

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain

Why does Huck pity people he knows have repeatedly harmed others?

CONTENT NOTE · Historical racist language and racial stereotypes; slavery and violence.

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The mob humiliates the duke and king
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter XXXIII
START	Well, it made me sick to see it;
END	Human beings can be awful cruel to one another.
PASSAGE ID	sec-hf-04

THE MOVE

Hold sympathy and judgment at the same time

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Huck knows the duke and king are frauds who have harmed people, but seeing them publicly tarred and feathered produces pity rather than satisfaction. The passage asks students to hold moral judgment and sympathy together instead of treating them as opposites.

MARK

Underline Huck’s knowledge of what the duke and king have done. Circle his reaction to seeing them punished. Star the line where he generalizes from these particular men to human cruelty.

NOTICE

- What judgment of the duke and king remains valid even after Huck pities them?

- What changes when punishment becomes spectacle?
- Why does sympathy not require Huck to decide that they are innocent?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Huck pity people he knows have repeatedly harmed others? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Huck pity people he knows have repeatedly harmed others? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Huck can judge the duke and king as harmful and still pity them when punishment becomes public cruelty. Sympathy does not erase responsibility; it limits enjoyment of another person's suffering.
EVIDENCE	Use Huck's knowledge of their frauds, his reaction to the tar-and-feathering, and the generalization about human cruelty.
WATCH FOR	Do not turn pity into forgiveness or innocence. The passage holds judgment and sympathy together.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why does Huck pity people he knows have repeatedly harmed others?

START ANCHOR	Well, it made me sick to see it;
END ANCHOR	Human beings can be awful cruel to one another.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline Huck's knowledge of what the duke and king have done. Circle his reaction to seeing them punished. Star the line where he generalizes from these particular men to human cruelty.
2. NOTICE - What judgment of the duke and king remains valid even after Huck pities them? What changes when punishment becomes spectacle? Why does sympathy not require Huck to decide that they are innocent?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Huck pity people he knows have repeatedly harmed others?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.