

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Theme Identification Activity

Directions:

Step 1: Before you begin the novel, read through the theme descriptions below. Notice the corresponding letter in front of each theme. As you read and notice the presence of a particular theme in the novel, write the letter which represents the identified them in the appropriate location IN THE BOOK'S MARGIN.

Step 2: After completing the novel, review the theme identification you made in the book. Select what you believe are the strongest two examples per theme and record them in the space provided here.

A. Appearance vs. Reality (Irony)

There are moments in the novel when we are surprised as readers as we discover something that was in fact unexpected. This happens because we have been lead to see and believe in a particular appearance of the way someone or something is. However, we experience shock at learning the real nature of a person or situation.

Example #1-

Example #2-

B. Passage from Youth to Maturity (Rite of Passage)

This novel show's the process of how Huck Finn matures. As the main character, Huck changes, both intellectually and morally, through his experiences in the story.

Example #1-

Example #2-

C. Man's Obsession with Material Wealth (Greed)

Certain characters exhibit greediness throughout the novel. Their thoughts and/or actions show that they have an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what one is needs or deserves.

Example #1-

Example #2-

D. Man's Inhumanity to Man (Man vs. Man)

The novel contains many examples of the man vs. man conflict when people clearly demonstrate cruelty toward one another. In this way inhumanity is shown. Individuals' behaviors reveal that they lack compassion or consideration for others.

Example #1-

Example #2-