***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

***Chapter 5:***

***Translation:***

I had already shut the door when I turned around and there he was. I used to be scared of him all the time because he beat me so much. And I was scared now. But after a minute, when the first jolt of fear and shock at seeing him had passed and I had caught my breath, I realized there wasn’t anything to be scared about. He was nearly fifty years old, and he looked it. His hair, which hung low, was long and tangled and greasy, and you could see his eyes shining through it like he was peering through vines. The hair was completely black without any gray, as was his long knotted beard. His face, where it showed through all the hair, was white—not like other men’s skin, but a sickening pasty color like the color of a white tree toad or the underside of a fish. It was enough to make your skin crawl. As for his clothes, they were just rags. He had one leg up with the ankle resting on his knee. The boot he wore on that foot was broken and you could see two toes poking through, which he wiggled a little bit. His hat—a droopy black hat with the top caved in—was lying on the floor. I stood there looking at him, and he sat there looking at me as he tilted back in the chair. As I put my candle down, I noticed that the window was open, which meant he probably got in by climbing up the shed. He kept looking me up and down until he eventually said: “Your clothes are all starched. You think you’re pretty high and might, DON’T you?” “Maybe I am, maybe I ain’t,” I said. “Don’t you give me any lip,” he said. “You’ve been putting on airs since I’ve been away. I’ll bring you down a notch before I get done with you. They say you’re educated now too, that you can read and write. You think you’re better than your father now, don’t you, because he can’t read and write? I’ll teach you a lesson. Who told you that you could dabble in such ridiculous nonsense? Who told you, huh?” “The widow. She told me.” “The widow, huh? And who told the widow she could stick her nose in other people’s business?” “Nobody ever told her.” “Well, I’ll teach her to interfere. And you listen to me—you stop going to school now, you hear? I’ll teach them to raise a boy to put on airs over his own father and pretend to be better than what he is. If I catch you around that school again, you’ll get it. Your mother couldn’t read or write when she died. And none of the rest of your family could before they died. I can’t. Yet here you are puffing yourself up. I won’t stand for it, you hear? Now, let me hear you read something.” I picked up a book and began to read something about General George Washington and the Revolutionary War. When I’d read for about thirty seconds, he hit the book with his hand and knocked it across the room. He said: “So it’s true. You can read. I didn’t believe you when you told me. Now you listen here—you stop putting on airs. I won’t have it. I’ll be watching you, smartypants. And if I catch you around that school again I’ll beat you good. Next you know you’ll be going to church too. I never saw such a good-for-nothing son.” He picked up a little blue and yellow picture of a boy and some cows and said: “What’s this?” “It’s just something the teachers gave me for learning my lessons well.” He tore it up and said: “I’ll give you something better—I’ll give you a beating.” He sat there mumbling and growling for a minute before saying: “Ain’t you a sweet smelling little sissy. You’ve got a bed. And sheets. And a mirror and a rug on the floor. You’ve got all that while your father sleeps with the pigs in the tanyard. I never saw such a son. I bet I can beat some of this fanciness out of you before I’m done. And that’s not all. They say you’re rich. How’d that happen?” “That’s a lie—that’s how it happened.” “Now look here—watch how you talk to me. I’ve taken about all I can take, so don’t sass me. I’ve been in town only two days, but all I’ve heard about is how you’ve gotten rich. I heard about it way down the river, too. That’s why I came back, because I want it. You get me that money tomorrow.” “But I ain’t got any money.” “That’s a lie. Judge Thatcher’s got it. So you go and get it, because I want it.” “I told you, I ain’t got any money. You ask Judge Thatcher—he’ll tell you the same thing.” “Alright, I’ll ask him. And I’ll make him pay up too, or I’ll find out why. Hey, how much you got in your pocket right now? I want it.” “I only got a dollar, and I want that to….” “I don’t care what you want it for—just give it to me.” He took it and bit it to see if it was real silver. Then he said he was going down to the town to buy some whisky because he hadn’t had a drink all day. When he’d climbed out the window and was standing on the shed, he poked his head back in again and swore at me for putting on airs and trying to be better than him. And just when I thought he’d gone, he came back and put his head in again and told me not to go back to school because he’d be watching and beat me if I didn’t stop. Next day he went to Judge Thatcher’s house drunk, and harassed him and tried to make him pay up the money. He didn’t have any luck, though, and he swore he’d sue him to make him pay. Judge Thatcher and the widow went to court to take me away from my father and make one of them my legal guardian. But the judge in the case was new in town, and since he didn’t know my old man, he ruled that the court shouldn’t interfere and break up families if they could help it. He said he didn’t want to take a child away from his father, so Judge Thatcher and the widow had no choice but to drop the matter. That pleased my old man to no end. He said he’d whip me til I was black and blue if I didn’t get some money for him. I borrowed three dollars from Judge Thatcher. Pap took it, got drunk, and went around yelling and swearing and banging a tin pan all over town until the police put him in jail around midnight. They kept him there for a week, but he said he was satisfied. He said he was the boss of his son, and that he’d beat him. When pap got out of jail, the new judge said he’d make a new man out of him. He took pap to his house, dressed him up in nice clean clothes, and had him over for breakfast, lunch, and dinner with the family as if they were old friends. After supper he talked to pap about [temperance](javascript:void(0);)and such things til my old man cried. He said he’d been a fool and had squandered away his entire life. But he said he would turn over a new leaf and become the kind of man that other wouldn’t be ashamed of. He said he hoped the new judge wouldn’t look down on him, but instead would help him. The new judge said he was so proud he could give pap a hug. He cried too and so did his wife. Pap said he’d been misunderstood his whole life and just needed some sympathy. The new judge believed him, and they cried some more until it was time for bed and my old man stood up, held out his hand, and said: “Look at my hand, ladies and gentlemen. Take it, shake it. This used to be the hand of a pig, but not any more. Now it’s the hand of a man that’s begun a new life, a man who’ll die before he goes back to his old ways. You mark my words, and don’t forget that I said them. This is a clean hand, now, so don’t be afraid.” So they each shook his hand, one after the other, and everyone cried. The new judge’s wife even kissed it. Then my old man made his mark on a pledge. The new judge said this was one of the holiest moments, or something like that. Then they showed my old man to their beautiful spare bedroom. But in the night he got thirsty for a drink, so he climbed out the window and onto the roof of the porch, and slid down a [stanchion](javascript:void(0);)to the street, where he traded his new coat for a jug of moonshine. Then he climbed back into the room and had a good old time. He crawled out the window again at dawn and was so drunk that he rolled off the porch and broke his left arm in two places. He was unconscious when they found him after sun-up. When they finally looked in the spare bedroom, they had a hard time making sense of all the damage he’d done. The new judge was angry. He said he guessed the only way to reform my old man would be with a shotgun.

***Summary:***

* Alcoholic, abusive Pap does what all alcoholic, abusive fathers do: he drinks and abuses Huck.
* He's also trying to stop his son from gaining an education, life, civilized upbringing, culture, knowledge, and basically anything that he himself doesn't have.
* He demands that Huck stop going to school and stop learning about religion and even tears up one of his schoolbooks.
* Oh, and he wants money.
* But Huck is all, "Money? What money?"
* Ah-ha. This is why Huck handed his money over to the Judge.
* Pap does manage to steal the last dollar Huck has, which he uses to get drunk in town.
* The next day, still drunk, Pap harasses the judge about getting Huck's money.
* Judge Thatcher turns him down and tries to get the court to officially remove him from a position as Huck's legal guardian.
* Unfortunately, there's a new judge in town who doesn't know how bad this guy is, and he refuses.
* Pap threatens to beat Huck senseless if he doesn't get some money, so Huck scrapes together $3, which Pap promptly drinks. He then wanders around town causing trouble until he gets jailed.
* But this new judge in town believes in myths as the tooth fairy and man's inherent goodness. He thinks Pap is just reaching out for help.
* So, the judge takes Pap in and gives him a bed and a new jacket.
* Pap promptly sells the jacket for liquor, and now the judge has had it: he says that maybe you could reform a man with a shotgun, but that's about it.

***Synopsis:***

Pap is a frightening sight. The nearly fifty-year-old man’s skin is a ghastly, disgusting white. Noticing Huck’s “starchy” clothes, Pap wonders out loud if Huck thinks himself better than his father and promises to take Huck “down a peg.” Pap promises to teach Widow Douglas not to “meddle” and is outraged that Huck has become the first person in his family to learn to read. Pap asks if Huck is really as rich as he has heard and calls his son a liar when Huck replies that he has no more money. Pap then takes the dollar that Huck got from Judge Thatcher and leaves to buy whiskey.

The next day, Pap shows up drunk and demands Huck’s money from Judge Thatcher. The Judge and Widow Douglas try to get custody of Huck but give up after the new judge in town refuses to separate a father and son. Pap eventually lands in jail after a drunken spree. The new judge takes Pap into his home and tries to reform him, but the judge and his wife prove to be very weepy and moralizing. Pap tearfully repents his ways but soon gets drunk again, and the new judge decides that the only way to reform Pap is with a shotgun.

***Analysis :***

The sight of [Pap](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Pap) scares [Huck](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Huck) as he recalls the beatings he used to receive. But then Huck believes there is no reason to be scared of Pap anymore as he looks old, is dressed poorly, and is excessively pale. Pap speaks first, and he wonders if Huck feels special because he is well dressed. After Huck replies Pap harasses him and says he is becoming conceited and needs to be taken down.

Pap asks Huck about the money but does not believe him when he answers. He forces Huck to give over the dollar that Judge Thatcher gave him, then uses the money to get drunk. The next day Pap goes to Judge Thatcher and tries to get Huck's money, but the judge refuses.

Judge Thatcher and the widow try to gain legal custody of Huck. However, there is a new judge in town and he believes that families should not be separated. After taking three dollars from Huck, Pap gets drunk and goes wild before ending up in jail for a week. When Pap gets out the new judge takes Pap in with the intention of reforming him. While Pap claims to be reformed, he gets drunk again and the judge says the true way to reform is "with a shot-gun."

The monstrous nature of [Pap](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Pap) is clear from [Huck](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/character-analysis/#Huck)'s reaction when he first sees him. It is no longer just Pap's actions that are monstrous but his appearance is as well. His face "was a white to make a body sick." Pap's speech towards his son is also monstrous. He puts down all the positive changes Huck has made, including education. Pap does everything he can to make Huck feel poorly about himself. Pap views Huck as an object under his control. When the subject of money comes up, it's clear that Pap has only come back to Huck in order to gain control of his newfound wealth.

The new judge, Pap's unwitting ally, shows no judgment at all. It is his belief that families should stay together, and he insists Pap have the rights to his own son. Therefore the judge does not take into account Huck's best interests. Because he views the boy as an object that should be controlled, the judge is similar to Pap. Huck is passed around and has few rights—once again implying his link to [Jim](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn/symbols/#Jim) and the other slaves in the novel.

***Critical Study:***

Huck arrives back at his room and sees his Pap sitting in a chair. Huck describes Pap as a filthy, poor man who used to scare him a great deal. Now, however, Huck is no longer scared of Pap, and instead notes how old his father has grown.

Pap harasses Huck for wearing good clothes and going to school. He then accuses Huck of putting on airs and acting better than his own father. Pap remarks that no one in his family could ever read, and that he certainly does not want his son to be smarter than he is. He demands that Huck read him something, and soon becomes quite furious when he realizes that Huck is in fact able to read. Pap threatens to beat Huck if he ever catches him near the school again. He makes Huck hand over the dollar that Judge Thatcher "paid" him and then climbs out the window to go drinking in the town.

The next day, Pap goes to Judge Thatcher and tries to make the Judge give him Huck's money. The Judge refuses, and he and the widow take a case to court in an effort to get Huck legally placed with one of them. The custody judge is unfortunately new to the town and refuses to separate Huck from his father. Judge Thatcher, realizing he cannot win, gives Huck some money, which Huck immediately turns over to Pap. Pap gets extremely drunk and is placed in jail for a week.

The new judge then sympathetically takes Pap into his home, dresses him well, and tries to reform him. After thinking that he has reformed Pap, the Judge goes to bed. That night, Pap sneaks out of the new judge's house and buys some alcohol. By morning he is so drunk that he breaks his arm in two places and nearly freezes to death on the porch. The new judge is livid at this betrayal of his trust and comments that the only way to reform Pap is with a shotgun.

***Critical Analysis(Ch1-5):***

The first sentence introduces Huck in a colloquial, friendly manner: "You don't know about me." From the very first words of the novel, Twain makes it clear that Huck is the narrator, and that the reader will hear the story of his adventures directly from him. In addition, to make it clear to readers unfamiliar with The Adventures of Tom Sawyer that this novel exists independently, Huck explains that if they haven't read Twain's earlier work, it "ain't no matter."

The Widow Douglas is an honorable woman who hopes to nurture Huck into a civilized child. Here, the reader immediately understands the main theme of the novel, the conflict between civilization and freedom. In agreement with Rousseau, Twain tends to suggest that civilization corrupts rather than improves human beings. For example, in the first chapter, Huck is forced to change his natural character into the mold the Widow Douglas demands from him. He feels cramped in new clothes, and hates being limited to eating dinner only when the dinner bell rings. Twain cleverly contrasts this new lifestyle with Huck's old way of life. For example, Huck compares eating dinner off a plate to eating from a "barrel of odds and ends," which implies a pig's slop bucket. Here, Twain explains that in his earlier life, Huck competed for food with pigs, but also notes that Huck enjoyed eating from the slop bucket more than eating from the plate. Huck's relationship with food is a prominent theme throughout the novel, and during his time on Jackson's Island and working his way down river, Huck revels in and enjoys his ad hoc dining.

In the first chapter, we observe Huck is ironically trapped in a "civilized" world, when he would prefer to live freely in nature. Irony appears in other areas of the novel as well. For example, Huck explains that the Widow Douglas wouldn't let him smoke, even though, ironically, she secretly uses snuff herself. Irony appears yet again when Miss Watson tries to warn Huck about hell. This warning is juxtaposed by her painful academic lessons. Huck finds spelling very difficult to learn and hates the lessons so much, that he remarks hell sounds more enjoyable. In this ironic reference, Twain reminds the reader of Huck's childhood innocence. Only a child would rationally choose hell over heaven.

Superstition permeates the novel. The first chapter provides several examples of Huck's superstitious side, specifically in his interpretation of the night sounds (as death), and in how he believes the spider burning to death in the flame of his candle is a serious omen of bad luck. After killing the spider, Huck immediately attempts a counter-charm, even though he knows there is no way of undoing bad luck.

Typically, Huck is a very sensible person, making his adherence to superstition slightly ironic. Huck is very logical and reasonable. For example, in determining that he would prefer heaven over hell after Miss Watson describes the two to him, Huck uses very logical reasoning that the reader can understand. Superstition, on the other hand, is completely irrational. Thus, when confronted by superstition Huck behaves contrary to his usual manner, perhaps a reminder that he is just a child, or an allusion to typical sensibilities of the time. Moreover, superstition symbolizes Huck's fear of the unknown; Huck is most superstitious whenever he is extremely worried about his future, such as in this opening chapter and later while on Jackson's Island. Superstition also serves to foreshadow events throughout the novel, as Huck knows the bad luck will return to haunt him. For example, after Huck accidentally brushes the spider into his candle flame, Pap returns to town.

This chapter serves to introduce the other boys in Huck's town. It is important to notice that although Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer are best friends, the other boys are more than willing to cut Huck out of Tom's gang. Understanding that Huck is not very popular helps explain his feelings of isolation in the town; the adults keep trying to "sivilize" him, and the other boys tend to ignore him.

Here, Twain interestingly juxtaposes theft and honor. These contradictory ideas are conveniently merged by Tom Sawyer, who logically explains to the other boys that robbery is honorable. Tom's definition appears to be complete nonsense. However, as the reader will see by the end of the book, this scene actually parallels the novel's ending, where Huck and Tom "steal" Jim out of slavery. Thus, Twain truly demonstrates how honor and robbery can coexist.

Tom Sawyer's gang can be viewed as a childish representation of society as a whole, an example of a synecdoche. Tom creates a set of rules, ideas, and morals that he expects the boys to adhere to, all of which he gets from books. Thus, books form a foundation for civilization; using books, Tom creates a society for his gang of friends. Ironically, Twain mocks the adult world in this chapter by showing that although the adult world relies on books such as the Bible to define civilization, pirate and robber books might also suffice.

Slavery is introduced in this chapter through Tom and Huck's interactions with Miss Watson's slave, Jim. As the novel progresses, slavery gradually becomes a larger issue. It is important to note Huck's views towards slavery at this point so that they may be compared to his views later on. In this chapter, Huck comments that Jim, "was most ruined, for a servant," thus demonstrating he supports the idea of slavery. Only later in the novel does Huck start to question whether Jim should be a servant at all.

Huck's rationality and literalness appear here. Twain goes to great lengths to show that Huck is a logical thinker who only believes what he can see with his own eyes. Thus, Tom's band becomes boring when all they do is attack turnip wagons and Sunday School picnics. Unlike Tom Sawyer, Huck is unable to make-believe that the picnic is really an Arab army. The same thing happens with respect to Huck's Pap; Huck decides that Pap cannot be dead because the dead person was floating on its back rather than its face, meaning that it must have been a woman.

This focus on rationality and literalness is used by Twain to further attack religion. Huck is told to pray for what he wants, but when he prays and does not get anything, he decides that praying is pointless. Huck also thinks about the Christian concept of always helping other people. When he realizes that Christianity seems to offer him no personal advantage in life, he quickly rejects it as quite pointless.

Superstition appears again when Huck asks Jim to help him decide what to do about Pap. Jim uses a large hairball he believes to have magical abilities to help Huck. This is the first time that Twain foreshadows the happenings of the rest of the novel. Jim mentions "two gals flyin'" around Huck's life, a light one and a dark one, a rich one and a poor one. This is of course a reference to Huck and to Jim, since Huck is rich and Jim is poor. Jim's comment that Huck should avoid the water will go unheeded when both of them end up running away downriver.

Huck reinforces a split between what can be termed "natural learning" versus "book learning." He has been brought up with only "natural learning," such as how to survive in the wild. This can be contrasted with Tom Sawyer's "book learning," which has little actual application in Huck's life, and which Twain makes fun of by portraying the silliness of Tom's robber band. The usefulness of Huck's type of learning is constantly tested, for instance when he spots Pap's boot marks in the snow. This split between natural and book learning will be brought to a head when Huck encounters Pap directly.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) is scared at first to see the old, greasy, pale [Pap](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/pap) sitting in his room because Pap “tanned,” or beat, him so often, but soon is not scared at all. Pap reprimands Huck for wearing nice clothes, and says that because Huck has learned to read and write he must think he’s better than his own father. Pap vows to take Huck’s “frills” out of him. Pap warns that Huck better stop going to school, because none of Huck’s family was educated, and, therefore, neither should Huck.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Far from offering Huck any kind of freedom from his strictly “sivilized” lifestyle, Pap imposes yet another kind of imprisonment, one based on class, where Huck is prevented from bettering and educating himself. This is counter-intuitive: Pap should want the best for his son, but he instead wants no better for Huck than what he himself had.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Pap](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/pap) tells [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) that he hears that Huck is rich now, but Huck says that he doesn’t have any money. Pap calls Huck a liar and says that he wants Huck’s money. Huck shells out his one dollar and Pap takes it to buy whiskey with.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Huck would rather enable Pap’s drinking by giving him money than be beat for not doing so, reflecting a pragmatic commitment to being responsible for oneself.

***Summary Part 3:***

The next day, [Pap](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/pap) is drunk and tries to coerce Judge Thatcher into giving him [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn)’s fortune, but the Judge refuses. Afterward, Judge Thatcher and the [Widow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/the-widow-douglas-and-miss-watson) go to a court of law to take Huck from Pap’s custody, but the [new judge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters) whom they appeal to, so-called because he is new to the court, says he wouldn’t take a son from his father. Judge Thatcher and the Widow are forced to quit the business, and Pap is granted custody of Huck.

***Analysis Part 3:***

The new judge whom the Widow and Judge Thatcher approach delivers a hypocritical ruling: he gives Pap custody of Huck because he thinks that the tradition of parent raising child honors the welfare of the child, yet Huck’s welfare is actively endangered by Pap. The judge ignores the actual facts in favor of a principle that doesn’t hold in every situation.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Pap](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/pap) is pleased with the court’s custody ruling. He threatens to beat [Huck](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/huckleberry-finn) “black and blue” unless Huck raises money for him. Huck borrows three dollars from [Judge Thatcher](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters), which Pap uses to get drunk, going around town “cussing and whooping and carrying on.” Pap is jailed for making such a ruckus.

***Analysis Part 4:***

As Miss Watson is stuck in her values and ways, so is Pap stuck in his cruelty, selfishness, drunkenness, and debauchery. Even having his freedom taken away doesn’t deter him from acting badly.

***Summary Part 5:***

After [Pap](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters/pap) is released, the [new judge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/characters) resolves to reform him. He invites Pap to supper, where he lectures Pap on temperance and other virtues till Pap begins to cry and swears that, though he has been a fool, he is going to turn his life around. The judge believes Pap, and has his whole family shake Pap’s hand, once “the hand of a hog,” but no more. All cry. The judge provides Pap with a room, but soon after Pap begins to desire alcohol. He climbs out of his room, trades his new coat for whiskey, and climbs back into the room. The next morning, he crawls out of the room again, drunk, breaks his arm, and almost freezes to death where he falls. The judge is upset, and says that Pap could be reformed “with a shot-gun, maybe,” but by no other means.

***Analysis Part 5:***

The new judge, maybe regretting that he has given the debauched Pap custody of Huck, tries to give Pap an opportunity to break out of his irresponsible ways, and Pap seems to attempt to do so. But his habits are too deeply ingrained to be corrected: as soon as he is given back his freedom, Pap indulges in his literally self-destructive behaviors again. He altogether lacks Huck’s adaptability. Pap may not be “regular” like the Widow and Ms. Watson, but he is no more free than they are, imprisoned in his bad ways as he is. Only in death, the judge thinks, can such a man be free.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

"It's so. You can do it. I had my doubts when you told me. Now looky here; you stop that putting on frills. I won't have it. I'll lay for you, my smarty; and if I catch you about that school I'll tan you good. First you know you'll get religion, too. I never see such a son. (5.12)

***Explanation 1:***

To Pap, the only thing worse that his boy gettin' educated is gettin' religion. We can understand that. Thirteen-year-olds are [sanctimonious](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sanctimonious) enough without getting all religious and trying to convert their alcoholic, abusive fathers.

***Quotation 2:***

The judge and the widow went to law to get the court to take me away from him and let one of them be my guardian; but it was a new judge that had just come, and he didn't know the old man; so he said courts mustn't interfere and separate families if they could help it; said he'd druther not take a child away from its father. So Judge Thatcher and the widow had to quit on the business. (5.30)

***Explanation 2:***

Sometimes it's fairer to break the rules. Huck is learning this, but the new judge doesn't know it yet. Sure, the laws say not to separate families. But Huck is definitely better off without his dad.

***Quotation 3:***

The judge and the widow went to law to get the court to take me away from him and let one of them be my guardian; but it was a new judge that had just come, and he didn't know the old man; so he said courts mustn't interfere and separate families if they could help it; said he'd druther not take a child away from its father. So Judge Thatcher and the widow had to quit on the business. (5.30)

***Explanation 3:***

In general, we'd agree with the new judge: families should stay together. But there isn't one single redeeming thing about Pap and, for once, we'd wish the government would just interfere already.

***Quotation 4:***

"Don't you give me none o' your lip," says he. "You've put on considerable many frills since I been away. I'll take you down a peg before I get done with you. You're educated, too, they say—can read and write. You think you're better'n your father, now, don't you, because he can't? I'LL take it out of you. Who told you you might meddle with such hifalut'n foolishness, hey?—who told you you could?" (5.6)

***Explanation 4:***

Think parents are supposed to want the best for their children? Think again. To Pap, children are supposed to be just as miserable, drunk, racist, and uneducated as their parents. Anything else would be "hifalut'n."

***Quotation 5:***

"I hain't got no money."

"It's a lie. Judge Thatcher's got it. You git it. I want it."

"I hain't got no money, I tell you. You ask Judge Thatcher; he'll tell you the same." (5.19-5.24)

***Explanation 5:***

Huck has no problem lying later in the book, but here he's got some major scruples about lying to his dad. Why? It's not like Pap is overly concerned with his own honesty. (Check out Pap's ["Character Analysis"](https://www.shmoop.com/huckleberry-finn/pap.html) for more.)

***Quotation 6:***

He took it and bit it to see if it was good, and then he said he was going down town to get some whisky; said he hadn't had a drink all day. When he had got out on the shed he put his head in again, and cussed me for putting on frills and trying to be better than him; and when I reckoned he was gone he come back and put his head in again, and told me to mind about that school, because he was going to lay for me and lick me if I didn't drop that. (5.28)

***Explanation 7:***

Violence is clearly associated with alcoholism in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

***Quotation 7:***

Next day he was drunk, and he went to Judge Thatcher's and bullyragged him, and tried to make him give up the money; but he couldn't, and then he swore he'd make the law force him. (5.29)

***Explanation 7:***

Pap is belligerent and insistent when drunk.

***Quotation 8:***

He said he'd cowhide me till I was black and blue if I didn't raise some money for him. I borrowed three dollars from Judge Thatcher, and pap took it and got drunk, and went a-blowing around and cussing and whooping and carrying on; (5.31)

***Explanation 8:***

Pap shows no shame in his public displays of drunkenness. It’s a huge part of who he is He has no redeeming qualities whatsoever, and we don't really feel sorry that he removes himself from Huck's life entirely by dying. But at least it's easy to figure out Pap's motivations: he wants whiskey. And really, this is about all you need to know about Pap. He's an addict. He'll do anything to get more whiskey, including lying, stealing, and abusing his son. (As if you needed a cautionary tale about late-stage alcoholism.) He's so addicted to alcohol that he lies around drunk in the pigpen and has [delirium tremens-induced](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001771/) fits of hallucinations.

When the new town judge tries to reform him, Pap is so un-reform-able that the judge changes his mind about the ultimate good of human nature and declares that there are some men you can only reform with a shotgun. Is Pap proof that no one can change? Or is he just a man in the grip of a terrible addiction?

Fit for the Pigs

The drinking is bad enough, but that's not even the worst of it. The worst is that Pap is a willfully ignorant racist. He doesn't want Huck to learn anything, saying "You've put on considerable many frills since I been away… You're educated, too, they say—can read and write. You think you're better'n your father, now, don't you, because he can't?" (5.6). In other words, he's jealous because his son knows more than he does. Some dad, right?

And it's not just his son. He can't handle the idea of black people knowing more than he does, either:

Pap is so outraged that a black person is (1) educated, (2) well-dressed, and (3) allowed to participate in the political process that he just refuses to vote.