

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY-MINNEAPOLIS

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Huck Finn

Story by
Mark Twain

Adapted for the Stage by
Greg Banks

Huck Finn was first presented by The Children's Theatre Company for the 2006-07 season.
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CAST

Actor 1: Huck Finn

Actor 2: Jim, Ben Rogers, Townsfolk 1, passenger 1, Bucks Ma, Buck's slave Jack, The Duke, The Widow (briefly), Aunt Sally

Actor 3: The Widow, Tom Sawyer, Pa, Townsfolk 2, Passenger 2, Dead man, Judith Loftus, The Fog, Huck's Conscience, Man in a skiff, The Steamboat, Buck Grangerford, The River, The King, Boy, Dog, Uncle.

MUSICIANS: Men in the woods, Men on the Bank, Dogs

Instrumentation: Accordion, Steel string guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Violin, Guitar, Harmonica, Dulcima, Drum (all played live on stage)

Having once entered, the actors and musicians remained on stage throughout the piece. Changing character with very minimal costume change. The set consisted of a series of platforms cascading down towards the audience, supported on metal poles, the feel was of a series of old wooden jetties piled up on the banks of the Mississippi. There was no attempt to be literal in the placing of scenes and there were very few props, many of the objects were mimed, sticks and planks took the place of guns and canoes/skiffs. Although changes of scene are marked in the script, the action should flow smoothly from one scene to the next. The narration allowing the audience to know where the characters are at any time. It is important that the narration is always fully engaged, emotionally and physically, and is always delivered in character.

The story starts on the bank of the river Mississippi. Musicians are playing up tempo 'bluegrass' on stage as the audience takes their seats. A short while before the piece starts, the music shifts and slows, Jim, in silhouette, drifts across the upstage area and begins to chop wood (silently). A little while later a man (*soon to become the Widow*) enters, drinks water out of a bucket with a ladle, and goes to sleep in the hot sun. Huck is mooching about on the river bank, tossing his hat onto poles, branches of trees, he eventually tosses it onto the head of the widow, who sleepily lifts it scratches her head, and fails to give it back to Huck, who steals it off of her head. (*He is playing in a low key way to the audience*)

Widow Hey! (*The piece starts*)

Scene 1 The Widow house

Huck (*Talking directly to the audience, as he does throughout much of the piece*) You don't know about me.

Widow What am I to do with you. (*She is talking to Huck who pays her no mind*)

Huck And anything you think you know probably ain't true

Widow Why do you insist on wearing those old rags.

Huck That is if you heard it from Tom Sawyer.

Widow Don't put your muddy feet up there! And don't scrunch up like that

Huck One thing is true for sure.

Widow Sit up straight

Huck Tom and me found the money the robbers hid in the cave. It made us rich we got \$6000 apiece. Yes sir!

Widow Will you just behave

Huck Judge Thatchers keeping it for me,

Widow Huckleberry Finn!

Huck Gives me a dollar a day

Widow Huckleberry Finn, you will be the death of me

Huck The widow here, took me in as her son, allowed she would sivilise me

Widow Read your bible today?

Huck Cos my pa ain't been seen in a year

Widow Have you even opened it

Huck But that's ok by me

Widow Where is your bible?

Huck Cos I don't want to see him no more.

Widow Huckleberry Finn. (*bangs the bible down on his head*)

Huck Every night she gets out her bible and learns me about Moses and the Bulrushers

Widow That's Bulrushes...no r.

Huck I was in a sweat to find out all about that Moses. But by and by she let out that Moses had been dead a considerable time. I don't care no more about Moses, because I don't take no stock in dead people

Widow You wicked boy,

Huck She cried over me, called me

Widow A poor lost lamb,

Huck Called me a lot of other names, too, but she never meant no harm by it.

Widow You don't behave you'll end up like your pa.

Huck I aint never gonna end up like my pa.

Widow Supper!

Huck Gotta go and get sivilised.

Widow Wait. (*the widow says grace*)

Huck The widow always has to grumble about the victuals before we can get to eating. Even tho' there wasn't much wrong with them. Every night after supper she'd call down her slaves and they'd have prayers and sing hymns (*They sing and Huck goes to smoke*).

Widow No smoking. It's a mean practice and not clean (*coughs and spits*).

Huck And then everybody was off to bed. I sat down in a chair by the window and tried to think of something cheerful. I felt so lone some I most wished I was dead. The wind was trying to whisper something to me, I couldn't make out what it was, it made the cold run shivers over me. I got so down hearted and scared I did wish I had some company.

Tom (*From somewhere in the dark*) Meeow. Meow, meow!

Huck Tom Sawyer!

Tom Sssh!

Jim Who dah? (*Jim is sitting in the dark loking at the moon*)

Huck (*To audience*) Jim, the widow's black slave

Tom Don't move, he ain't seen us.

Jim Who dah?

Huck There was a place on my ankle that got to itch

Tom Hold still

Jim Say who is you?

Tom Don't scratch it,

Jim Whar is you? Dog my cats ef I did'n hear sumf'n

Huck And then my ear began to itch;

Jim Well I knows what I's gwyne to do.

Huck And next my back,

Jim I's gwyne to set down here.

Huck Right between my shoulder blades.

Jim And listen tell I hears it agin. *(Jim sets down right between them)*

Huck My nose begun to itch. It itched till then tears come into my eyes. But I dasn't scratch it. I was itching in eleven different places now. I couldn't stand it more'n a minute longer.
(Jim snores)

Tom He's asleep. Huck, lets tie him to that tree

Huck He might wake up, and the widow'll find out I ain't in

*(Tom slips Jims hat off his head and hangs it on the branch of a tree).
(Jim wakes, feel for his hat, looks round suspiciously for it, spies it hanging nearby, he goes to fetch it, Huck unseen moves the hat with a stick, and then again)*

Jim Witches, I've been bewitched, the witches have bewitched me, put me in a trance

(Tom and Huck laughing overhear this)

Tom Listen to him, we scared him good

Jim Witches have bewitched me, rode me all over the state, set me back under the trees here, and hung my hat on a branch.

Tom You swear to keep a secret.

Huck Yeah

Tom Follow me.

Huck Then he was gone

Tom Come on *(Tom runs off/but not off stage)*

Huck *(Huck follows)* Out of the village

Tom Up to the edge of the hill. Down there, lights in the houses

Huck Can't see where they stop and the stars begin

Tom And there's the river

Huck More than a mile broad

Tom A million miles long. Race you down there

Huck Go! *(Tom flicks Huck's hat off his head)* Tom Sawyer! *(Picks up hat and chases after Tom)*

Scene 2 Banks of the Mississippi

Huck On the bank of the river. I met Tom's gang.

Tom *(as Jo Harper briefly)* Jo Harper

Ben Ben Rogers

Huck And two or three others I couldn't make out in the dark and neither can you

Tom Now we'll start this gang of robbers and call it Tom Sawyers gang. Everybody that wants to join has to take an oath. Everybody has to stick to the band and never tell any of the secrets, and if any boy does anything to any boy in the band, whichever boy is ordered to kill that boy and his

family must do it, and he musn't eat and he mustn't sleep till he has killed them and hacked a cross in their breasts which will be the sign of the band. And if anybody that belonged to the band told the secrets, he must have his throat cut, and then have his carcass burnt and his ashes scattered all around.

Ben That's a real beautiful oath. Do you make it up

Tom Some of it, rest came out of pirate books

Ben It's a good idea to kill the families of boys that told the secrets, but Huck Finn here aint got no family. What you gonna do about him?

Tom He ain't got a father?

Ben He's got a father, but you cant never find him these days

Tom You could kill the widow

Huck Yeah!

Ben Oh yeah she'll do, she'll do. Hucks in.

Tom Right that's settled. We all meet next week and rob somebody and kill some people.

Ben I can only get out Sundays

Tom We cant do it on Sunday, it would be a wicked thing to do it on Sunday.

Scene 3 The Ambush

Huck And so that Saturday,

Tom We slicked up our guns and swords

Huck Though they was only Lath and broomsticks, and lay in ambushade, that's Tom's word.

Tom Down there—a whole parcel of Spanish merchants and rich Arabs are

camping in cave hollow with two hundred elephants, six hundred camels, all loaded down with di'monds.

Ben When we got the signal,

Huck We rushed out of the woods

Ben And down the hill (*all charging and yelling*)

Huck But there weren't no Spaniards and Arabs,

Ben And there weren't no camels or elephants.

Huck It wasn't anything but a Sunday school picnic

Tom We busted it up, and chased the children

Ben But we never got anything but some doughnuts and jam

Huck I didn't see no Di'monds. It was just one of Tom Sawyer's lies. But I did see summat down there in cave hollow, summat I didn want to see. (*Tom Sawyer passes in front of Huck*) A footprint in the mud. Pa was back (*Tom becomes Pa*).

Scene 4 Pa's back.

Pa Starchy clothes. Very. You think you're a good deal of a big-bug now, don't you?

Huck Maybe I am. Maybe I aint

Pa Don't you give me none of your lip, You're educated, too, they say, can read and write. Who told you you might meddle with such hifalut'n foolishness, hey? - Who told you?

Huck The widow

Pa Well it ain't none of her business. Now looky here, you drop that school. Your mother couldn't read nor write before she died and I can't. First thing you know you'll get religion too. Swellin yourself up. They says your rich

now. \$6000! How's that?

Huck They lie that's how

Pa Mind how you talk to me. I've been in town two days, and I ain't heard nothing, but about you bein rich. You git me that money, I want it.

Huck I haint got no money

Pa It's a lie. You git it. I want it.

Hck I hain't got no money, I tell you. Ask Judge Thatcher.

Pa All right I'll ask him. How much you got in your pocket? I want it.

Huck I hain't only got a dollar, and I want that to.....

Pa It don't matter what you want it for- you just shell it out

Huck **(To audience)** He drank my dollar, but he never did get the rest of that money, but he got me. Watched out for me one day in the spring, caught me—

Pa C'mere!

Huck Took me up the river about a mile.

Pa Where it's woody and there ain't no houses but an old log hut in a place where the tree's so thick, the widow'll never find you. I'm gonna get me that money!

Huck He pretty much kept me locked up there, unless I was fetching and carrying stuff for him. And if I took too long...

Pa You asleep or drowned

Huck When his liquor began to work he most always went for the government.

Pa Oh this is a wonderful government, wonderful.

Huck I judged he'd be drunk in about an hour and then I'd try to escape.

Pa They let this slave go free. Free! Down in Ohio. He's a p'fessor in a college now, that ain't the worse, they say that slaves can vote, there's a state in this country where they'd let a black slave vote. I was just about to vote myself, if I weren't too drunk to get there. That just about lets me out, I'll never vote again. What is this country coming to? Tramp tramp they're coming for me (*Pa has been getting drunker and drunker, falls asleep Huck tries to creep up and steal the keys to the hut. Pa wakes up sees Huck*) get away from me, you aint taking my vote, get away.

Huck Pa grabbed a gun. (*a stick in the original production*)

Pa Or I will kill you

Huck Its me, Pa, its only me, Huck. (*pa laughs nasty and collapses*) By and by I got the gun, made sure it was loaded, laid it across the turnip barrel pointing towards pa, and set down behind it, to wait for him to stir. And how slow and still the time did drag.

Pa (**Pa wakes**) What you doin with that gun

Huck Somebody tried to get in so I was laying for him

Pa Why didn't you roust me out

Huck I tried to, but I couldn't, I couldn't budge you

Pa Well all right, don't stand there palavering all day, out with you, see if there's fish on the line.

Huck He unlocked the door. I cleared out up the river bank

Pa Another time a man comes a-prowling round here, you roust me out, you hear? That man warn't here for no good. I'd a shot him.

Huck I went up along the bank with one eye out for Pap.

Pa Next time you roust me out!

Huck And the other for what the river might throw up. All at once, here comes an old log raft and a canoe with no-one in it. Pa..(*goes to yell at Pa*). Then I had it. 'Stead of just takin to the woods when I try to escape I'd go down the river in the canoe and nobody, not pa nor the widow, would ever find me. I hid the canoe. (*An old plank was used as a canoe*) Hey Pap, there's a log raft floating down the river, nine logs fast together....we can drag em on shore, you can sell em in town.

Pa Let me see that.

Scene 5 The Escape

Huck He didn't wait till the next day that ain't pap's style. He locked me in and headed off. I waited till he had a good start, then out with a saw and went to work. Before he was t'other side of the river I made a good sized hole and was out of that log hut. (*The following is fast action for Huck observed in amazement by the other two actors as townfolk, most of the props were mimed.*)

Townfolk 1 Instead of just hot footin it, he stopped and cleaned out the place

Townfolk 2 Took a sack of corn meal

Huck Took it to where the canoe was hid.

Townfolk 1 Done the same with a side of bacon

Townfolk 2 Coffee, sugar

Huck All the ammunition.

Townfolk 2 He took fishlines, matches, everything that was worth a cent.

Huck Till the canoe was full to the brim

Townfolk 1 He cleaned out the place.

Huck I wanted an axe, but there wasn't any, only the one out at the woodpile, and I knowed why I was going to leave that.

Townfolk 1 Then, He fetched out the gun (*the stick*)

Townfolk 2 Blocked up the hole he had sawn

Townfolk 1 Covered his tracks to the canoe.

Huck Then I took the gun.....I was huntin around for some birds

Townfolk 1 When he sees a wild pig. (*Townfolk 2 becomes a pig.*)

Huck Bang (*Pig squeals*)

Pig Squeeee-ow!

Townfolk 1 Next he took the axe

Townfolk 2 And smashed in the door

Huck I beat it and and hacked it considerable.

Townfolk 1 Then he fetched the pig

Huck Hacked into his throat

Pig Not with the axe (*as the pig*)

Huck Laid him onto the ground to bleed

Townfolk 1 Then he took an old sack, and put a lot of rocks in it

Huck All I could drag

Townfolk 2 He started from the pig and dragged it out of the hut

Townfolk 1 Through the woods. Down to the river and dumped it in

Townfolk 2 Down it sank

Townfolk 2 Out of sight.

Huck I pulled out some of my hair

1/2 Ow!

Huck And blooded the axe good, stuck my hair on the backside and slung the axe in the corner.

Townfolk 1 Then he took up the pig

Townfolk 2 Now what?

Huck Held him to my breast. In my jacket. So he couldn't drip blood on me

Townfolk 1 And dumped him in the river.

Townfolk 2 When he heard a sound away over the water.....

Scene 6 The river

Huck Pa.....I didn't lose no time. The next minute I was spinning down stream soft but quick in the shade of the bank. I laid down in the bottom of the canoe, and let her float.

Jim *(Sung in the background)* ' floatin , floatin, floatin to freedom'

Huck The sky looks ever so deep when you lay down on your back in the moonshine.

Jim *(Sung)* 'far from the bank, drift in the darkness, freedom, freedom sings'

Huck I heard people talking at the ferry landing..... ,

Jim *(sung)* in the hot night air....floatin on the river

Huck Every word of it....after that, the talk got further and further awayI could hear the mumble; and now and then a laugh.....but it seemed a long way off.....and then I was asleep.

Jim *(Sung)* floatin on the river, swollen with dreams of desire

Scene 7 The Steamboat.

Passenger 1/2 Boom! Boom!

Huck Ferryboat full of people

Passenger 1/2 Boom!

Huck They was firing cannon over the water, trying to make my carcass come to the surface

Passenger 1/2 Boom!

Huck Most everybody was on that boat.

Passenger 2 Pap

Passenger 3 Judge Thatcher

Passenger 2 Bessie Thatcher

Huck Jo Harper,

Passenger 2 Tom Sawyer

Passenger 1 His Aunt Polly

Passenger 2 And plenty more.

Huck They was all talking about my murder

Passenger 2 A thief killed him with an axe

Passenger 1 Dumped him in the river.

Passenger 2 Took everything

passenger 1 Poor Huck

Huck Then the captain broke in

Passenger 2 Look sharp now. Maybe he's washed ashore on Jacksons island

Huck I held my breath

Passenger 1 Tangled amongst the brush at the waters edge.

Huck I could see them first rate but they couldn't see me.

Passenger 2 Stand away. Boom!!!

Huck If they'd have had bullets in that cannon, I'd a reckon they'd a got the corpse they was after. Pretty soon they gave up looking for me and went home. Towards sundown I set out a line to catch some fishby and by it got sort of lonesome. I set on the bank and listened to the river washing along and counted the stars and drift logs and rafts that come down.....and so, for three days and nights.

Scene 7 The Island

Huck But the next day exploring Jacksons Island, I bounded right on the ashes of a camp fire that was still smoking, and a man there, laid on the ground. The widow's slave, Jim.

Jim Doan hurt me-dont! I haint never done no harm to a ghos'. I awluz liked dead people, en done all I could for 'em.. You go and get in de river agen, whah you b'longs, en doan do nuff' to ole Jim, 'at 'uz awluz yo'fren.

Huck I aint dead, I never was. But I sure am glad to see you. Hey! Let's get breakfast. Make up your campfire good.

Jim Whats' de use er making up de camp fire to cok berries an such truck? But you got a gun, haint you? Den we kin git sumfin better den berries.

Huck Berries! Is that what you live on?

Jim I couldn' git nuffn else.

Huck How long you been on the island Jim?

Jim I come heah de night arter you's killed.

Huck And ain't you had nothing but berries?

Jim No sah-nuffn' else. I reck'n I could eat a hoss. But looky here Huck, who wuz it dat uz killed in dat shanty hut, ef it warn't you?

Huck Then I told him the whole thing. How I faked my murder, the dead pig, the bloody axe, the sack o rocks, the false trail.

Jim Tom Sawyer couldn't get up no better plan than what you had.

Huck How do you come to be on the island, Jim?

Jim You wouldn't tel on me ef I 'uz to tell you, would you, Huck?

Huck Blamed if I would , Jim.

Jim Well, I b'lieve you, Huck, I-I run off.

Huck Jim!

Jim But mind, you said you wouldn't tell.

Huck I said I wouldn't, and I'll stick to it. People would call me a low down abolitionist for helping a slave to run away—but that don't make no difference. I ain't a-going to tell, and I ain't a-going back there anyways. So now, le's know all about it.

Jim One night I hear de widder tell she gwyne to sell me down New Orleans, put me further from my family. She didn' want to, but she could git eight hund'd dollars for me.

Huck Such a big stack o' money I bet she couldn' resis'.

Jim I lit out mighty quick, hid in de ole tumbledown shack on de river bank. 'Bout six in de mawnin' people go by, they wuz talkin' 'bout how yo' pap comes over to de town en says you's killed. I uz powerful sorry you's killed, Huck, But I aint no mo' now. Well, when it come to dark I slip into the water en struck out fer de island.

Huck And you aint had no meat nor bread to eat all this time? Why didn't you get mud turkles?

Jim I warn't gwine to show myself on de bank in de daytime. Its going to rain, see dem birds, its a sign.

Huck I'm going to catch some of them

Jim No yo aint. Dat bring bad luck, same as if you count the things yo gwine to cook for dinner, same if you shook the tablecloth arter sundown.. Bad luck.

(Jim sings the following under Hucks words.)

Huck Later that day it did begin to rain

Jim *(sings) dem dark clouds is a boilin*

Huck And it rained like real fury too,

Jim *(sings) dem dark clouds is aboilin*

Huck And I never seen the wind blow so.

Jim *(sings) sendin down a torrent onto us*

Huck But we had already caught us some fish and found a big cave, up top of a hill.

Jim *(sings) and those clouds theys a callin theys a callin out to us*

Huck It got so dark that it looked all blue black outside. When it was just about the bluest and blackest-fst! It was as bright as glory, and you'd hear the thunder let go with an awful crash like rolling empty barrels downstairs.

Jim *(sings) that rains gonna fall down, washin us clean, sendin us on our way*

Huck Jim, this is real nice I wouldn't want to be nowhere else, but here.

Jim Well you wouldn't a ben here, 'f it hadn't a ben for Jim. You'd a ben down dah in de woods widout any dinner, en gittn' mos' drowned, too, dat you would , honey, chickens knows when it's gwyne to rain, en so do de ole birds.

Huck The river went on raising and raising for ten or twelve days.

Jim Water's three or four feet deep in the low places.

Huck One night we caught ourselves a raft

Jim It's gotta be twelve foot wide

Huck Sixteen foot long

Jim And a solid level floor.

Scene 8 The floating House

Huck Another night we was up at the head of the island. We didn't show ourselves in daylight.

Jim Here comes a frame house

Dead man *(During the following the actors gradually finds themselves in the position of the dead man.)* A two storied house,

Jim Just floating down the river!

Huck We paddled out in the canoe and got on the house. And then Jim clumb aboard the house, poked his head through a window.

Jim Lo's o' stuff in here, Huck

Dead man Heaps of greasy cards, old whiskey bottles. Men's clothing

Jim Scattered all over the floor

Dead Man A dirty old calico dress, sun bonnet,

Jim Broken lantern, candles, look like they bin having a party

Dead man (*By now actor is the man lying on the floor*) A man lying on the floor.

Jim Huck

Dead man Wrapped up in a blanket.

Jim Hey you!

Huck Is he asleep?

Dead man The man is not asleep

Jim You hold still-I'll go en see.

Dead man He's dead

Jim He's ben shot in the back. I reck'n he's ben dead two er three days. Les git out o' here.

Huck All around we made a pretty good haul from that house. How come that man died?

Jim Dont talk 'bout it. 'S bad luck. He might come back and haunt us, a man that ain't buried 's mo likely to to go a ha'nting around than one that was planted and comfortable.

Huck That sounded pretty reasonable, so I didn't say no more.
Well the days went along and the river went down between its banks again, it was getting slow and dull. I reckon I'm going to slip over the river and find out whats going on in town.

Scene 9 The house of Judith Loftus

Jim Bes' wait till dark, then look sharp. Alright go, but wha don' y'o put on some o' em ole cloth's and dress up like a girl, no-one'ld recognize you then(*Huck puts on dress with Jim's help*) Hitch up your trouser legs, (*puts on sun bonnet*) Yo' don' wa'k like a girl, quit pullin up yo' gown to get at yo'r britches pocket.

Huck There was a light burning in a little shanty that hadn't been lived in for a long time. I peeped in at the window. Now this was lucky, I was afraid people might know my voice and find me out. But this woman was new, she could tell me all I wanted to know.

Judith Come in. Take a cheer. What might your name be

Huck Sarah Williams

Judith Where 'bouts you live? In this neighbourhood?

Huck No'm. In Hookerville, seven mile below. My Mothers down sick and out of money and I come to tell my uncle, Abner Moore, he lives at the upper end of town. Do you know him?

Judith No, I don't. But, it's a considerable ways to the upper end of town. You better stay here tonight. Take off your bonnet.

Huck No. I'll rest awhile, I reckon, and go on. I ain't a'feared of the dark.

Judith My husband will be along in a while. He can go with you.

Huck Then she got to talking about her husband, but by and by she dropped onto pap and the murder. Who done it? We heard about it Hookerville. But we don't know who it was that killed Huck Finn.

Judith Some think his pa done it himself

Huck Is that so?

Judith He'll never know how close he come to being lynched. But night before they changed around and judged it were done by a runaway slave named Jim.

Huck Jim, why he.....I stopped. I reckon I had better keep still.

Judith He run off the very night Huck Finn was killed. There's a reward out for him, three hundred dollars. I saw smoke on Jackson island. Like as not he's hidin out there. My husbands gone to get a boat and a gun, then he's

going over to see, him and another man.

Huck I got so uneasy, I couldn't set still. I had to something with my hands. So I took up a needle and went to threading it. Three hundred dollars is a power of money. I wish my mother could get it.

Judith What did you say your name was, honey?

Huck M- Mary Williams.

Judith Honey, I thought you said Sarah when you first come in

Huck Oh yes'm I did. Sarah Mary Williams. Sarah's my first name.

Judith Oh that's the way of it.

Huck Yes'm.

Judith Hold still! Rat. Take this piece of lead, throw it hard. I can't do it no more. I wrenched my arm chasin that rat.

Huck That rat showed his nose, I let drive, if he'd a stayed where he was he'd have been a tolerable sick rat.

Judith Keep your eye on the rats, you better have the lead in your lap handy. (*She throws lead to Huck who catches it by clamping his legs shut.*) Come now whats your real name?

Huck Wh-what mum?

Judith What's your real name ? Is it Bill or Tom, or Bob or what is it?

Huck Please don't poke fun at a poor girl like me, mum. If I'm in the way here, I'll...

Judith I ain't going to hurt you, and I ain't going to tell on you. You just tell me your secret, and trust me.

Huck I told her everything. The whole truth. Kind of. Well my father and mother is dead, and I've been bound out to a mean old farmer in the

country.

Judith What's your real name, now?

Huck George Peters.

Judith Well try to remember it, George. You do a girl tolerable poor, but you might fool men. When you set out to thread a needle, don't hold the thread still and fetch the needle up to it. Hold the needle still and poke the thread at it, that's the way a woman does it. And when you throw, fetch your hand over your head as awkward as you can. Throw stiff armed from the shoulder, like a girl. Not from your wrist and elbow like a boy. And when a girl tries to catch anything in her lap, she'll throw her knees apart; she don't clap them together, the way you did when you caught the lump of lead. Now you trot along to your uncle, Sarah Mary Williams George Alexander Peters, and if you get into trouble you send word to Mrs. Judith Loftus, which is me, and I'll do what I can to get you out of it.

Scene 10 The fog

Huck I made it back to the raft as fast as I could. Jim! Git up Jim, we gotta go! He never asked no questions, never said a word; but the way he worked for the next half an hour showed how scared he was to be caught. By that time everything we had in the world was on our raft and she was ready to be shoved out.

Jim Nothin doin, no-one about. Le's go.

Huck First night on our raft we drifted between seven and eight hours. Caught fish, talked, took a swim now and then.

Jim *(Jim puts up a lantern)* Bes' light the lantern whenever we see a steamboat coming downstream, keep us from getting runover.

Huck Was kind of solemn, drifting

The fog Down the big still river

Huck Layed on our backs, looking up at the stars, we didn't ever feel like talking loud, and it warn't often that we laughed, only a little kind of low chuckle.

We had mighty good weather, as a general thing, and nothing ever happened to us at all, that night, nor the next, nor the next. Take it all around we lived pretty high.

Jim Three more nights gonna fetch us to Cairo. Then we can sell the raft and go way up the Ohio among the free States, and be out of trouble.

Huck But second night

The Fog The fog come in.

Jim Huck we got to tie up to the bank quick

Huck When I see that fog

The Fog Closing in

Jim Huck, we cant run in this

The Fog Currents too strong

Huck I couldn't budge for most half a minute

Jim Huck

Huck I jumped in the canoe and paddled ahead fast

Jim Huck, take this line, pass it round a tree

Huck There ain't nothing but saplings

Jim She's not holding

Huck The raft came booming down so lively she tore that sapling out by the roots.

Jim Hold on Huck

Huck And away she went, passed me and out.

The Fog Into the solid white fog.

Jim Huck

Huck And then there weren't no raft in sight. Nor no Jim. Jim! Jim! If you think it ain't dismal and lonesome out in a fog, by yourself, in the night, you try it once, you'll see. Jim. Jim! I laid down in the canoe. I didn't want to go to sleep, but I couldn't help it..... When I woke the stars was shinin bright, and the fog was all gone. I looked away downstream and seen a black speck on the water. It was the raft. Jim! I paddled back to the raft. And then I got an idea to play a trick on Jim.

(Jim is sitting with his head between his legs, looks pretty wrecked)

Huck Jim. Have I been asleep?

Jim Good gracious, is dat you, Huck? Leme look at you, chile, lemme feel o' you. No, you ain' dead! You's back agin, 'live en soun', jis de same ole Huck, de same ole Huck, thank goodness honey.

Huck You ben a'drinkin, Jim?

Jim Drinkin? Has I ben a drinkin? Has I had a chance to be a drinkin?

Huck Well, then, what makes you you talk so wild?

Jim How does I talk wild?

Huck Hain't you been talkin about my coming back, and all that stuff, as if I'd been gone away?

Jim Huck-Huck Finn, you look me in de eye; Haint you ben gon away?

Huck Gone away? Where would I go to?

Jim Looky here didn't de line pull loose, en de raf' go hummin down de river, en leave you en de canoe behine in de fog?

Huck Fog, what fog?

Jim Why de fog. De fog dats ben aroun all night. En didn't you whoop en didn't I whoop, En didn't I bust up agin a lot er dem islands, en have a turrible time en mos git drowned? Now aint dat so, boss, aint it so? You answer me dat.

Huck Jim. I aint seen no fog, nor no islands, nor nothing. I ben setting here talking with you all night till you went to sleep about ten minutes ago, and I reckon I done the same. You must've dreamt it all.

Jim Dad fetch it, how is I gwyne to dream all dat in ten minutes.

Huck Well, hang it all you did dream it, because there didn't any of it happen.
(Long Silence)

Jim Dog my cats ef it ain't de powerfulest dream I ever seen. En I hain't never had no dream that's tired me like dis one.

Huck Jim, If you dreamt it, why is there leaves and rubbish all over the raft, why is the oar smashed, what does it mean Jim, is that bad luck? Ha ha ha! Shoot—I tricked you good, Jim! You shore fell for that!

Jim What do dey stan' for? I's gwyne to tell you. When I got all wore out wid work, en wid de callin' for you, en went to sleep, my heart wuz mos broke becase you wuz los', en I didn' k'yer no mo' what become er me en de raf'. En when i wake up en fine you back agin, al safe en soun', de tears come eni could a got down on my knes en kiss you' foot I's so thankful. En all you wuz thinkin' 'bout wuz how you could make a fool uv ole Jim wid a lie. Dat talk dah is trash: en trash is what people is dat puts dirt on de head er day fren's en makes 'em ashamed.

Huck I didn't do him no more mean tricks, and I wouldn't done that one if I'd a known it would make him feel that way.

Scene 11 Conscience

Jim How we going to know when we get to Cairo

Huck Likely we wont, there ain't but a dozen houses there

Jim I is gwine to be mighty sure I see it because I am a free man the minute I

see that town. Miss it and I am in slave country again.

Huck It made Jim all over trembly and feverish to be so close to freedom.

Jim Dah she is?

Huck It made me all over trembly and feverish, too, because I began to get it through my head that he *was* almost free- and who was to blame for it? Why, me. I tried to make out to myself that I warn't to blame, I didn't run Jim off from his rightful owner, but it warn't no use, everytime conscience up and says...

Conscience You knowed he was running for his freedom, you could a paddled ashore and told somebody'.

Huck That was so- I couldn't gat around that, no way.

Conscience What the poor widow done to you, that you could see her slave go off right under your eyes and never say one single word?

Jim When I get to a free state.

Conscience What did that poor old woman do to you,

Jim I am gwine to save up some money.

Conscience How could you treat her so mean.

Jim When I get enough, I am going to buy back my wife,

Conscience The widow tried to sivilise you, tried to be good to you every way

Jim She's owned on a farm close to where the widow lives. And then we will both work to buy our two chillun, and if their master wont sell em, I am gwine to get an abolutionist to go and steal them.

Huck I was sorry to hear Jim say that, It was such a lowering of him. What a difference it made in him the minute he judged he was about to be free.

Conscience This is what comes of you not thinking.

Huck 'Let up on me. It ain't too late, yet. I know what I'll do, I'll paddle ashore, and tell on him.'

Jim Huck, we's safe! Jump up and crack yo' heels, dats de good ole Cairo at las, I jis know it is.

Huck I'll take the canoe and go and see, Jim.

Jim Pooty soon I'll be shoutin for joy, en I'll say, its all on account o' you Huck; I is a free man en I couldn't ever ben free ef it had'n ben for Huck. Huck don it. Jim wont ever forgit you, Huck.; You's de bes' fren' Jim's ever had.

Huck Here I was, paddling off in a sweat, to tell on him.

Jim Dah you goes, de ole Huck; de on'y white gentleman dat ever keep his promise to ole Jim.

Huck Right then, along comes a boat with a man in it holding a gun. Well I feel jus sick. But I got to do it-I cant get out of it. I have to tell on Jim.

Man in skiff What's that yonder?

Huck A raft.

Man in skiff You belong on it?

Huck Yes, sir.

Man in skiff Any men on it?

Huck Only one, sir.

Man in skiff Well, there's five slaves run off tonight. Is your man white or black?

Huck I wanted to answer prompt, but the words just wouldn't come, He's white

Man in skiff I reckon I'll go and see for myself

Huck I wish you would. Its pap that's there, he's sick, real sick. Maybe you'd

help me tow the raft ashore.

Man in skiff I'm in a hurry boy, but I spose I had better help you

Huck Pap'll be mighty obleeged to you. Everybody else goes away when I want them to help me and I can't do it by myself.

Man in skiff Say, boy, what's the matter with your father?

Huck It's the...a..well, it ain't anything much.

Man in skiff Boy, that's a lie. Answer up square, now, and it'll be the better for you.

Huck I will, sir, honest-but don't leave us, please. It's the-the-

Man in skiff Smallpox. Your pap's got the smallpox, and you know it. Why didn't you come out and say so?

Huck Well, I've told everybody before, and then they just went away and left us.

Man in skiff I am right down sorry for you, but, hang it, I don't want the smallpox.

Huck Goodbye sir.

Man in skiff You see any runaway's, you get help and nab them, and you can make some money by it.

Huck I won't let no runaway, get by me if I can help it. I knowed I'd done wrong lying to that man, but spose I'd a done right, given Jim up, I'd feel bad jus the way I do now. Well then what's the use of doing right, when it's troublesome, and it ain't no trouble to do wrong and the wages is just the same. Jim!

Jim Is dey out o' sight yit? Dat wuz de smartees' dodge! Tom Sawyer would have been proud of you. I tell you, chile, I 'spec it save' ole Jim-Ole Jim ain't gwyne to forgit you for dat, honey.

Huck That night we hove in sight of

Jim Lights of a town..... away down in the left hand bend.

Huck Hey, Mister! Is that town Cairo

Musician Cairo? No, you passed it way upsteam.

Huck Maybe we went by Cairo in the fog that night.

Jim Doan' less talk about it, Huck.

Huck It was all up with Cairo

Jim Po' Jim can't have no luck.

Huck Well, the night got gray and ruther thick,

Jim *(singing) Rode on that river*

Huck Which is the next meanest thing to fog.

Jim *(singing) Rode on that river*

Huck It got to be very late and still

Jim *(singing) Bad luck, bad luck gonna strike you down*
Hear that.