

## "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"



### THE STORY

*This story begins in the small town of St Petersburg on the Mississippi River that is also the setting for "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". It also uses some of the same characters, including both Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.*

*At the beginning, Huck is rich (from the treasure that he and Tom found at the end of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"). As he has no mother, and his father, the town drunkard, has disappeared, he is living in the house of the Widow Douglas, who is kind to him. But Huck is used to running wild, and finds it hard to live in a house and go to school.*

*Huck's father then reappears and takes Huck to live with him in the woods. Huck is happy to be away from the Widow Douglas' house, but his father gets drunk too often and hits him a lot. Huck realises that either he is going to have to stay with his father, or return to the Widow Douglas. He decides to run away down the river instead.*

*On the run, he meets up with a runaway slave, Jim. They start to travel down the Mississippi on a raft. Their objective is to get to Cairo in Illinois and then get a boat up the Ohio River into Ohio, one of the States where slavery has been abolished.....*

- 1. Do you think they will get their objective?  
Why? Why not?*



### Background to the story.

*“Huckleberry Finn” is set against the background of SLAVERY, in the USA before the CIVIL WAR and emancipation. Few people in a small town like St. Petersburg would have had any notion that slavery was immoral, and most would have been shocked that a white boy would help a slave to escape to one of the “free states”: But this is only one aspect of the story. The story also celebrates the MISSISSIPPI RIVER, which Mark Twain knew so well, and a way of life which disappeared after the Civil War.*

*. Which are some of the aspects dealt with in the story of Huckleberry Finn?*

*. Why do Huck and Finn want to escape to Ohio?*

*. In which states was slavery abolished?*

*. What do you think of the story, from what you have read so far? Would you also help someone to escape from slavery?*