Reading Comprehension Questions – *Huckleberry Finn*, chapters 19-21

These questions are not intended as a study guide, but as a way to focus your attention on some salient points of the story. You should also make notes about your own observations and questions.

**Chapter 19:**

1. Just let yourself be carried away by Huck's description of the river; try to picture each thing he talks about in your mind….

Done

2. What are Jim and Huck's opinions on the origin of the stars?

They were either made, or they just happened. Or the moon laid them.

3. Huck goes ashore in a canoe to try to find berries; what happens then?

He meets two men on the run

4. One of the men Huck rescues has been running a "temperance revival"; what's that?

A christian effort to try and make people sober.

5. What does the younger man claim to be?

A duke

6. And then what does the older man say about his identity?

A king

7. What does Huck realize about the two men at the end of the chapter?

They aren't royalty, but it's best to keep them happy

Chapter 20:

1. A storm is approaching at night; what do the king and the duke argue about?

Which beds they'll sleep in

2. After the storm, while the king and the duke are playing cards, what do they talk about?

Theatre: Romeo and Juliet

3. Huck and the king and the duke go into a town. The duke wants to go to a printing office; where do Huck and the king go?

A preacher's camp meeting

4. The king gets up at the camp-meeting and begins to "testify." What does he say that he has been? What is he going to do now that his life has been changed at the Pokeville camp-meeting?

He says he was a pirate, and now he is going to spend his life turning pirates around

5. While the king has been working the camp-meeting, what has the duke been doing? Who was more successful?

He's been at the printing office, he made a fake poster of Jim. The Kind was more successful

6. What is the duke's plan for allowing the raft to travel by daylight?

Use a fake wanted poster for Jim to say they're claiming the reward

**Chapter 21:**

1. The duke and the king practice their acting on the raft; the duke teaches a speech to the king to recite as an encore, which Huck learns as well. Note that this speech doesn't make any sense, and is put together from three different plays of Shakespeare.

2. What kind of town is it that the duke and the king have chosen for their performance? What do all the loafers talk about? How do they amuse themselves?

A small town that just had a circus. Tobacco

3. Who is Boggs? What do the townspeople seem to think of him?

He's the town drunk, but he's a kind natured drunk

4. How does Sherburn react to Boggs's threats? Why do the townspeople want to find Boggs's daughter?

If you don't leave me alone by 1 o' clock, Im gonna come after. His daughter can convince him to go away.

5. What does Sherburn finally do to Boggs?

He shoots him

6. After a man enacts the shooting, what do the townspeople decide to do?

Hang Sherburn