

**Chapter 1     I Discover Moses and the Bulrushers**

1. Mark Twain introduces his main character, Huckleberry Finn, as a rough young boy who speaks frankly about everything. What is his attitude about God and the Bible?

Ans: He refers to heaven as the “good” place and hell as the “bad.” He dismisses Moses as useless, ancient and dead. Some of Twain’s sarcasm about Christianity is a confrontation of the phony and inconsistent practices of many people. The author felt the necessity to challenge others in their faith.

2. Twain uses the word “nigger” early and throughout the book. This was a term commonly used at the time and accurate to the region.

3. Huck doesn’t go to bed, but sits at the window listening to all the sounds of animals and the woods. What do we learn about him?

Ans: He had a vivid imagination, ascribing meaning to the cries of animals and the wind. We also learn that he was superstitious.

4. Why can the author criticize the Christian faith of the women and yet, present the extreme irrational beliefs of the superstitious boy as fact?

Ans: He tries to put them on a par. The women have their beliefs and Huck has his. The suggestion is that the two systems are about equal.

5. What are the “quality”?

Ans: They are educated or wealthy people.

6. What irony is there in the fact that the widow won’t allow Huck to smoke, but she takes snuff?

Ans: The widow is typically strict only where she wants to be.

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## Chapter 2      Our Gang's Dark Oath

1. Jim is an important character. He is strong in some ways, in loyalty and in protecting the home. He has a great imagination. How is this shown?

Ans: Jim tells big stories about his encounter with the witches.

2. Is the gang that Tom Sawyer started the same as city gangs today?

Ans: Twain has the boys exaggerate many times. The terrible oath written by Tom is such an exaggeration, although most of it could have been copied from a (high toned) Knights of Columbus lodge book.

3. Is the plan for the gang, the stealing and murder, real or is it just evil imagining of the boys?

Ans: It is mostly the wicked imagining of the boys. Tom felt they had to do these things because "it was in the books."

4. What do the boys decide at their first meeting in the cave?

Ans: They want to be bad, but not on Sunday. The morality of Christianity tended to restrain their plans.

5. What is the irony in Tom giving five cents to Tommy Banes so he won't tell the secrets of the gang?

Ans: They were supposed to kill anyone who gave secrets away.

### Vocabulary

1. sugar-hogshead - large, watertight barrel that can hold sixty-three gallons
  2. bulrushers - Huck's mispronunciation of bulrushes, tall, marsh grass that grows along river banks.
  3. snuff - powdered tobacco that is sniffed
  4. tanyard - part of a tannery containing vats
  5. skiff - small rowboat
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6. ornery - mean and bad-tempered
  7. hived - robbed
  8. powwow - noisy meeting
  9. Don Quixote - famous novel by Spanish author, Cervantes, in which knighthood and human folly are satirized.
  10. shot-tower - high tower in which molten lead was dropped into water to form pellets for buckshot.

### **Chapter 3      We Ambuscade the A-rabs**

1. Why does Miss Watson take Huck into the closet to pray?

Ans: She took literally the biblical direction to pray in one's closet, to pray secretly instead of openly so that everyone could see you and think you were holy.

2. Why did Huck think that praying didn't work?

Ans: He said he had tried it and didn't get what he had asked for.

3. What was missing from Miss Watson's explanations about God (Providence) and prayer? Does she tell about Jesus Christ, His death for the sins of His people, His resurrection and His rule from heaven?

Ans: She sounded like a pietist who talks about doing good works and helping others, but not of our sinful natures and the need to be converted by God's Holy Spirit. Prayer comes as we begin to delight in God, not just to ask for personal things. These things didn't make sense to Huck.

4. What did Tom mean by *ambuscade*?

Ans: Ambush.

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