

# The Chrestomathy

## *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

### Unit Specifics

Explanation: This sheet will need to accompany the Table of Contents for *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* unit. On it are the specific words and topics the student will need to be able to complete various parts of the chrestomathy. The student will need to check the option they chose and fill in the test scores in the box at the bottom. When completed, this will be the second page of the chrestomathy.

#### Word Quest Words

- ascend
- bogus
- brash
- careened
- cavorting
- commence
- contrite
- crockery
- cypher
- delirium tremens
- dismal
- gaudy
- histrionic
- impair
- impudent
- infernal
- ingots
- inscription
- insurrection
- lineal
- mesmerism
- obituary
- oracle
- passel
- pensive
- phrenology
- pivot
- providence
- pulpit
- rapscallion
- reticule
- shrivel
- singular
- soliloquy
- specimen
- speculate
- sublime
- tedious
- temperance
- tolerable

#### Persuasive Topics

- Is *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* a racist book? Consider carefully its controversial past and prove why or why not.
- Some critics claim that Jim is Huck's "true father." Defend or refute this statement.

#### Response to Literature Topics

- Huck Finn's final words in the book describe his feelings toward being "sivilized." Write an essay in which you discuss Huck's reasons for rejecting civilization.
- Superstition is important in this book. Choose three of the superstitions in the novel, explain what they are and how they affected the story. Use evidence from the novel to prove that the characters did something different because of their superstitious belief.
- When enough people come to feel that a law is morally wrong they will begin to work to change it. Huck struggles with his conscience many times in this book. He has been raised to believe that slavery is right and that helping a slave to escape is the lowest thing a person can do. He considers himself a bad person for helping Jim, but decides to do it anyway. We've seen in the book that just because something is legal does not always make it right. Give a modern example of a law you feel is morally wrong. Compare this modern legal problem to Huck and Jim's situation. What is similar, what is different?
- As a way of illustrating his theme, Twain deliberately sets certain events with Huck and Jim on the river and others on the shore. Compare and contrast the major events on the river with those on the shore. Why do you think he makes the choices he does? How do these choices reinforce his theme?
- Compare Huck and Tom. These two boys appear together at the beginning and the end of the novel. Be sure to clearly state whether you find them to be mostly similar or mostly different. Consider that Huck may have changed as a result of his time spent with Jim. How does this affect his similarity to or difference from Tom?

#### Reflective Topics

- Do you have any close family members who are "chosen" meaning that they are not *real* relatives per se, but have -for whatever reason- become part of your family? How do you regard them? Are families only about blood, or can we choose a family equally strong? Tell a story about a non-blood relative and reflect on how this relationship is important in your life.
- Think about a time when you have had to tell a lie in order to do the right thing. If you had to lie to accomplish your goal, how did you know you were *right*? Tell a story of a time when you told the *good* lie and reflect on how this event is important in your life.

#### Benchmark Test Scores

Record, in the spaces below, the score you received on the various parts of the benchmark tests we took during this unit. Keep these scores as you will need to record them in subsequent chrestomathies.

Benchmark Assessment #1 \_\_\_\_\_ of 10      Benchmark Assessment #3 \_\_\_\_\_ of 10  
 Benchmark Assessment #2 \_\_\_\_\_ of 10      Benchmark Assessment #4 \_\_\_\_\_ of 10