a charm the devil give to him with his own hands, and told him he could cure anybody with it and fetch witches whenever he wanted to just by saying something to it; but he never told what it was he said to it. N\*\*\*\*\*s would come from all around there and give Jim anything they had, just for a sight of that five-center piece; but they wouldn't touch it, because the devil had had his hands on it. Jim was most ruined for a servant, because he got stuck up on account of having seen the devil and been rode by witches. (2.7)

***Explanation 7:***

Just as the duke and king later con the crowd more easily because of their religious zeal, Tom and Huck are able to trick Jim because of his superstition.

***Quotation 8:***

"Yes, he's got a father, but you can't never find him these days. He used to lay drunk with the hogs in the tanyard, but he hain't been seen in these parts for a year or more." (2.16)

***Explanation 8:***

Pap’s alcoholism is no secret to the community. It explains others’ willingness and insistence at helping Huck all the time.