

Huckleberry Finn Responses

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1 Rant About Huck by Pap

Ah'm sure that Huck be th' worst son th'r ever were. He hain't got no respec' fer his pap, an' what's a chile' without that? Ah'm very dis'pointed in th' boy.

What more, he been livin' rich, an' he hain't given me no money fer mah whisky, th' villain. I raised 'm up bah hand, an' he hain't got no gratitude for his ol' pap. What o' that? I been a right good pap for him.

He be gettin' educated! He's breakin' a long tradition in ou' fam'ly! He' c'n read! Why 'n hev'n o' hell would he want t' read? There ain't no reas'n t' read, is thah? The blamed books'll be th' downfall of our fam'ly! He be mah only son, 'n' if that blamed widow keeps him 'round, next I know he'll be gettin' religion! An' all without givin' his po' pap some whisky.

2 Why are the Grangerfords Stylish and Grand?

Huck thinks the Grangerfords are stylish and grand because they fit his notion of what aristocrats should look like. They are rich. They make this fact obvious in their style of dress, their way of life, and the property they own. Huck feels that aristocrats should look rich, and that looking rich is looking stylish.

The Grangerfords dress this way in order to elicit exactly this result. After all, what's the point of being rich if you can't show it off?

Huck does not see through this shallow attempt at greatness because of his background. If Huck lived rich, or had spent more time with the rich, it is likely that he would find the Grangerfords significantly less grand.

Huck also believes what various people say about birth: Being well-born is worth as much in people as in horses.