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Huck Finn: Out-Of-Class Paper

Huckleberry Finn is considered to be one of our literature's great comic novels; yet many of the events are not funny at all. Some events are even horrifying. Compared to a novel that was meant to be comical as opposed to this tragic, I believe the author imposed irony for better enjoyment.

Within chapter five, a section on how Pa does not want Huck to learn to read, nether the less even go near a school is quite odd. We would like to think that all parents are looking out for their children and want what is best for them. In this case, not only does Pa not want his son to read, but when he realizes that he knows how, forbids and scolds him for going near a school. Compared to a comic relief, you would expect the idea of wanting what is best for your child to be a cliché; but in this case I believe the author is using irony to cover it up. Maybe in fact Pa does want what is best for Huck, it is just he does not know how to express it and can only go by what he knows how to do. To cover up his emotions and show only the opposite of the truth.

The reason for a story such as this to be written in a comical tone, was probably because the author, Mark Twain, felt it would be better to understand and digest if it were to be seen and heard in a funny tone. Things found to bring laughter seems to be enjoyed my most everyone. So just like funny songs,

television shows, and movies; the author probably felt that this story would be more enjoyed if the writing technique were to be funny and different than what was normally expected.

Another example of a tragic incident turned funny would have to be in chapter twenty-one. The Colonel decides to kill a man named Boggs, whom he does not even know. Boggs is a drunk who tends to insult everyone. It just so happens this day he decides to insult the Colonel. The Colonel tells Boggs he will only put up with the insults until one o'clock that afternoon and if another word should come from Boggs' mouth then he would kill him. Sure enough Boggs was killed by the Colonel on the spot. Boggs' daughter comes out and tries to save her father, but fails. Humor is used to portray death this time. The reason for this was to make people see and realize that death does not always have to be a sad serious issue. Although the situation in the story was un called for, the author meant it to bring laughter and at the same time send a message and make it easier for people to read without feeling such guilt. Yet at the same time enjoy the story for the humor and laughs it brought.

Issues and situations mentions with in the story, I do not think were meant to disrespect anyone or anything. The way it was written was not meant to mock the tragic incidents, but to merely bring it out in a new perspective. The purpose for using humor was to make it light but at the same time make it enjoyable and more interesting for readers and an audience to enjoy.