



# CANTERBURY HIGH SCHOOL

## English 10 Summer Reading Work

- Listed below are note taking questions corresponding to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and Edith Wharton's *Summer*. You are required to submit written responses to the questions and prompts listed below, due on the second day of classes in August.
- You may answer these questions in full sentences or in note form; they need to be saved so that you can submit them to Turnitin. You may abbreviate quotes, but be sure to include a page number.
- This is a graded assignment, and you will be able to use these as notes on future assessments.
- Do not consult outside sources for help with these questions. If you cannot figure out the answer to a particular question, leave it blank and be prepared to ask about the question in class. You may look up words that are in the questions if you are not sure about what they mean.

As you read these novels, think about the following ideas:

Racism	Childhood, family	Maturity	Sentimentalism
Language	Morality, hypocrisy, dishonesty	Setting Religion	Social Class

### Question for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

#### Chapters I-IV

1. Describe Huck's attitudes toward various social conventions, like religion and manners.
2. List three idioms that occur in these chapters and explain what they mean. For example, in chapter 2, Huck says "...and the other man who tries to tell a story about witches "was corked up and had to take a back seat." This means that Jim had become the expert on witches, so no one else could tell any stories about witches—they had to take a "back seat" to Jim's expertise. For this question, you are looking for three examples of other idioms used in these chapters.
3. Recently, this novel was revised so that the word "slave" replaces the word "nigger," which we will refer to in the future as "the n-word." Write a paragraph that discusses this word. What connotations does it have? Is it appropriate to use this word in this novel, or do you agree that it should have been revised?

#### Chapters V-VII

4. Some might say that Huck is not "book smart," but that he is clever in other ways. List three examples of Huck's knowledge from these chapters. For example, how does his plan to escape show how he understands the world?
5. Describe the character of Pap by using three specific textual examples and explaining what the text shows about his character.

#### Chapters VIII-XI

6. Describe the character of Jim using three specific textual examples and explaining what the text shows about his character.
7. Consider childhood in Huck's world. How is it similar and different to childhood in our world today?
8. Consider and explain how religion has been presented in this novel so far.

#### Chapters XII-XVI

9. Describe the relationship between Huck and Jim in these chapters.
10. At this point in the novel, a number of moral issues have been presented. List five of these issues. For each moral issue, briefly explain one situation that illustrates the issue.

#### Chapters XVII-XVIII

11. Consider the passage about Emmaline Grangerford. Explain how this passage is mocking 19th century Sentimentalism.

#### Chapters XIX-XXIII

12. At the end of chapter 18 and then in chapter 19, there are descriptions of the time that they spend on the raft and the experience of nature. Think of a time when you have experienced a similar feeling when you've been in nature. Write a first person descriptive paragraph about the experience.
13. Is the tone of the text with regard to the Grangerfords and



the Shepherds? What is being satirized in these passages? Include two passages in your answer.

14. List three different examples in which literature is presented or alluded to in the novel so far. In general, how is literature presented or regarded in these examples?

#### **Chapters XXIV-XXIX**

15. List three examples of how language is used (or misused) in the chapters involving the king and the duke.

16. Why are people fooled by the king and the duke?

#### **Chapters XXX-XXXI**

17. Compare the situations explored in the scenes with Pap, the Grangerfords, Sherburn, and the Duke and the King. What similarities do you see in these situations? What criticism is

made about human nature in these situations? Consider why and how people are fooled in these situations.

#### **Chapters XXXII-XXXIX**

18. What details does Tom add to the plan for helping Jim escape? Why? What is Huck's response to the plans?

#### **Chapters XL-XLII**

19. Do you think that Huck grows up or changes by the end of the novel?

20. Write a paragraph reflecting on the presence of racism in the novel, especially considering the role plays in the boys' game and the idea that Jim saves Tom.

### **Edith Wharton *Summer***

For each of the following questions, cite 2 quotes. Abbreviate them, and include page numbers.

1. Describe Charity Royall early in the novel with at least three specific details. What do we learn about her character in the first few chapters? Is she really different than everybody else, or does she just want to be?

2. From the beginning of the novel, Charity is trapped in her world by a number of circumstances. Explain why she doesn't leave. Explain the "rules" of the society that she lives in—how is morality defined in this society?

3. There are a number of times when Charity understands something about the adults in her world without it being said explicitly. List and explain two examples of this.

4. Describe the character of Lucius Harney. Does he evolve or change throughout the novel? Do you think that he treats Charity badly, or is he doing what he has to do considering what is expected by society of him? Does he take advantage of her, or is she a free rebel?

5. The character of Lawyer Royall could be seen as being controversial. Do you think that he ends up being a sympathetic character? Can we see him as a victim in any way? Does his behavior comport with the expectations of his society? In the end, has he rescued or trapped Charity?

6. Discuss the theme of hypocrisy in the novel. Consider our own world of today—do we have similar examples of hypocrisy, or are the examples in this novel strictly products of the time period. Is Charity's name an example?

7. Explain several ways in which the title, *Summer*, adds thematic meaning to the novel.

8. Describe the setting of this novel with four specific details. What does the setting add to the novel?

9. Gender is an important theme in the novel. Write a paragraph explaining what is said about society's expectations of women in this society. In what ways are women victimized in this society? In what ways are they able to exert power?

10. List three ways in which Charity and Huckleberry Finn are similar.