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Huck finn sparknotes chapter 31

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Religion and superstition Then the old man turns to the king and says, 'Maybe this gentleman can tell me what was tattooed on his chest?' Blamed if the king didn't have to brace up mighty quickly, or he had a squashed down like a scam bank that the river has cut under, it took him so suddenly; and, mind you, there was one thing that was calculated to do most someone sqush to get downloaded such a solid one as that without warning, because how would he know what was tattooed on the man? First [the king and the Duke] made a lecture on sobriety; but they didn't do enough for both of them to get drunk on. Then in another village they started a dance-school; but they didn't know more how to dance than a kangaroo does. . . . They dealt with missionary, and fascinating, and manipulating, and telling fortunes, and a bit of everything; but they couldn't seem to have any luck. I once told myself it would be a thousand times better for Jim to be a slave at home where his family was, as long as he had been allowed to be a slave, so I'd better write a letter to Tom Sawyer and tell him to tell Miss Watson where he was. But I soon give up that view for two things: she would be angry and disgusted at his rascality and ingratitude for leaving her, and so she would sell him straight down the river again; And if she didn't, everyone obviously despises an ungrateful nigger, and they would make Jim feel it all the time, so he would feel ornery and dishonored. All right, I'm going to fuck off. The real Harvey Wilks, in an authentic English accent, explains the reasons why he and his brother, William, were delayed: their luggage was misguided, and his mute brother broke his arm, leaving him unable to communicate with signs. Dr Robinson once again declares the Duke and dauphin to be deceitful and has the audience bring the real and deceptive Wilks brothers to a tavern for investigation. The scams draw suspicion when they fail to produce \$6,000 from Wilks' legacy. A lawyer friend of the deceased then asks the Duke, the dauphin, and the real Harvey to sign a paper. When the lawyer compares the writing tests to letters he has from the real Harvey, the fraud is revealed. Dauphin, however, refuses to give up, claiming that the Duke is playing a joke at all by hiding his handwriting. Since the real William acts as the printer for the real Harvey and can't write because of his broken arm, the audience can't prove that the real Wilkses are really who they say they are. To get one on the situation, the real Harvey explains he knows of a tattoo on his brother's chest, asking the undertaker who dressed the body to back off Him. But after dauphin and Harvey each offer a one version of the tattoo look, the undertaker surprises everyone by telling the audience that he saw no tattoo. The mob cries out for the blood of all four men, but the lawyer instead sends them out to dig up the body and check for the tattoo themselves. The mob carries the four Wilks plaintiffs and Huck with them. The mob is in turmoil when the \$6,000 gold is discovered in the coffin. In the excitement, Huck escapes. Passing the Wilks house, he notices a light in the upstairs window and thinks of Mary Jane. Huck steals a canoe and makes his way to the raft, and he and Jim push away again. Huck dances with joy on the raft. His heart sinks, however, as the Duke and dauphin approach in a boat. Read a translation of Chapter 29 → Summary: Chapter 30 Dauphin almost strangles Huck out of anger over his desertion, but the Duke stops him. The impostor explains that they fled after the gold was found. The Duke and dauphin were believed that the other hid the gold in the coffin to retrieve it later, without the other knowing. They almost come to blows but eventually make up and go to asleep. Read a translation of Chapter 30 → Summary: Chapter 31 There were terrible thoughts and terrible words, but they were said. And I let them stay said; and never thought anything more about reform. See Key Quotes Explained Foursome trips downstream on the raft for several days without stopping, trying to outdistance any rumors of fraud by the Duke and dauphin. The scammers try multiple systems on different cities, without success. Then the two begin to have secret discussions, troubling Jim and Huck, who decide to ditch them at the first opportunity. Finally, the Duke, the dauphin, and Huck go ashore in a city to feel the situation. The impostor gets into a fight in a tavern, and Huck takes the chance to escape. Back at the raft, but there's no sign of Jim. A boy explains that a man recognized Jim as a fugitive from a handbill who offered \$200 for Jim's capture in New Orleans—the same fraudulent handbill that the Duke had printed before. The boy says that the man who captured Jim had to leave suddenly and sold his interest in the captured fugitive for forty dollars to a farmer named Silas Phelps. Based on the boy's description, Huck realizes that it was the dauphin himself that captured and quickly sold Jim. Huck decides to write to Tom Sawyer to tell Miss Watson where Jim is. But Huck soon realizes that Miss Watson would sell Jim anyway. Furthermore, as soon as Huck's part in the story came out, he would be ashamed to have helped a slave, a black man, escape. Overwhelmed by his plight, Huck suddenly realizes that this dilemma must be God's punishment for sin to help Jim. Huck tries to ask for forgiveness but finds that he can't because his heart isn't in it. Huck writes the letter to Miss Watson. Before he to pray, but he thinks of the time he spent with Jim on the river, of Jim's kind heart, and their friendship. Huck trembles. After a minute, he decides, okay, I'm going to off! and decides to steal Jim out of slavery. Huck puts on his bought clothes and goes to see Silas Phelps, the man who holds Jim. During his search, Huck meets the Duke putting up posters for The Royal Nonesuch. When the Duke questions him, Huck cooks up a story about how he wandered the city but found neither Jim nor the raft. The Duke initially slips and reveals where Jim really is (on Phelps' farm) but then changes his story and says he sold Jim to a man forty miles away. The Duke encourages Huck to embark on a three-day, forty-mile journey. Read a translation of Chapter 31 → Analysis: Chapters 29–31 In the aftermath of the Wilks episode, the Duke and dauphin lose the last vestiges of their inept, clumsy charm and become downright menacing and dangerous characters. Although the standoff over Wilks' estate is ultimately resolved without any physical or financial harm to anyone, the depth of greed and slimeiness of the con men display is astounding. Then, just when it seems the Duke and dauphin may sink slightly lower, the disaster that Twain has foreshadowed for the latest chapters materializes when Huck discovers that Jim is missing. Just as it has the entire *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, evil Follows Huck and Jim on the raft and thwarts their best attempt to escape it. Jim's catch significantly matures Huck, for it convinces him to break with the impostor for good and leads him to a second moment of moral reckoning. Huck seeks the social and religious belief systems that white society has taught him a way out of his plight about turning Jim in. Huck's thoughts on his friendship with Jim lead him to listen to his own conscience, and, echoing his feelings from Chapter 1, Huck decides to act fairly by helping Jim and going to hell if necessary. Again, Huck turns received performances upside down, as he figures that even hell would be better than the society in which he lives. Huck then embarks on his first truly adult quest-off to free Jim on whatever moral or physical cost to himself. It is important to note that Huck undertakes this action on the belief that it can send him to hell. Although he does not articulate this truth for himself, he swaps his fate for Jim's and thus accepts the life of a black man equal to his own. With only confidence in providence to help him free his friend, Huck finds Phelps' house, where Jim is probably held. A pack of dogs threatens Huck, but a slave woman calls Av. The white mistress in the house, Sally, comes outside, happy to see Huck because she's sure he's her nephew, Tom. Sally asks why he's been delayed the last few days. Huck takes the opportunity to hide her identity by pretending to be her nephew and explains that a cylinder head on the steamer blew out. When Sally asks if anyone was injured in the explosion, Huck says no, a nigger was killed. Sally expresses relief that the explosion was so happy. Huck isn't sure he'll be able to hold up the charade as Tom. When Sally's husband, Silas, returns, but his enthusiastic greeting reveals to Huck that Sally and Silas are aunts and uncles of none other than Tom Sawyer, Huck's best friend. Hearing a steamer go up the river, Huck heads out to the port, presumably to get his luggage but really to inform Tom of the situation should he arrive. Read a translation of Chapter 32 → Summary: Chapter 33 Huck meets Tom's carriage coming down the road. Tom is initially amazed by the ghost, believing that Huck was murdered back in St. Petersburg, but is eventually convinced that Huck is actually alive. Tom even agrees to help Huck free Jim. Huck is shocked at Tom's willingness to do something so wrong by society's norms: Tom Sawyer fell significantly in my appreciation, he tells me. Tom accompanies Huck to Phelps' house half an hour later. The isolated family is happy to have another guest. Tom introduces himself as William Thompson from Ohio, stopping on his way to visit his uncle nearby. The lively Tom leans over and kisses his aunt in the middle of dinner, and she almost beats the boy she thinks is an impolite stranger. Laughing, Tom pretends he's his own half-brother, Sid. The two boys are waiting for Sally and Silas to mention the escaped slave who is supposed to have been kept on his property, but the adults say nothing. But when one of Sally and Silas's boys asks to see the show passing through the town-duke and dauphin's—Silas says the runaway alerted him to the fact that the show was a hoax. That night, Huck and Tom sneak out of the house. As they walk down the road, they see a mob of city dwellers driving the Duke and dauphin, tarred and feathered, out of the city on a railway. Huck feels bad for the two, and his sick feelings towards them melt away. People can be terribly cruel to each other, he says. Huck concludes that a conscience is meaningless because it makes you feel bad no matter what you do. Tom agrees. Read a translation of Chapter 33 → Summary: Chapter 34 Tom told me what his plan was, and I look at a minute it was worth fifteen of mine for style, and would make Jim as free a man as mine would, and maybe get us all killed besides. See important quotes Explained Tom remembers seeing a black man deliver food to a shed at Phelps earlier that night and reads that the shed is where Jim is being held. His insightful observation impresses Huck, who hatches a plan to free Jim by stealing the key to the shed and getting rid of Jim at night. Tom belittles this plan for its simplicity and lack of showmanship. Tom then comes up with a wild plan that Huck admits is fifteen times prettier than his own—it can even get all three of them killed. Meanwhile, Huck finds it hard to believe that respectable Tom will sacrifice his reputation by helping a slave escape. Escape.

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