

Huck Finn - QUOTE ANALYSIS

The passage I chose is on pg 222.

CHAPTER AUTHOR TITLE

In chapter 34 in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huckleberry Finn has decided to break Jim out of the Phelps's shed, and has asked Tom Sawyer to not tell anyone about it. Tom

surprises Huck by not only agreeing to keep mum, but also to help break Jim out. In the passage, Huck expresses his shock that Tom would be willing to break the social and political laws of society to help

free a slave because he is from a respectable family. Huck cannot understand why someone so "well brought up" who had "a character to lose" would risk losing his social acceptance in a white, protestant society where respectability meant everything (222). Tom's participation in the breakout will even endanger his "folks at home that had characters" (222). Huck tries to save Tom from this disgrace by

telling him to "quit it," but Tom insists on helping. This passage illustrates how Huck's role as an

objective observer is made possible by his separation from the society he lives in. Because he is not well off and has little status, he does not hold himself to the same social standards that other members of society are expected to follow. He is able to see the flaws and hypocrisy of Southern society, and has come to reject the society in preference of the freedom of living on the raft. Still, he is reluctant to let

someone like Tom, who is already established in society, throw it all away. Twain uses this passage to

show how society can be a blinding factor. Through Huck's surprise at Tom's willingness to help, Twain

shows how unexpected it was for members of society to do the morally right thing because they have

been trained by their society to do the expected, and sometimes morally wrong, thing. Twain uses Huck

Finn, a social outcast and objective observer to show that class helps define the people in that class and their actions.

Good
Set
up

GOOD
CITES

GOOD
READ

Very
well
stated

CONTEXT

POINT

Good
Quote

Overall
POINT

Huck Finn —

CHARACTER SKETCH

Her children will never be beaten. Not in the academic world, not in the musical world, not in

the professional world. Maybe in the sports world, but she never did place much importance in punting

Good
Simile

MOTIVATION | a ball around like a barbarian. What her children want to do is of little to no importance. She will soon

SIMILE
convince them of the folly in their childish dreams, and sensibility and practicality of hers. She wants

them to be the greatest, and no sacrifice is too great, no expense too much, to stop her from achieving

this goal. And so the children work. And work, and work, and work. They work under the hypercritical

BEHAVIORS | gaze of their mother whose hands on hips and cold, uncaring eyes tell them that they are still not good

Nice
Bookish
Language

enough. They work even away from their mother, clinging to the hope that if they work hard enough,

they might be able to please her someday. She is unaffectionate, hugs and kisses are formal and few and

far between. They will have my love, she claims, when they have done something to make me proud,

while scoffing at parents who allow their children to wallow in the great evil of "average." In time, the

children's work begins to pay off; the rest of the world recognizes their talent and ability. But it is still

not good enough, the mother declares. Anyone can be great, but you must be the greatest. With a

SIMILE
disappointed head shake, she is as encouraging as a statue. But, she tells them, this is all for you. I

MOTIVATION | always wanted to do this, but never got to. So, you will do it instead. She is hungry; hungry for the glory

GOOD
FINAL
PUNTING.

and fame she could never achieve for herself. If her children can achieve the glory, that will almost,

almost be good enough.

GOOD
SYNTAX