

Discussion question for *Huck Finn* ch. 1-3

In group discussion (I'll appoint your groups.), examine the following questions. Follow these directions:

1. Appoint a moderator, a secretary and a spokesperson.
2. Read each question aloud and then search for and read aloud together the portion of *Huck Finn* that applies to the question. (The secretary should note the page and paragraphs to which each item refers.)
3. Discuss the questions and formulate an answer in 2 - 5 sentences for each item. Unless the answer calls for a list, start each answer with a topic sentence and end with a clincher.
4. If you don't know an answer, you may read a computer screen together or send your spokesperson to search the internet at a computer (in the room only).
5. Your goal is to be thorough but efficient. Work as quickly as you can, but don't skip the re-reading of the book. There will be follow-up questions that your group must answer to get credit if your group is chosen to answer a question in front of the class.

Ch. 2

1. Tom Sawyer and his gang do not know what "ransom" means. You can surmise from their discussion of "ransoming women" what they think "ransom" means. What do they think it means? What does it really mean?

Ch. 3

2. When Huck hears about "Providence" from the Widow Douglas and Miss Watson, he judges that there must be two Providences. From the context, determine what Huck means by "Providence." What does Huck mean when he says "a chap would stand considerable show with the Widow's Providence"? Why does Huck think the Widow's Providence might not want him? (Explain in your own words, not the words of the book.)

3. Huck can't see the Spaniards and A-rabs and elephants, and Tom says that Huck is ignorant because he hasn't read a book called *Don Quixote*. In your group, find and read a summary of *Don Quixote* and then list at least two examples of imaginary things or enchantments that occur in *Don Quixote*. How do the happenings in *Don Quixote* relate to *Huckleberry Finn*? (Note: Although you will not find A-rabs and elephants in the *Don Quixote* summary, you will find mentions of enchantments and imaginary happenings and characters.) Here's a [summary](#) that will appeal to many H.S. sophomores, but it may be blocked. And here's [another](#) that's a bit longer but fairly easy to read.