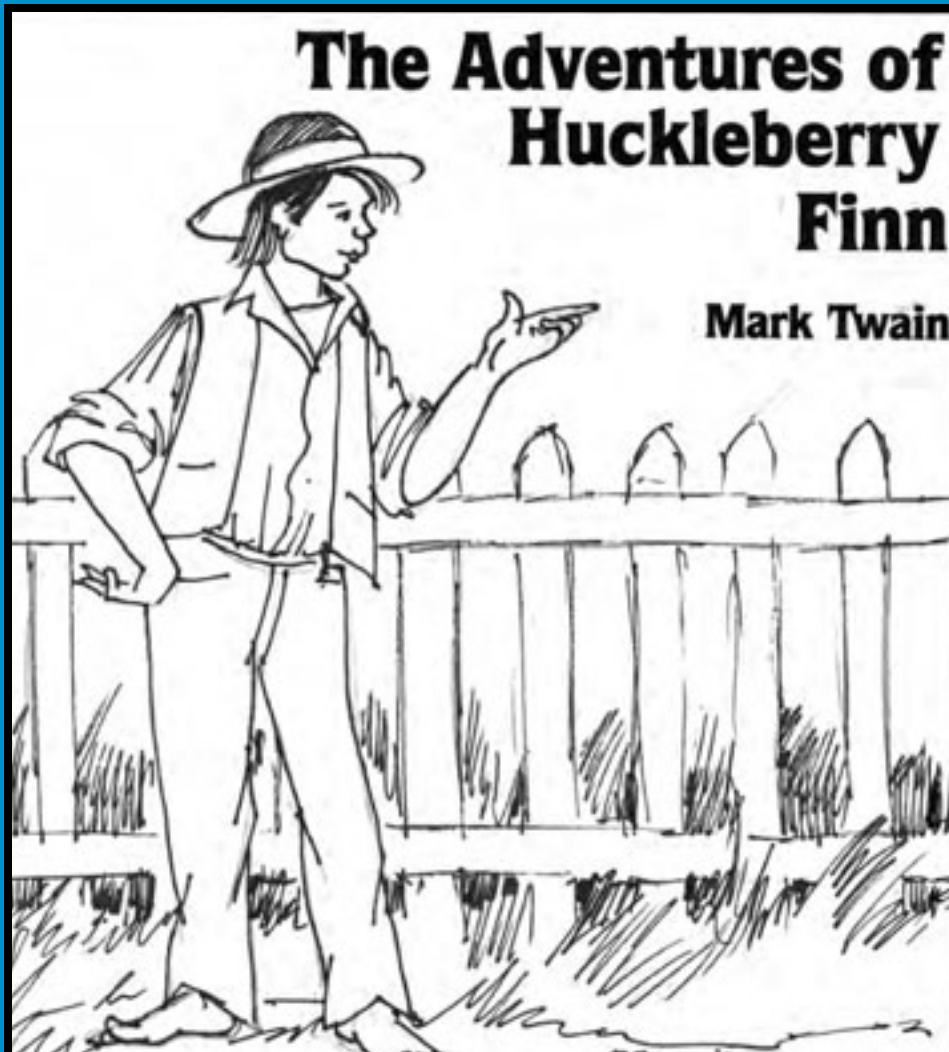


# Novel·Ties



## A Study Guide

Written By Joy Leavitt and Barbara Reeves

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

**LEARNING LINKS**

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. When and where do you think this novel takes place? Who is the main character? If you have read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, what do you already know about the main character?
2. Read the "About the Author" section on page two of this study guide and do some research on your own to learn more about Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain). As you read the novel, consider how the author's life experiences influenced his writing.
3. **Social Studies Connection:** Look at a map of the Mississippi Valley. Locate Mark Twain's home of Hannibal, Missouri (renamed St. Petersburg in Twain's novels); St. Louis, Missouri; and Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio River joins the Mississippi. As you read the novel, refer to the map.
4. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** Work with a group of your classmates to do some research on the status and treatment of slaves in the early 1800s in the southern United States. Find answers to the following questions to have a better understanding of the social context of the book:
  - What laws were enforced to keep African Americans within the system of slavery?
  - Did slaves have any rights?
  - Who were the Abolitionists?
  - What various means of escape did African Americans use to leave the South?
  - Who helped the slaves escape to freedom?
5. Dialect is defined as a local or provincial form of a language, differing from other forms, especially from the standard or literary form. Do you have friends or relatives living in other parts of the United States who use words or pronunciations that are different from those in your area? Write a brief conversation between yourself and one of these friends or relatives using phonetic spelling to illustrate pronunciation differences. Why do you think writers use dialect in novels? As you read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, notice Twain's use of dialect.
6. **Literary Device – Point of View:** Point of view in literature refers to the voice telling a story. That voice might be a third-person omniscient narrator who knows all characters' thoughts and actions, and views them with objectivity; a third-person limited narrator who is limited in how much he or she knows about the characters; or a first-person narrator, a character in the story who views events subjectively and describes his or her own thoughts and feelings to the reader.

Quickly skim the first two pages of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to determine the point of view of the novel. In your opinion, what will be the advantages and shortcomings of this point of view?

**CHAPTERS 1 – 11**

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. hogshead      | a. having a mean disposition              |
| 2. victuals      | b. lie or falsehood                       |
| 3. ornery        | c. animal fat used in soap and candles    |
| 4. temperance    | d. large cask or barrel                   |
| 5. brash         | e. food, especially at a meal             |
| 6. tallow        | f. abstinence from alcoholic drinks       |
| 7. reticule      | g. small net bag used to hold small items |
| 8. prevarication | h. reckless and impulsive                 |

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- At the back of the old inn we saw an empty \_\_\_\_\_ that once held cider.
- When the \_\_\_\_\_ were on the table, we said a blessing and sat down to eat.
- The dog got a reputation of being \_\_\_\_\_ after it had bitten two people.
- During the Prohibition years in this country, everyone was required to practice \_\_\_\_\_.
- The boy's behavior was so bold and \_\_\_\_\_ that he often got into trouble.
- In Colonial days, women saved \_\_\_\_\_ to make their own soap.
- The woman carried a small comb, a mirror, and a lace handkerchief in her \_\_\_\_\_.
- Accused of \_\_\_\_\_ by his teacher, Jim had to convince her that he really had lost his homework.