

# Racism in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

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## Abstract

Antagonism directed against someone of a different race loved on the belief that one's own race is superior is called racism. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* evaluates the racial discrimination. Black people at that time were defined as subhuman's and inferior. They were considered as immature, irresponsible unintelligent, physically strong. Many were looked as ignorant because of their superstitious belief in witchcraft. Twain has depicted this in this novel. A racial hypocrisy was mostly a lower class phenomenon Human born in this world are equal before the moral values . they must be separated and treated well through they are dark in colour. Many darks are white by heart. This article shows the racial discrimination of Black in the adventures of *Huckleberry Finn* and highlights the moral values to everyone.

**Keywords:** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Racism, Discrimination, Loss of identity, Slave, Equality.

Racism - the belief that some races of people are better than others; unfair ways of treating people that show racism. Life is full of dilemmas, and doing the right thing is rarely easy. In the novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain examines racism in the antebellum south and describes the protagonist Huck's struggle against it. There is some main character that brings the theme of racism in this novel.

**Huckleberry Finn:** He is homeless boy who lives in fictional town of St. Peterburg Missouri, on the Mississippi River. His mother is dead and his father whom, he calls Pap has abandoned him. Huck becomes wealthy when he finds treasure in caves. He is adopted by a rich woman, the widow Douglas, but his father returns to town and kidnaps him. Huck escapes from his father and decides to flee the area. Jim is a slave owned by the widow Douglas's sister Miss Watson. Jim learns that she is considering selling him down the river to New Orleans, where he will plantation owners . He escapes from St. Petersburg as Huck is making his own escape, and the two of them up.

**Unsympathetic Racist Characters:** Miss Watson, as a member of the wealthy, aristocratic class in St. Peter's burg, Miss Watson takes pride in her Christian values. However,

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she is also a slave- owner. Not only does she keep the long suffering Jim down the river to New Orleans, slaves are often literally worked to death in the harsh environment of the Pap south's cotton plantations. So being sold down the river Jim clearly, Miss Watson fails to live up to Christian ideals of kindness and mercy the novel is set in a time and place in which racism is widely accepted, and many of the even more sympathetic characters make racist remarks at one time or another. However, it is notable that the most virulently racist character in the novel's greatest villain. Pap has been beaten and neglected thick throughout Huck's life, and Pap returns to Huck has become wealthy. While holding Huck captive in a cabin outside town, Pap goes on a long, bitterly racist diatribe in which he complains that some states in the North even allow Afro-American man in St. Petersburg who core far finer clothing that Pap. Pap was particularly outraged to learn that the man was a college professor who could read and write, unlike Pap, who is literate.

Mrs. Loftus is a white woman who Huck meets when he returns to St. Petersburg disguised as a girl. She is a kindly person who remains magnanimous towards Huck even after seeing through his disguise and comforting him about it. She assumes that Huck must have a good reason for concerning his identity Mrs. Loftus wishes to see the best in people; her benevolence far exceeds the convection of hospitality that would be expected of a person in her position. Nevertheless, Mrs. Loftus is uncompromising in her zeal to capture Jim and claim the three hundred dollar reward offered for his return to his owner. She has observed smoke from a campfire on the island where Jim and Huck are living, and she intends to see her husband to the island to try to capture him she is so congressed in thing about the reward money that she willfully ignores the suffering Jim would experience were he to be recaptured, he would be hugged and sold down the river. None of these certainties matters to Mrs. Loftus; she sees Jim only as a source of money. The racism of the culture in which she lives has blinded her to Jim's humanity.

Although Twain wrote Huckleberry Finn two decades after the Emancipation proclamation and the end of the civil war, America and especially the south – was still struggling with racism and the themes of slavery. By the early 1880's, Reconstruction, the plan to put the united states back together after the war and Integrate freed slaves into slaves into society, had hit shaky ground, although it had not yet failed outright. As Twain worked on his novel, race relations which seemed to be on a positive path in the years following civil war. Once again became strained. The importance of Jim Crow laws, designed to limit the power of blacks in the south in a variety of indirect ways brought the beginning of a new insidious effort to oppress. The new racism of the south less institutionalized and monolithic. In this novel, Twain express the hypocrisy of slavery, demonstrates how racism distorts the oppressors as much as it does those who are oppressed the result is a world of moral confusion in which seemingly 'good' white

people such as Miss Watson and Sally Phelps express concern about the injustice of slavery or the cruelty of separating Jim from his family.

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