

Huck Finn

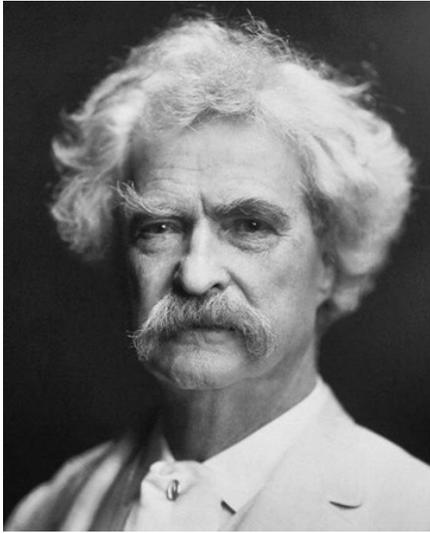
**A comedy based on Mark Twain, book by Sean Aita and music by
James Bailey**

19th September 2019 – July 2020

English Theatre Frankfurt

Teachers' Resource Pack

This teachers' resource pack includes factual information as well as tasks and topics to be dealt with in the classroom. Cut and paste as you please, and please consult the official programme for additional information. Activities for students are framed for your convenience.



Mark Twain

He held printing jobs in New York, Pennsylvania, and Iowa. Then, when he was twenty-one, he returned to the Mississippi River to train for the job he wanted above all others: steamboat pilot. A few years later, he became a licensed pilot, but his time as a pilot was cut short by the start of the Civil War, in 1861.

After a two-week stint in the Confederate army, Clemens joined his brother in Carson City, Nevada. There, Clemens began to write humorous sketches and tall tales for the local newspaper. In February 1863, he first used the pseudonym, or pen name, that would later be known by readers throughout the world. It was a riverboating term for water two fathoms, or twelve feet, deep: “Mark Twain.”

Clemens next worked as a miner near San Francisco. In 1865 he published in a national magazine a tall tale he had heard in the minefields—“The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.” It was an instant success. Later, he travelled to Hawaii, Europe, and the Middle East. The humorous book he wrote about his travels, *The Innocents Abroad*, made him famous.

In 1870 Clemens married Olivia Langdon. A year later they moved to Hartford, Connecticut. At the same time, he began a successful career as a lecturer, telling humorous stories and reading from his books. More books followed, including *Roughing It*, a travel memoir about the West; *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; *Life on the Mississippi*; and *The Prince and the Pauper*. Thanks to his lecture tours and books, Mark Twain became known around the world. His death in 1910 was met with great sorrow.

Mark Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens, was in many ways a self-made man. Clemens was born on the Missouri frontier, learned several trades, travelled widely, and transformed himself into Mark Twain, the larger-than life writer, lecturer, and symbol of America.

Four years after Clemens was born, his father moved the family to Hannibal, Missouri, on the Mississippi River. There, the young boy lived an idyllic life. Some of his happiest days were spent on the riverbanks watching the parade of boats that passed by. In his memoir *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), he recalls the excitement people felt when the lazy summer air was pierced by the cry of “S-t-e-a-m-boat a-comin!” “All in a twinkling,” he wrote, “the dead town is alive and moving.” Hannibal was also home to relatives, friends, and townspeople who served as the inspiration for characters in his fiction.

But before Clemens could turn his childhood memories into literature, he needed to see something of the world. At the age of seventeen, he left Hannibal to work as a printer’s assistant.

The Characters of Huck Finn

Huckleberry Finn:

The main character and narrator. A young adventurer who seeks to free himself from the abuse of his father and the social constraints of the Widow Douglas. Tom Sawyer's best friend and a friend to Jim.



Widow Douglas:

Takes care of Huck while his father is gone. Even though she often scolds him, she genuinely cares about Huck's well-being and safety.

Tom Sawyer:

Huck's best friend, who we meet at the beginning of the play. He is Huck's friend and together they seek adventure and mischief. In former times they have won a lot of money together. He is Widow Sally Phelps' nephew.



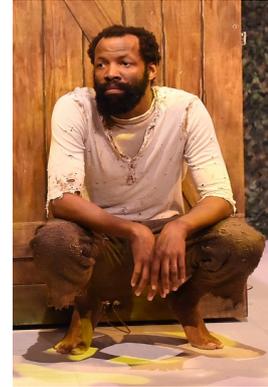
Pap:

Huck's father. He is an alcoholic criminal, who terrorizes his son. He is frustrated that Huck has a better life than he has and uses violence to get to Huck's money.

Jim:

Widow Douglas's slave. He is a friend of Huck but Huck does not really respect him until they start their journey.

Jim runs away in order not to be sold. He wants to travel north, so he can be free. Jim believes strongly in superstition and teaches Huck about morality in a different way than the Widow Douglas had.



The King and the Duke:

Two con artists who pretend to be a King and a Duke. One has conned people into thinking he is a doctor and a preacher. They are responsible for Jim's capture.

Sally Phelps:

Holds Jim captive and wants to return him to his owner.

Huck wants to save Jim and pretends to be her nephew Tom Sawyer.



Summary of the Play

Huck Finn is set in Missouri in round about 1840. At the start of the play we meet Huck, Huck's strict guardian the Widow Douglas, Huck's best friend, Tom Sawyer, with whom he plans an adventure, and Jim, a slave, who is afraid of being sold soon.

Later on Huck's father, old Finn, comes home and is angry that his son lives a more comfortable life than he is. He has heard about a huge amount of gold that Huck and Tom have found and very drunk Pap kidnaps Huck in order to get the money. Pap hides Huck in a shack by the river where he violently abuses him and Huck decides he has to escape. Huck devises a plan in which it looks like he has been murdered and then escapes on a raft down the Mississippi River. In the meantime, Jim decides to run for his life, too. He hides on an island down the river where he meets Huck. They agree to run away together on Huck's raft. Huck and Jim decide to travel down the Mississippi River to Cairo, Illinois, where the river meets the Ohio River. This will put them in the free states and Jim will be safe from being sold, and Huck will be away from Pap and the Widow Douglas.

Huck and Jim continue to travel down the river, but only at night, to keep Jim out of sight. They come upon a wooden cabin floating in the river. Jim investigates and finds a corpse. He does not want Huck to see the body.

When they pass a city, they go ashore and Huck dresses up as a girl to find out where he and Jim are exactly. He knocks at a door dressed up as a girl, pretending to be Sarah Williams. He finds out that they have already passed Cairo and need to go back upstream and that Jim is accused of killing Huck. In the course of the conversation Huck gets caught up in his lies and escapes. Back at the raft Jim and Huck travel further South, knowing that they are going in the wrong direction.

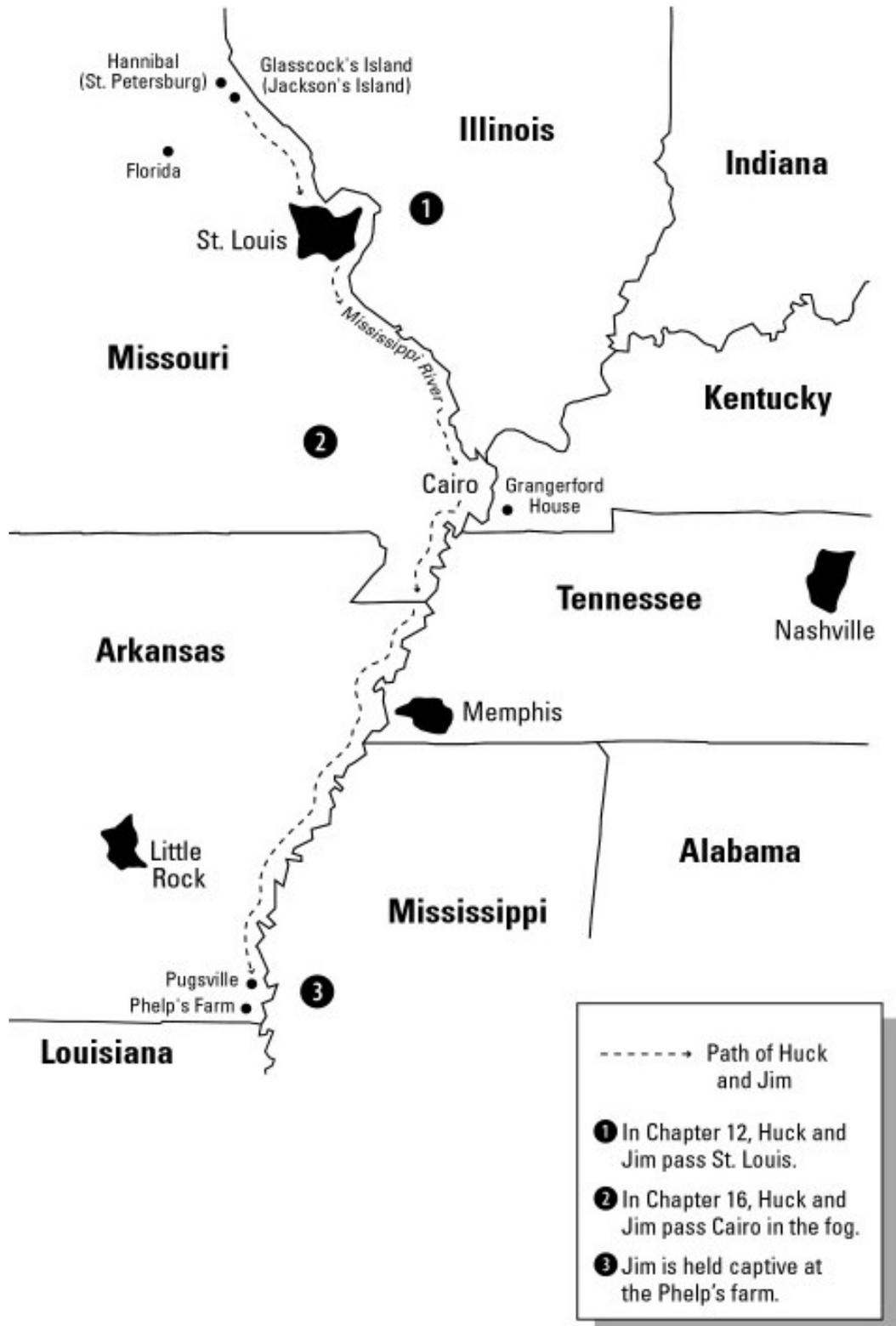
Next morning, when they try to hide the raft, two men run towards them along the shore. They are being chased and pretend to be a Duke and a lost King. Huck and Jim are at first impressed and offer to aid and serve the two men. The King and the Duke decide that on their next stop along the river they will put on a Shakespearean play for money, however it's clear neither of them is all that familiar with Shakespeare, and additionally secretly plot to turn Jim in so that they can get a cash reward. They eventually turn Jim in to Aunt Sally's farm (who happens to be the aunt and of Tom Sawyer).

Huck resolves to rescue Jim from Aunt Sally. He finds Jim there, but trying to free him is interrupted by Aunt Sally Phelps who thinks that Huck is Tom, who was supposed to visit her. Huck pretends to be Tom until the actual Tom arrives. Tom is very confused and frightened to see Huck, since he still believes he is dead. Huck asks for Tom's help in freeing Jim and introduces Tom as his brother Sid to Aunt Sally.

Jim could easily be rescued since he is only fettered by a rope but that is not enough of a challenge for Huck and Tom. Because they want it to be an adventure they write Aunt Sally a letter announcing the pending rescue pretending to be dangerous criminals.

The night they finally try to free Jim, Tom gets shot and Jim does not run but stays instead to make sure Tom will survive. Jim gets locked up again until Tom wakes up a few days later. He reveals that the Widow Douglas had died and had freed Jim in her will. Jim had been free all along. Tom claims he wanted the adventure of freeing him, but gives Jim 400 dollars in repentance. Jim thanks Huck for his friendship and confesses that the dead man they saw on the steamboat was Pap and that Huck does not have to return to him.

Huck's and Jim's Journey



Slavery in the United States of America

Slavery, condition in which one human being was owned by another. A slave was considered by law as property, or chattel, and was deprived of most of the rights ordinarily held by free persons.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/slavery-sociology/Slave-societies> letzter Zugriff: 26.11.2019)

Black slaves played a major, though unwilling and generally unrewarded, role in laying the economic foundations of the United States—especially in the South. Blacks also played a leading role in the development of Southern speech, folklore, music, dancing, and food, blending the cultural traits of their African homelands with those of Europe. During the 17th and 18th centuries, African and African American (those born in the New World) slaves worked mainly on the tobacco, rice, and indigo plantations of the Southern seaboard. Eventually slavery became rooted in the South's huge cotton and sugar plantations. Although Northern businessmen made great fortunes from the slave trade and from investments in Southern plantations, slavery was never widespread in the North.

The American Revolution, some 5,000 black soldiers and sailors fought on the American side. After the Revolution, some slaves—particularly former soldiers—were freed, and the Northern states abolished slavery. But with the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, in 1788, slavery became more firmly entrenched than ever in the South. The Constitution counted a slave as three-fifths of a person for purposes of taxation and representation in Congress (thus increasing the number of representatives from slave states), prohibited Congress from abolishing the African slave trade before 1808, and provided for the return of fugitive slaves to their owners.

Laws known as the slave codes regulated the slave system to promote absolute control by the master and complete submission by the slave. Under these laws the slave was chattel—a piece of property and a source of labour that could be bought and sold like an animal. The slave was allowed no stable family life and little privacy. Slaves were prohibited by law from learning to read or write. The meek slave received tokens of favour from the master, and the rebellious slave provoked brutal punishment. A social hierarchy among the plantation slaves also helped keep them divided. At the top were the house slaves; next in rank were the skilled artisans; at the bottom were the vast majority of field hands, who bore the brunt of the harsh plantation life.

Individual resistance by slaves took such forms as mothers killing their newborn children to save them from slavery, the poisoning of slave owners, the destruction of machinery and crops, arson, malingering, and running away. Thousands of runaway slaves were led to freedom in the North and in Canada by black and white abolitionists who organized a network of secret routes and hiding places that came to be known as the Underground Railroad. One of the greatest heroes of the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman, a former slave who on numerous trips to the South helped hundreds of slaves escape to freedom.

Free Blacks

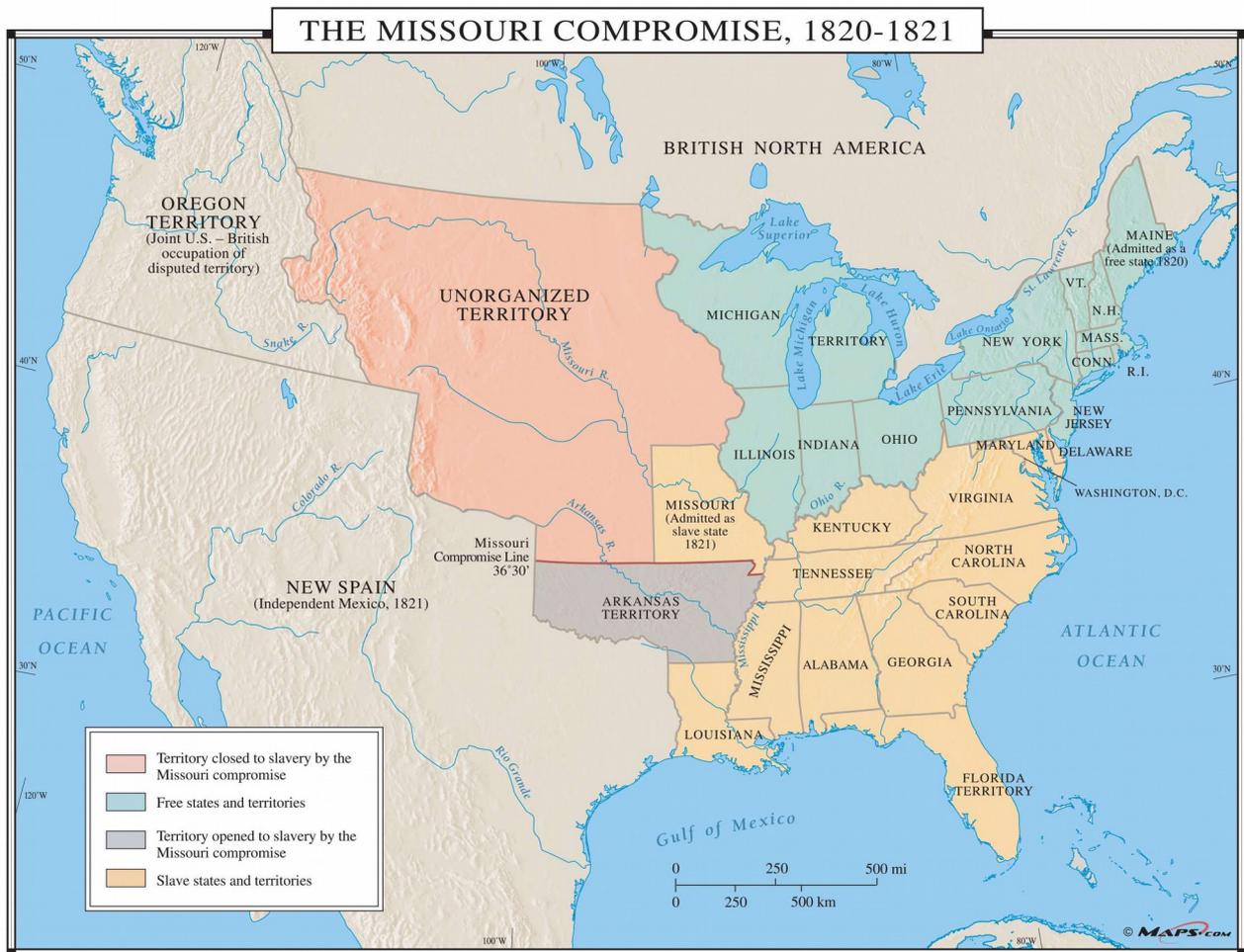
During the period of slavery, free blacks made up about one-tenth of the entire African American population. In 1860 there were almost 500,000 free African Americans—half in the South and half in the North. The free black population originated with former indentured servants and their descendants. It was augmented by free black immigrants from the West Indies and by blacks freed by individual slave owners.

But free blacks were only technically free. In the South, where they posed a threat to the institution of slavery, they suffered both in law and by custom many of the restrictions imposed on slaves. In the North, free blacks were discriminated against in such rights as voting, property ownership, and freedom of movement, though they had some access to education and could organize. Free blacks also faced the danger of being kidnapped and enslaved.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-American/Slavery-in-the-United-States>. Letzter Zugriff: 26.11.2019)

The Missouri Compromise

A change began in some of the northern states of the USA in 1777. According to the thought that all men were created equal (Declaration of Independence), people there started to think that this must apply to every human being and that slaves therefore should be freed. In consequence they abolished slavery. More and more of the northern states became “free states”, whereas the southern states did not want to give up on the free labour and stayed “slave states”. In 1820 the competing systems sought to find a peaceful way to coexist. North and South agreed on the “Missouri Compromise”. Missouri and all the states South of Missouri, were officially allowed to keep slaves, whereas all states above had to grant the same rights to every new citizen regardless of ones skin color or origin.



THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE, 1820-1821

#022

African American History Timeline: 1619 - 2008

- 1619 The first African American indentured servants arrive in the American colonies. Less than a decade later, the first slaves are brought into New Amsterdam (later, New York City). By 1690, every colony has slaves.
- 1739 The Stono Rebellion, one of the earliest slave revolts, occurs in Stono, South Carolina.
- 1793 Eli Whitney's (1765 – 1825) cotton gin increases the need for slaves.
- 1808 Congress bans further importation of slaves.
- 1820 "Missouri Compromise" is agreed upon. Missouri and all the states South of Missouri, were officially allowed to keep slaves, whereas all states above had to grant the same rights to every new citizen regardless of ones skin color or origin.
- 1831 In Boston, William Lloyd Garrison (1805 – 1879) begins publication of the anti-slavery newspaper the *Liberator* and becomes a leading voice in the Abolitionist movement.
- 1831 – 1861 Approximately 75,000 slaves escape to the North using the Underground Railroad.
- 1846 Ex-slave Frederick Douglass (1818 – 1895) publishes the anti-slavery *North Star* newspaper.
- 1849 Harriet Tubman (c. 1820 – 1913) escapes from slavery and becomes an instrumental leader of the Underground Railroad.
- 1850 Congress passes another Fugitive Slave Act, which mandates government participation in the capture of escaped slaves.
- 1857 The *Dred Scot v. Sanford* case: congress does not have the right to ban slavery in the states; slaves are not citizens.
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865) is elected president, angering the southern states.
- 1861 The Civil War begins.
- 1863 Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation proclaims that all slaves in rebellious territories are forever free.
- 1865 The Civil War ends.
Lincoln is assassinated.
The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting slavery, is ratified. The era of Reconstruction begins.
- 1866 The "Black Codes" are passed by all white legislators of the former Confederate States. Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, conferring citizenship on African Americans and granting them equal rights to whites.
The Ku Klux Klan is formed in Tennessee.
- 1868 The 14th Amendment is ratified, defining citizenship. This overturns the *Dred Scot* decision.
- 1870 The 15th Amendment is ratified, giving African Americans the right to vote.
- 1877 The era of Reconstruction ends.
A deal is made with southern democratic leaders which makes Rutherford B. Hayes

- (1822 – 1893) president in exchange for the withdrawal of federal troops from the South, and puts an end to efforts to protect the civil rights of African Americans.
- 1879 Thousands of African Americans migrate out of the South to escape oppression.
- 1881 Tennessee passes the first of the “Jim Crow” segregation laws, segregating state railroads. Similar laws are passed over the next 15 years throughout the Southern states.
- 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* case: racial segregation is ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court. The “Jim Crow” (“separate but equal”) laws begin, barring African Americans from equal access to public facilities.
- 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case: strikes down segregation as unconstitutional.
- 1955 In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks (1913 – 2005) is arrested for breaking a city ordinance by refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man. This defiant act gives initial momentum to the Civil Rights Movement.
- 1957 Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 – 1968) and others set up the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a leading engine of the Civil Rights Movement.
- 1960 Ruby Bridges is the first African-American child to be enrolled in the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana. Federal Marshals escort her to the school because of the demonstrating mob outside of the school.
- 1964 The Civil Rights Act is signed, prohibiting discrimination of all kinds.
- 1965 The Voting Rights Act is passed, outlawing the practices used in the South to disenfranchise African American voters.
- 1967 Edward W. Brooke (1919 - 2015) becomes the first African American U.S. Senator since Reconstruction. He serves two terms as a Senator from Massachusetts.
- 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
- 2008 Barack Obama (1961 -) becomes the first African American to win the U.S. presidential race.
- 2012 unarmed African American teen Trayvon Martin gets shot by George Zimmermann, a member of the Sanford community watch, while walking down the street.
- 2013 #BlackLivesMatter movement begins as a result of the shooting.
- 2014 Michael Brown, Ferguson, and Eric Garner, New York City, both unarmed African Americans, get needlessly killed by policemen. Protests led by the BlackLivesMatter organization follow.

(cf. <https://www.nps.gov/saga/learn/education/upload/African%20American%20History%20Timeline.pdf> letzter Zugriff: 26.11.2019)

Activities

pre-watching activities

Comparing posters

Divide into two groups.

Group A: Have a look at Picture A. Take notes on what you can see.

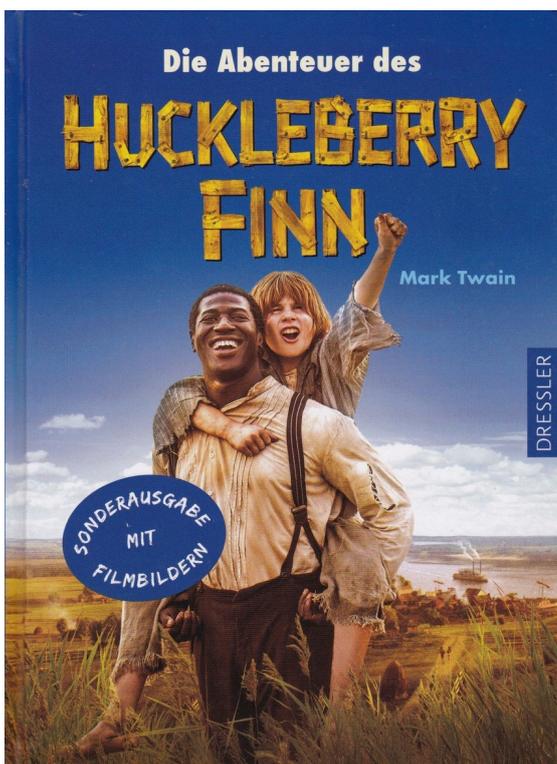
Group B: Have a look at picture B. Take notes on what you can see. (More help needed?1)

Get together with a partner and describe the picture to each other in English. Everybody should say something.

Think about possible topics of the story. What could it be about?

Prepare to present the results of your description and assumed topics to the rest of the class.

A



B



In class : One randomly picked pair presents picture A, another presents picture B.

Compare the pictures in class. Find possible similar and deviating topics.

Additional task : Choose a picture and a character. Write a short inner monologue. Remember to write your monologue in the first-person narrative and to include questions and incomplete thoughts.

1 Vocab: - On picture A/B I can see..., In the foreground there is/ there are..., In the background..., In the center..., To give so. A pickypack (ride) – jemanden Huckepack nehmen, slingshot – Schleuder, ragged – zerlumpt,

Association tasks

Friendship

Describe what your best friend should be like.

- a. Think: Take notes on everything you can think of. Find examples for your statements and/or explain them. (i.e.: smart, because he/she could help me with homework.).

(More help needed?2)

- b. Pair: Discuss your expectations with your partner. Add the ideas you did not list but agree on, discuss the expectations you do not share. (Talk freely and in full sentences. Do not just read your notes to one another.)

- c. Write an essay: What my best friend should be like. Use Linking words and phrases.

(More help needed?3)

OR

Describe what a friendship should be like and how to identify if people are friends.

- a. Think: Take notes on everything you can think of what a friendship should be like. Find examples for your statement and/or explain them. (i.e. smart because he/she could help me with homework) (More help needed?1)

- b. Pair: Discuss your expectations with your partner. Discuss the expectations you do not share (Talk freely and in full sentences. Do not just read your notes to one another.)

- c. Pair: Talk about and collect external characteristics of friendship. How do you know if two people are friends? Describe their behaviour. (More help needed?4)

2

Wortspeicher – lexical storage

Fun reckless courageous nice pretty reliable
interested in musical affectionate cheerful
good listener caring humorous honest
available cheeky smart generous
relaxed
...

3

Wortspeicher – lexical storage

My best friend should be..., because... I want my best friend to be..., so we can... Me and my best friend, we always.... Moreover,... Additionally,
On the one hand... On the other hand...
However, ... In spite of... like
as well as due to
...

4 Think about body language and language. Think about yourself and your best friend in comparison to others.

Scenic Reading-Friendship

a) In class: Read scene 2 when Huck and Tom meet for the first time in the play together in allotted characters (script book p. 6 &7).

b) Sum up the content of what you have just read.

c) Characterize Tom. What does this scene tell us about him? Why does Huck like him?

c) Find a partner. Prepare a scenic reading of either the first or the second half of the play.⁵

(First half: read till p.7, Tom: *Stop asking stupid questions.*

Second half: from p. 7 Huck: *Do we have to kill the people Tom?* Until p.7 Tom: *Because robbing and killing people on Sunday would be wicked.*)

⁵ Do not simply read the text out loud. Use facial expression, gestures, different kinds of intonation and volume while reading. Use props, e.g. something that represents the knife. In short: Even though you are reading the text you should act out the scene.

Association task - Freedom



1



2



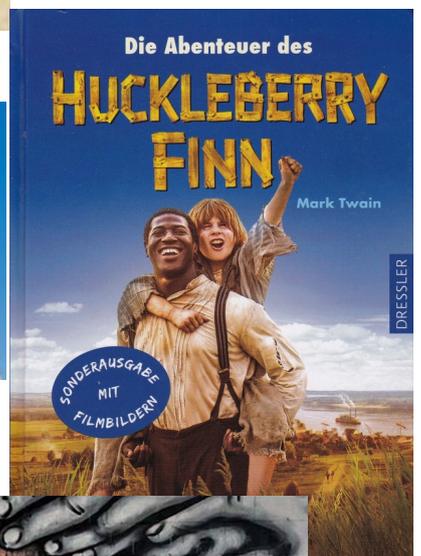
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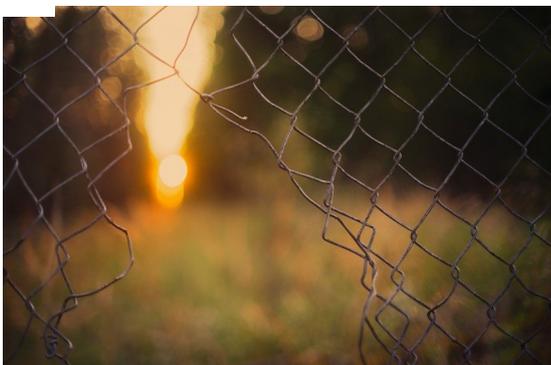
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5



6



7



8

- In class: Choose a picture. Describe it and tell us why you have chosen it.
- Think: Based on these pictures, what would you say is today's topic? Pair: Discuss your ideas with your partner. Share: Discuss in class what today's topic might be.
- Have a look again at the pictures. What do they have to do with freedom? Name different kinds of freedom. 6
- Think about what freedom means to you personally. When do you feel free?
- Talk to your partner about your personal notion of freedom.
- Draw a picture/create a collage showing your own versions of freedom.

6 Freedom to love whomever I choose, freedom to have free time, freedom to travel, to be free in contrast to being trapped or imprisoned, financial freedom, independence, freedom of speech, being free of boundaries...

Vocabulary Work

When watching the play Huck Finn you might come across some unknown words. In order for you to understand the play anyway, we have summed up the most important ones for you.

Familiarize yourself with the vocabulary you do not already know.

To hold someone ransom	Jemanden gegen Lösegeld gefangen halten
To fake one's own death	Den eigenen Tod vortäuschen
To be murdered	Ermordet werden
funeral	Die Beerdigung
Widow	Die Witwe
To ride a raft	Ein Floß fahren
A runaway slave	Ein geflohener Sklave
A slave auction	Eine Sklavenversteigerung
Four hundred dollar reward	Vierhundert Dollar Belohnung
A cabin in the woods	Eine Hütte im Wald
robber, robbers	Der Räuber, die Räuber
To rob	rauben/stehlen
oath	Der Eid
To civilize someone	Jemandem Kultur beibringen/erziehen
A decent boy	Ein anständiger Junge
A wicked boy	Ein böser Junge
To mean no harm	Es nicht böse meinen
To talk someone out of something	Jemandem etwas ausreden
To talk her out of it	Es ihr ausreden
I dug a hole	Ich habe ein Loch gegraben
To pretend to be a girl	So tun, als sei man ein Mädchen
To get caught	Erwischt werden
To rescue someone	Jemanden retten
To escape	fliehen
To set off	Sich auf den Weg machen
To be shot	angeschossen/erschossen werden
To be out cold	Bewusstlos sein

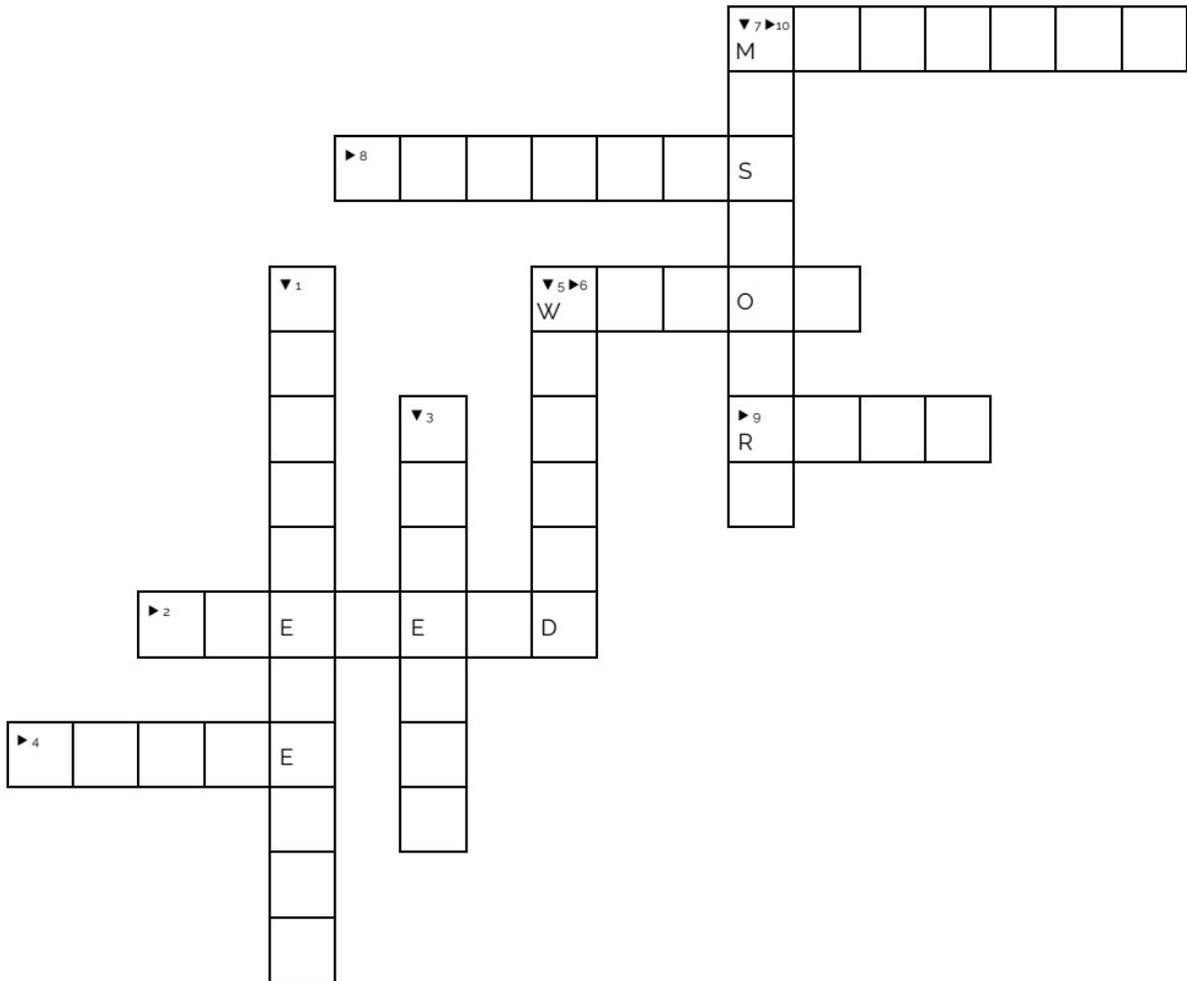
Wordsearch Huck Finn

Find the 17 hidden words. The words are written from top to bottom and from left to right.

J	M	W	I	D	O	W	Z	U	K	P	W	O	T	U
P	Q	R	U	N	A	W	A	Y	Z	K	P	A	V	Y
K	I	E	E	A	J	L	G	Y	X	T	Z	T	F	F
S	H	W	Q	K	P	G	R	N	J	Y	J	H	Q	B
E	W	A	A	D	F	R	N	C	H	A	R	M	I	P
M	U	R	D	E	R	A	I	I	F	A	E	W	O	R
P	H	D	T	C	G	F	L	V	D	E	S	P	M	T
S	L	A	V	E	J	T	M	I	W	D	C	D	U	D
M	N	C	E	N	T	K	T	L	A	O	U	U	J	R
O	O	R	Z	T	X	W	F	I	C	P	E	K	R	H
T	Y	D	Y	Q	T	O	M	S	A	W	Y	E	R	U
H	K	M	U	B	A	M	S	E	S	C	A	P	E	X
Y	Y	R	P	W	F	F	U	N	E	R	A	L	L	Q
U	U	N	H	U	C	K	L	E	B	E	R	R	Y	Y
Q	M	S	W	Y	H	X	A	W	W	I	C	K	E	D

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Reward - Belohnung | Murder - Mord | Slave - Sklave | Tom Sawyer |
| Runaway - entlaufen/fliehend | Wicked - unartig/boshaft | Huckleberry | Funeral - Beerdigung |
| Escape - entkommen | decent - anständig | raft - Floß | rescue - retten |
| civilise - erziehen | Duke - Adelstitel | Widow - Witwe | Oath - Eid |
| harm - Schaden | | | |

Crossword Puzzle Huck Finn



- 1) What is *Angewohnheiten/Benehmen* in English?
- 2) What is *Floß* in English?
- 3) Name the word for trying to convince someone of something that is not true.
- 4) Name the word for a woman, whose husband has died.
- 5) What is *Beerdigung* in English?
- 6) People who steal something are...
- 7) Protagonist's first name.
- 8) Synonym for mischievous, evil, morally wrong
- 9) A person, who is not free, but is owned by someone else
- 10) Name the state in which Huck lives.

1) manners 2) rafe 3) pretend 4) widow 5) funeral 6) robbers 7)Huckleberry
8) wicked 9) slave 10) Missouri

Solution Crossword Puzzle

Historical Background - Research task

1) Find out about the situation of African-Americans in the In the United States of America in 1840. One possible source is the ETF's Website. (<https://www.english-theatre.de/huck-finn-quizzes/>).

Historical Background – American History 1773-1865

a) Read the texts about American history and match them to the photos.

b) Use the information to make a timeline of American history.

Christopher Columbus (1492)

Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic from Spain and landed on an island near America. He called the people he found there “Indians“, because he thought he was in India.

The Mayflower (1620)

The ship *The Mayflower* brought 102 people from England to America. These “pilgrims” started a colony where they could practice their religion in freedom. Today Americans celebrate the pilgrims' first harvest as “Thanksgiving” every November.

The Boston Tea Party (1773)

By the 1770s the people in the colonies were unhappy about how Britain treated them, and about the taxes they had to pay to the “mother country” across the Atlantic.⁷ The American colonists did not have a say in this because they were not represented in the British parliament. Many agreed there should be “no taxation without representation”. When a new tax for tea was introduced in 1773 the colonists finally took action. Disguised⁸ as American Indians, they went on board three tea clippers in Boston and threw all the boxes of tea into the water.

War of Independence/ The Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783)

What had started as a protest against unfair taxes led to the War of Independence. Led by General George Washington, all thirteen colonies joined against Britain. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia. After six years of fighting, the British were forced to surrender.⁹ In 1781 and in 1783, the United States was declared an independent country. Washington later became the first president of the US.

Slavery

Even before independence the slave trade brought millions of Africans to the Americas. In the US most slaves worked on tobacco and cotton plantations in the South. Although they were needed as workforce, the slaves were treated as goods and their living conditions were often inhumane. Some slaves turned to the Underground Railroad, an organization that helped them escape to the slave-free North. As the West was settled, disputes over slavers increased.

The Civil War (1861-1865)

Abraham Lincoln argued that any new states should be slave-free. When he became president seven Southern states left the Union. In 1861 the Confederate States of America (the South) started the Civil War by attacking the North. The War ended in 1865. The states of the North had won and slavery was abolished¹⁰. Nevertheless, the black population still had a long struggle for equal rights.

The Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968)

After the end of slavery there was still discrimination against black Americans. Especially in the Southern United States racial segregation¹¹ laws excluded the black population from the rest of the American population. Martin Luther King and others fought this segregation and stood up for equal rights e.g. the right to vote.

7 **Taxes** Steuern

8 **To disguise** sich verkleiden

9 **To surrender** aufgeben, kapitulieren

10 **To abolish** abschaffen

11 **Racial segregation** Rassentrennung

while-watching activities

True or false

Read the statements below after having seen the play Huck Finn. Decide: Which ones are true and which are false? Can you remember the correct storyline?

statement	True	false	Actual storyline
1. Widow Douglas wants to civilize Huck and improve his manners.			
2. Huck's Father returns to Huck to take care of him and raise him.			
3. Huck escapes his father by faking his death.			
4. Jim and his family are supposed to be sold.			
5. Jim flees.			
6. Jim plans to go to one of the free states, earn money and save his family.			
6. After Jim and Huck meet again, they steal a steamboat.			
7. The Duke and the King are actual royalty and want to help Jim and Huck.			
8. Jim is held captive by Huck's aunt whose name is Sally.			
9. Huck pretends to be Tom Sawyer in order to make a plan and rescue Jim.			
10. When the real Tom Sawyer arrives, he does not want to rescue Jim.			
11. Jim could have been easily rescued.			
12. When they finally help Jim, Tom gets shot.			
13. Jim flees and lets Tom bleed to death.			
14. At the end, Jim is free.			
15. Huck has to return to his violent father.			

Characterizations

When watching Huck Finn, we met many different characters. Each and everyone of them had a very special relationship to Huck and their very own characteristics.

a) Match the adjectives below to the characters. (Some adjectives can be used more than once.)

Huckleberry Finn	
Tom Sawyer	
Jim	
Widow Douglas	
Old Finn	

Egoistic, reckless, responsible, courageous, violent, selfish, unselfish, afraid, greedy, childish, mature, reliable, dutiful, confident, illiterate, caring, superstitious, strict, negligent, imaginative, modest, clever, independent ...

b) Get together in groups of three and compare your results. Think of additional adjectives.

c) Choose a character. Write a characterization in the form of a letter/ diary entry.

Huck Finn: After all of this has happened, Tom's Aunt Phelps writes a **letter** to Widow Douglas, telling her what has happened. She praises Huck in not only naming his character traits, but also explaining them in referring to recent events. Remember to take the formal aspects of a letter into account.

Tom Sawyer: After all of this has happened, Tom's Aunt Phelps writes a **letter** to her sister, Tom's mother, telling her what has happened. She does not only name Tom's character traits but also explains them in referring to recent events. Remember to take the formal aspects of a letter into account.

Jim: After all of this has happened, Huck writes a **letter** to the Widow Douglas, telling her what has happened. He does not only name Jim's character traits, but also explains them in referring to recent events. Remember to take the formal aspects of a letter into account.

Widow Douglas: At the beginning of the play, Huck stays with the Widow Douglas, who tries to civilize him. At the end of the day and before his father returns, he writes a **diary entry**, commenting on the widow's attempts to make him a better person. He does not only name her character traits, but also explains them in referring to their conversation. Remember to take the formal aspects of a diary entry into account.

Old Finn: When Huck is at Tom's aunt's house, pretending to be Tom, he writes a **letter** to his best friend, asking him to hurry up in order to help Jim. He starts his letter by explaining why he had to run away. In order to explain he does not only name his father's character traits, but also explains them in referring to recent events. Remember to take the formal aspects of a letter into account.

Freeze Frames Friendship – Working with the Script

- 1a) In class: Read the Scenes below. Sum up the content of the scenes.
- b) Form groups of 3 and draw lots as a group for the different scenes.
- c) Read your scene again and discuss the relationship depicted between Huck and Jim. What does Huck think of Jim and vice versa? How can you present their relationship in a freeze frame?
- d) Decide on your roles. You need a Huck Finn, a Jim and a director.
- e) Arrange the scene in positioning Huck and Jim to each other revealing the nature of their relationship within this scene. Work with body language especially taking facial expression, gestures, and distance/proximity into account. The director makes sure that everybody's body language is correct while building the freeze frame.
- f) Present your result. When presenting the result the director reads the scene out loud, while Huck and Jim present the freeze frame without moving. The director summarizes the nature of Huck's and Jim's relationship and explains the group's artistic decisions to the rest of the class. (Why is Huck doing what he does? What does Jim's expression tell us?...). The director also answers questions the rest of the class might have.

Your freeze frames can be similar to the play's realization. However, you can also choose your own frame.

Scene 1:

HUCK: What's the matter Jim?

JIM: It's Miss Watson, the Widow's sister. I heard her talking to the Widow and she said she might sell me to the slave traders. She says I'm worth eight hundred dollars and she needs money more than she needs me.

HUCK: Eight hundred dollars! That's a lot of money.

JIM: It is. I don't want to be sold, Huck. I don't want to go to New Orleans to work.

HUCK: Well I guess you'll have to.

JIM: But what about my wife and kids? I won't ever see them again. [...]

HUCK: (to audience) You know that was the first time I ever saw Jim cry, I remember I was surprised, because at that time I didn't think that black folks had feelings just like everybody else. Anyway, a couple of months went by and I forgot all about Jim and his troubles. I was busy at school learning how to read and spell and write a little.

Scene 2:

Huck has faked his death and ran away from his father. On Jackson's Island he runs into Jim again, who also has fled from being sold to New Orleans.

JIM: Aaagh! Don't come near me! Don't come near me! Stay where you are! Please don't hurt me, I've never done any harm to a ghost, I've always liked dead people.

HUCK: Ghost? I'm not a ghost. Look I'm real. Touch me.

(Jim does)

JIM: Huck Finn? You're alive?

HUCK: Of course I'm alive. [...]

HUCK: [...] Now what about you, what are you doing here Jim?

JIM: I... I... I've run away.

HUCK: Run away?

JIM: I know it's a bad thing to do Huck, but I had to. You won't tell on me or send me back will you? Please?

HUCK: No. I won't tell. [...]

JIM: It's funny to think that everybody thinks you're dead, Huck.

HUCK: That's right Jim.

(They laugh together.)

Scene 3

At the end of the adventure Tom recovered from being shot, finally admitted that Jim has been free all along, and gave him money in order for Jim to buy the freedom of the rest of his family.

HUCK: Thank you, Jim.

JIM: What for?

HUCK: For waiting with Tom, and for being my friend.

(They shake hands.)

2a) Huck and Jim's relationship changes throughout the play. Describe the development. Refer to the freeze frames that have been presented in order to give examples.

2b) Give reasons for Huck and Jim becoming friends. What made Huck change his point of view?

3) Huck's relationship to Jim differs from his friendship to Tom.

a) Describe Huck's friendship to Tom. What is his best friend like? What does Huck like about him?

b) Compare the similarities and differences between the relationships.

similarities	differences

Mapping Huck Finn

Below you see a map of Huck's and Jim's journey. Complete it with drawings of the plot.

(For instance: Jim and Huck meet on Jackson's Island. Draw a picture of their first encounter on the Island.)



-----> Path of Huck and Jim

- ❶ In Chapter 12, Huck and Jim pass St. Louis.
- ❷ In Chapter 16, Huck and Jim pass Cairo in the fog.
- ❸ Jim is held captive at the Phelps's farm.

post-watching activities

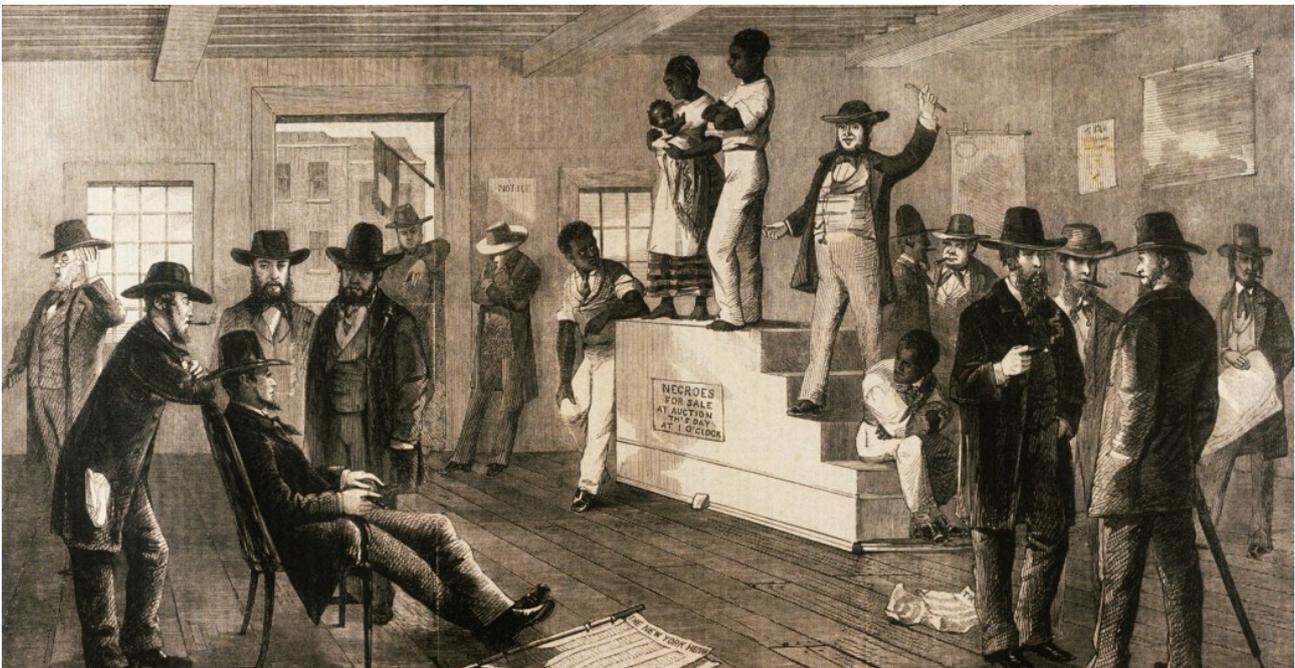
Writing an inner monologue and a letter from Jim

Slave auctions were an event, where human beings were sold like cattle. They had no say in where they had to go, what kind of work they had to do and the money paid for their services went directly to the former owner. The sold person did not get any money at all. Maybe worst of all, families were torn apart, for men and women were often sold to separate new owners.

When Jim learns, that his owner, Miss Watson, Widow Douglas' sister, cannot afford him any longer and plans on selling him, this is the fate he has to face.

Below you can see a picture of such a slave auction.

- Describe the picture.
- Point out elements of that picture, that you think are interesting/shocking/striking...
- Choose one person depicted and write a short inner monologue for that person.¹²
- Imagine you were in Jim's position, knowing what was waiting for you and your family. Write a letter to Jim's wife from his point of view, explaining his decision to run away and include feelings and emotions he might have. Remember to use linking words and phrases as well as adjectives.
(More help needed?¹³)



¹² Inner monologue: first person, thoughts of that person, including many questions and unfinished sentences.

¹³ Start with his fears on what is about to come describing the auction and its consequences. Compare it to the risks of running away and the chances of it. Decide for yourself if you would tell your wife the plan in detail or explain why it would be risky to do that.

Remember the characteristics of a letter: First person, salutation and complimentary clause. Full sentences. Maybe questions.

Appendix

Solution Wordsearch

J	M	W	I	D	O	W	Z	U	K	P	W	O	T	U
P	Q	R	U	N	A	W	A	Y	Z	K	P	A	V	Y
K	I	E	E	A	J	L	G	Y	X	T	Z	T	F	F
S	H	W	Q	K	P	G	R	N	J	Y	J	H	Q	B
E	W	A	A	D	F	R	N	C	H	A	R	M	I	P
M	U	R	D	E	R	A	I	I	F	A	E	W	O	R
P	H	D	T	C	G	F	L	V	D	E	S	P	M	T
S	L	A	V	E	J	T	M	I	W	D	C	D	U	D
M	N	C	E	N	T	K	T	L	A	O	U	U	J	R
O	O	R	Z	T	X	W	F	I	C	P	E	K	R	H
T	Y	D	Y	Q	T	O	M	S	A	W	Y	E	R	U
H	K	M	U	B	A	M	S	E	S	C	A	P	E	X
Y	Y	R	P	W	F	F	U	N	E	R	A	L	L	Q
U	U	N	H	U	C	K	L	E	B	E	R	R	Y	Y
Q	M	S	W	Y	H	X	A	W	W	I	C	K	E	D

Historical Background – American History 1773-1865

Christopher Columbus (1492)

Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic from Spain and landed on an island near America. He called the people he found there “Indians”, because he thought he was in India.

The Mayflower (1620)

The ship *The Mayflower* brought 102 people from England to America. These “pilgrims” started a colony where they could practice their religion in freedom. Today Americans celebrate the pilgrims’ first harvest as “Thanksgiving” every November.

The Boston Tea Party (1773)

By the 1770s the people in the colonies were unhappy about how Britain treated them, and about the taxes they had to pay to the “mother country” across the Atlantic. The American colonists did not have a say in this because they were not represented in the British parliament. Many agreed there should be “no taxation without representation”. When a new tax for tea was introduced in 1773 the colonists finally took action. Disguised as American Indians, they went on board three tea clippers in Boston and threw all the boxes of tea into the water.

War of Independence/ The Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783)

What had started as a protest against unfair taxes led to the War of Independence. Led by General George Washington, all thirteen colonies joined against Britain. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia. After six years of fighting, the British were forced to surrender in 1781 and in 1783, the United States was declared an independent country. Washington later became the first president of the US.

Slavery

Even before independence the slave trade brought millions of Africans to the Americas. In the US most slaves worked on tobacco and cotton plantations in the South. Although they were needed as workforce, the slaves were treated as goods and their living conditions were often inhumane. Some slaves turned to the Underground Railroad, an organization that helped them escape to the slave-free North. As the West was settled, disputes over slavers increased.

The Civil War (1861-1865)

Abraham Lincoln argued that any new states should be slave-free. When he became president seven Southern states left the Union. In 1861 the Confederate States of America (the South) started the Civil War by attacking the North. The War ended in 1865. The states of the North had won and slavery was abolished. Nevertheless, the black population still had a long struggle for equal rights.

The Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968)

After the end of slavery there was still discrimination against black Americans. Especially in the Southern United States racial segregation laws excluded the black population from the rest of the American population. Martin Luther King and others fought this segregation and stood up for equal rights e.g. the right to vote.



2



3



6



7



4



5



1

True or false

Read the statements below after having seen the play Huck Finn. Decide: Which ones are true and which are false? Can you remember the correct storyline?

statement	True	false	Actual storyline
1. Widow Douglas wants to civilize Huck and improve his manners.	X		
2. Huck's Father returns to Huck to take care of him and raise him.		X	Huck's father wants Huck to give him the money he has found in one of his past adventures. In order to get it, he hurts and humiliates his son.
3. Huck escapes his father by faking his death.	X		
4. Jim and his family are supposed to be sold.		X	Jim is supposed to be sold. He cannot take his family.
5. Jim flees.	X		
6. Jim plans to go to one of the free states, earn money and save his family.	X		
6. After Jim and Huck meet again, they steal a steamboat.		X	Huck and Jim travel on Huck's raft.
7. The Duke and the King are actual royalty and want to help Jim and Huck.		X	The Duke and the King only pretend to be royal as well as they pretend to be actors later. They do not want to help Huck and Jim. Instead they hand over Jim to Aunt Sally in order to get the reward that was set on Jim's head.
8. Jim is held captive by Huck's aunt whose name is Sally.		X	Aunt Sally is Tom Sawyer's aunt.
9. Huck pretends to be Tom Sawyer in order to make a plan and rescue Jim.	X		
10. When the real Tom Sawyer arrives, he does not want to rescue Jim.		X	He wants to rescue Jim, but he wants to make an adventure out of it. From his point of view it should be harder to free him.
11. Jim could have been easily rescued.	X		
12. When they finally help Jim, Tom gets shot in the leg.	X		
13. Jim flees and lets Tom bleed to death.		X	Jim accepts going back to captivity in order to save Tom's live.
14. At the end, Jim is free.	X		
15. Huck has to return to his violent father.		X	Huck is free too. On their journey, they came across a wooden box floating in the river. In this box lay Huck's father, who was dead.

Freeze Frames Friendship – Working with the Script

3) Huck’s relationship to Jim differs from his friendship to Tom.

a) Describe Huck’s friendship to Tom. What is his best friend like? What does Huck like about him?

b) Compare the similarities and differences between the relationships.

similarities	differences
Both friendships are based on adventures.	<p>The adventures Huck experiences with Tom are imaginary in this play. It’s about the fun.</p> <p>The adventure he experiences with Jim arises from the need for survival.</p>
Both friendships are based on similar life circumstances.	<p>The circumstances Huck shares with Tom are very different from the ones he shares with Jim.</p> <p>Tom and Huck are of the same age and they are both white and of the same origin. There is no sense of responsibility for each other, they are equal.</p> <p>Huck is superior to Jim, because of Jim’s slave status. However, Huck and Jim are both unfree in a way. Jim is a slave, Huck has to suffer from his violent father. They both have to run and feel responsible for each other.</p> <p>Jim is older than Huck and takes care of him, when not telling him about Huck’s father being dead in the water. Huck also feels responsible for Jim when he gets caught.</p>
...	...