

Huckleberry Finn

This task is about reading to find information and make inferences from a text.

Here is an extract from "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", an American story written by Mark Twain and published in 1884.

Read the extract from 'Huckleberry Finn' to complete the tasks.

Huckleberry Finn

Shortly Tom came upon the young outcast of the village, Huckleberry Finn, son of the town drunkard. Huckleberry was sincerely hated and dreaded by all the mothers of the town because he was lazy, and lawless, and vulgar, and bad – and because all their children admired him so, and delighted in his forbidden company and wished they dared to be like him. Tom was like the rest of the respectable boys in that he was jealous of Huckleberry's free and colourful life, and was under strict orders not to play with him. So he played with him every time he got a chance.

Huckleberry was always dressed in the tattered cast-off clothes of full-grown men. His hat was in a shocking condition, with a wide crescent chopped out of its brim; his coat, when he wore one, hung nearly to his heels, and had the rearward buttons far down the back; only one knotted suspender held up his trousers; the seat of the trousers bagged low and contained nothing; the ragged legs dragged in the dirt when not rolled up.

Huckleberry came and went of his own free will. He slept on verandahs in fine weather, and in empty barrels in wet; he did not have to go to school or to church, or call anyone master, or obey anybody: he could go fishing or swimming when and where he chose, and stay as long as it suited him; nobody forbade him to fight; he could sit up as late as he pleased; he was always the first boy that went barefoot in the spring and the last to resume wearing boots in the autumn; he never had to wash, nor put on clean clothes; he could swear wonderfully. In a word, everything that goes to make life precious and exciting, that boy had. So thought every hampered, respectable boy in St. Petersburg.

a) When it rained, where did Huckleberry sleep?

b) When did Huckleberry wear his boots?

c) The author makes **all** the things that Huckleberry wears seem ridiculous EXCEPT his

boots

hat

trousers

coat

d) The author gives **most** emphasis to Huckleberry's

adventurousness

laziness

mischief-making

lawlessness

freedom

e) Where did the clothes Huckleberry wore come from?

- Men who had thrown them away.
- Sympathetic villagers gave them to
- He stole them.
- Other boys who no longer wore them.
- They were clothes that once belonged to his father.

f) From the story we can tell that Tom thought Huckleberry was

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> amusing | <input type="radio"/> lazy |
| <input type="radio"/> lucky | <input type="radio"/> popular |
| <input type="radio"/> disgraceful | |

g) What was the **main** reason the town mothers' did not like Huckleberry?

- He did not go to school or church.
- He might influence their children.
- He did not do as they told him.
- He fought and swore a lot.

h) The purpose of the **last** paragraph is to

- show why the respectable St Petersburg villagers hated Huckleberry.
- describe Huckleberry's way of life.
- explain Huckleberry's background and upbringing.
- describe Huckleberry's appearance.
- summarise everything that was different and exciting about Huckleberry.