

Huck Finn Essays

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In the book Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain deals with three different themes throughout the story. He uses these themes to show you the growth and development not only in a young boy in but also society as a whole. The themes shown all through this book include: conflict between society and individuals, Huck's death and rebirth, and loneliness and isolation.

Conflict between society and individuals, was something that could be found anywhere in this story. One situation that comes to the mind right away is the way that everyone looked upon the African Americans as a whole. At the beginning of this story Huck and Tom Sawyer decided to play a trick on Jim, (who happens to be a slave) and use Jim's strong belief in superstitions against him. They decided to tie him up and tell him that witches came, all the while both children are laughing at what they had done to this "stupid" slave. Another thing that comes to my mind is just the fact that Huck had to lie everywhere they went in order for Jim not to be taken away and sent back to Miss Watson. Even until the end Huck was lying to society to keep Jim with him and get him to freedom. Those two examples, best illustrate the conflict between society and individuals in this story.

The death and rebirth of Huck is another theme that is shown in this book. Through the entire book Huck grows not only physically but mentally as well. I think the death that Twain was showing was in the beginning of the story when Huck seemed to be

so unhappy and things only got worse for him. After being unhappy but grateful for Miss Watson and Widow Douglas, Huck is taken away and goes to live with his father. The way that his father treated him when they were together was horrible and Huck might have been better off dead. I think that is where Huck died on the inside, he lost hope of ever getting away for his Pap. I think his rebirth was when he was on his journey, the minute he got away was when his rebirth began. On this trip he would not only learn to fend for himself but also, he would become a new person completely. Huck's death and rebirth was an important theme in this book.

Loneliness and isolation is the third theme of this book, and one in which I feel is hard to find inner mix in the story. The loneliness I feel that is shown in this book would be Huck's overall feeling about live. His father was a drunk and he had to be taken in by a new family. I think that when Huck is with his Pap in the cabin is when the loneliness is the strongest for Huck. Day in and day out he was left all alone and locked in a cabin, and sometimes he was locked up for days, only to find his Pap would come home drunk and usually became abusive to his son. Isolation I think is a little bit harder to find in this book, I guess the one situation that sticks out most in my mind right now would be all the times when Jim was left by himself, waiting for Huck to come back. I think that, even though it was never really said, that Jim had to have felt isolated by his color. Because of this he would have to stay behind on their raft, while Huck went out into the towns. There is no doubt in my mind that he didn't feel this isolation and wish he could change it or do something about it. Although not as strong of a theme as the first two, I still can see this theme in Huckleberry Finn.

After reading this book I feel that Mark Twain was concerned with these issues because they were important issues of the time of this book. The isolation, and conflict that there was for blacks, I think was big deal to Twain, not only because they were important at the time, but because it was something that was not right and should have never taken place. I think he wants us to see the wrong in doing such things in hopes that we can change what will happen in the future and not to have history repeat itself. I think that Huck's death and rebirth is important because he was showing how Huck changed his views on life and the people around him for the better. I think that the loneliness also ties in with isolation and conflict because it was also something that was felt by most blacks and once again was something that should not have taken place. This is why I feel that Mark Twain chose these themes for his book.

Overall I think that Twain, showed his themes throughout this book wonderfully. He got his point across and somehow ended up with a great adventure story.