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**Faculty of Arts and Philosophy**

**Good and Bad Lies in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by  
Mark Twain**

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## ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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### Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Úvodní části by měly následovat základní bibliografické údaje o Marku Twainovi a jeho nejdůležitější díla, zvláště v sociálním a historickém kontextu Dobrodružství Huckleberryho Finna. Termín „lež“ by měl být definován v etickém a náboženském kontextu dle specifických autorů nebo specifických děl (např. Bible). Příkladem vybraných epizod z Dobrodružství Huckleberryho Finna by měla autorka popsat a kategorizovat užití lži nejrůznějšími postavami z románu. Dále by měla nastínit lež z „pocitivých“ a „nepocitivých“ úmyslů, stejně tak jako zamýšlené i nezamýšlené důsledky falešného jednání. Nakonec autorka bakalářské práce shrne Twainovo užívání klamání v díle, s možností začlenění hraničních principů a postojů vyjádřených Twainem prostřednictvím některých specifických událostí

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## **Abstract**

This Bachelor Thesis deals with the identification and description of lies in the novel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain. The beginning discusses the definition of a lie from a dictionary and from the Bible. Then an example from the Bible is used to confirm that even in such a sacred thing as the Bible, lies are in the stories therefore, displaying that lies can be found anywhere. The thesis goes on to identify the various lies that appear in the novel. Each lie has an explanation to the situation at hand and explains the situation the character of the lie is in. There is emphasis on the main character Huckleberry Finn, who throughout the entire novel provides many insights, opinions and contemplations on scenarios and situations in the story. Along with the lies, there is some analysis of the characters that appear during Huck's adventure. Towards the end of the paper, the lies are categorized into vicious, childish, innocuous and noble. The main focus of this Bachelor Thesis is to state if all lies are considered bad, why are some meant well, why do some help others or hurt them and if they have positive outcomes.

**Key words:** Huckleberry Finn, lies, Jim, Duke and Dauphin, noble, vicious, innocuous, childish

## **Abstrakt**

Tato práce se zabývá identifikací a popisem lží v románu Dobrodružství Huckleberryho Finna od Marka Twaina. Úvod práce se zabývá definicí lži ze slovníku a z Bible. Poté je příklad z Bible používán jako důkaz toho, že v takové posvátné literatuře jako je Bible, se objeví i lež v různých povídkách. To dokazuje, že lži se opravdu mohou najít všude. Práce pokračuje s popisem různých lží, které se vyskytují v této knize. Každá lež je vysvětlena v té konkrétní situaci, která se v knize vyskytuje a popisuje postavy s nimiž lež přímo souvisí. Důraz je kladen na hlavní postavu Huckleberryho Finna, který poskytuje mnoho pohledů, názorů a úvah v různých scénách a situacích v příběhu. Spolu se lží je v této práci přítomna i stručná analýza postav, které se vyskytují v Huckově dobrodružství. Ke konci práce, jsou lži tříděny do skupin: zlomyslných, dětinských, neškodných a ušlechtilých. Hlavní pozornost této práce je kladena na to, jestli všechny lži jsou považovány za špatné, proč jsou některé s dobrým úmyslem, některé někomu pomohou nebo naopak ublíží a jestli mají kladný výsledek.

**Klíčová slova:** Huckleberry Finn, lži, Jim, vévoda, nejstarší syn královský, zlomyslné, dětinské, neškodné, ušlechtilé

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The definition of a *lie* from a dictionary

While the definition of the word *lie* varies from dictionary to dictionary, overall the wording and meanings are the same. Each source basically states that a lie is a negative thing. A lie can be defined in many different ways, from prevarication and falsehood to deception and myth. In dictionary.com the definition states: “A false statement made with deliberate attempt to deceive; an intentional untruth; a falsehood.”

Today’s society considers that a lie is bad. That might be true in some cases like in the case of George Washington as a young boy and his cherry tree. Washington had killed his father’s cherished cherry tree and when the father wanted to know who was responsible Washington confessed. "I cannot tell a lie, father, you know I cannot tell a lie! I did cut it with my little hatchet." (Weems) His father responded "My son, that you should not be afraid to tell the truth is more to me than a thousand trees! Yes - though they were blossomed with silver and had leaves of the purest gold!" (Weems) This is an example where telling the truth had a positive outcome and hurt no one, but this paper will prove that in many cases lies are spoken to save someone or are meant well. It seems that lying and lies appear everywhere. For example in John Fallis’s “What is Lying?” he states that “we usually know when the norm “Drive on the right side of the road” is in effect (e.g., on a city street) and when it is not (e.g., at a demolition derby). We typically rebuke people who violate the norm, but we recognize that such violations are sometimes excusable (e.g., when a person or a big rock is lying in the road) (Fallis)

Fallis shows that society excuses variations from the norm in certain circumstances. He also uses an example where “if a man introduces himself as the ‘Prince of Denmark’ in order to impress someone, the man should not say what he believes to be false. But if the man is in a play and being a prince is his role, then he is not lying when he uses a line from his role that he is the ‘Prince of Denmark.’ The definition gives the intuitively correct result that this is not a lie.” (Fallis)

Lies play a major role in fictional characters and in daily lives of humans. Whether humanity likes this or not, lying seems to be a human trait. Examples of different kinds of lying and lies can be found not only in the Bible and *The Adventures*

of *Huckleberry Finn*, but also in classical and everyday literature, as well as in the lives of many people.

## 1.2 The definition of a *lie* from the Bible

Another source that can be used is the Bible. Whether Twain was a firm believer or not, has been a huge discussion through the years and still hasn't been answered. We can only view in many of his works the hidden meanings or messages that are disguised between the lines. One Twain scholar, Michael Kiskis, made a comment about this debate saying, "The notion of compassion is one (Twain) wants to believe in and the problem he has is sometimes the works of God aren't entirely compassionate. Not upfront-why do bad things happen to good people."(Latona) Since it is unclear exactly what Twain believed, many people speculate he used *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to ridicule religion. However, there are some sources that say he was religious and that this novel and the character of Huckleberry Finn are signs that he was a believer. Yet, to many there is evidence that he was trying to point out the imperfection of Christianity. He had to be very careful though, because during the time period he wrote the novel, people were still religious even though doubt was beginning to settle in. Gregg Camfield Ph.D. of the University of California said: "At the center of this (the time period) is a doctrinal struggle over the core of Christianity, a doctrinal struggle that had been waged for centuries, but that was particularly hot during Twain's childhood as the second Great Awakening spread into the Mississippi Valley." (Religion and Culture) The Philosophy Blog will explain the term the second Great Awakening:

"The Second Great Awakening was a significant religious movement in the history of Christianity and Christian faith and ideologies. This period of religious revival spanned from 1790 till a significant part of the 1840s. These phenomena closely followed on the heels of the First Great Awakening that took place during the time when most of America was under colonial rule. This movement resulted in the conversion of a huge chunk of the American populace to Christianity as a result of heightened church activities and increase in a general fervor for social activism." (Philosophy Blog)

Since the novel was published in 1884, the views of religion were still various and he didn't want to state his exact opinion so he "beat around the bush" and just used

characters in the novel to convey his possible beliefs. For example, when Huck talks about the Widow who took Huck to “civilize” him, he refers to the biblical character Moses and how he doesn’t really believe in him.

“After supper she got out her book and learned me about Moses and the Bulrushers, and I was in a sweat to find out all about him; but by and by she let it out that Moses had been dead a considerable long time; so then I didn’t care no more about him, because I don’t take no stock in dead people. (pg 2)

Throughout the entire novel, Huck thinks about what the Widow Douglas tries to drill into him about religion. He doesn’t seem to understand why if he is to believe, things that he prays for don’t happen.

“I says to myself, if a body can get anything they pray for, why don’t Deacon Winn get back the money he lost on pork? Why can’t the widow get back her silver snuff-box that was stole? Why can’t Miss Watson fat up? No, says I to myself there ain’t nothing in it.” (pg 14)

Huck always questions the things he was taught and always compares the morally right thing to do to the correct thing to do by the Bible. He usually dwells on what he sees as the ridiculousness of stories and sayings from the Bible relating them to his own life. Using the quote above he sees that for example the Deacon can pray all he wants and yet his money will not be returned, so Huck doesn’t see any point in even having hope in prayer. It is understandable, because when a child doesn’t see results after he is told that everything will be all right if he does things “by the book,” he will begin to have doubts.

“There are few children even at the beginning of public school life who need much help in distinguishing between unintentional and premeditated wrong statements, and yet a little aid in so doing, if given with proper illustrations and tact, is almost sure to be serviceable in developing a healthful moral consciousness. Of this state we desire more records of cases with details illustrative of cause and cure, etc.” (Children’s Lies)

Huck didn’t have a guide to tell him what was right and wrong so he chose whatever he concluded to be the best solution after much contemplation of many issues.

Twain goes on to criticize the church pretty harshly, that the church wasn’t sacred enough to be locked and that pigs were just there;

“ So I slid out and slipped off up the road, and there warn’t anybody at the church, except maybe a hog or two, for there warn’t any lock on the door, and hogs likes a puncheon floor in summer-time because it’s cool. If you notice most folks don’t go to church only when they’ve got to; but a hog is different.” (pg 140)

Since religion is a huge factor in this book, we can look to the Bible as a source of literature to find a definition. Later on, it will also be pointed out that Twain used Biblical stories as parallels to the fate of the characters and how they would act in the book. The topic of religion would spark a much wider issue than what this paper is trying to deal with. Therefore, the Bible is mentioned to point out and strengthen the discussion about lies. The Easton’s 1897 Bible Dictionary simply states that a lie is “an intentional violation of the truth.”

### **1.3 An Example of a *lie* in the Bible**

Continuing on, the definition also states that even though lies are condemned in the Scripture, there are quite a few examples of the characters purposely lying in the stories of the Bible. For this paper the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* version of the Bible will be used. For example, in Genesis 37 there is the story of Jacob and his twelve sons. Eleven of the sons are jealous and hate Josef because their father adores him the most. They figure out a plot to kill him but instead first toss him into an empty well for him to starve. Later a caravan heading for Egypt goes by. The brothers discuss saying, “Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh.” (Genesis 37:27) After selling Josef the brothers take his clothes, kill a goat and smother his clothes in the goat’s blood to make it look like he was eaten by a wild animal. They took the clothes to their father and pretended they had just found them. The father recognized the robe and mourned for days. Meanwhile, Josef made it to the house of an Egyptian master where he prospered. The wife of the master wanted to sleep with him but he refused saying, “Here my master does not know what is with me in the house, and everything he has he has given into my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I am, and he has not withheld from me anything at all except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great badness and actually sin against God?” (Genesis 39:8-9) But the wife turned the story around and accused Josef of wanting to sleep with her. The master was

outraged and had him imprisoned. There he met a “cupbearer of the king of Egypt and a baker who sinned against their lord the king of Egypt.” (Genesis 40:1) They both had dreams and asked Joseph what they meant. He correctly interpreted them and the cupbearer was returned to his position and the baker hung, just as Joseph foretold. Joseph had asked the cupbearer to mention him to the Pharaoh, but he forgot. Two years later when the Pharaoh had trouble interpreting his dreams, the cupbearer remembered Josef, a “young man, a Hebrew, a servant of the chief of the bodyguard” (Genesis 41:12) and had him summoned from prison to interpret his dream for him. After Josef explained the Pharaoh’s dreams by saying that Egypt would prosper for 7 years and then experience a drought and famine, the Pharaoh was quite satisfied. He said, “Since God has caused you to know all this, there is no one as discreet and wise as you are. You will personally be over my house and all my people will obey you implicitly. Only as to the throne shall I be greater than you.” (Genesis 41:39-40) The drought eventually brought his brothers to the land of Egypt from Canaan and he played a few tricks on them as to scare them into being sorry for what they had done. Eventually, he couldn’t resist telling the brothers his true identity and said:

“I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now do not feel hurt and do not be angry with yourselves because you sold me here; because for the preservation of life God has sent me ahead of you. For this is the second year of the famine in the midst of the earth, and there are yet five years in which there will be no plowing time or harvest. Consequently God sent me ahead of you in order to place a remnant for you men in the earth and to keep you alive by a great escape. So now it was not you who sent me here, but it was the [true] God, that he might appoint me a father to Phar’aoah and a lord for all his house and as one dominating over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 45:4-8)

This proves that in the Bible as a work of literature, there are humans who lie, in this case to cover up their wrong-doing. But this story is important because in the end if the boys hadn’t lied, the father might’ve gone looking for Josef and Josef would never get to Egypt to save it during the famine. This story is a perfect example showing that good things can come from lies introducing us to the novel this thesis deals with.

## **1.4 More Biblical references**

Twain never clearly stated anything negative against the Bible or religion. But if the book is analyzed in much detail, hidden meanings and messages can be found.

Again it seems that Twain uses the Bible as a sort of rule book that throughout the story he wants to point out the ridiculousness of. For example in Luke 6:27-31

“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”

Summed up this is also called “the Golden Rule” (Do unto others as you would have done unto you) and is a perfect example relating to Jim. It is never stated whether Jim was religious or not, but as a slave, he most likely considered the whites as an enemy. Yet even after the selling and splitting up of his family and the abuse he received, he was able to look past all the horrible things that were done to him. When Tom was shot, Jim didn’t hesitate and waited around for Tom to get the proper help from a doctor. Jim was a perfect example of how Christians should behave. Even the Grangerfords, which appear in the middle of the book, are regular church goers, yet they are in a “war” with their neighbors and physically attack each other with fists and guns. That should not be acceptable “Christian” behavior. Even though they go to church and seem to be a close-knit family, they are violent and unforgiving, not fulfilling one of the phrases from the scripture Colossians 3:13: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” The Grangerfords didn’t really seem to keep that in mind when shooting after their neighbors.

Also another passage that can be found that directly relates to the time period *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was written in is: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.(Galatians3:28) This passage from the Bible is actually very ironic. Considering the time and the culture of many Southerners, reading the Bible and preaching from it was a part of their lives. Yet, they owned slaves and punished them brutally. It seems Twain is hinting at the fact that people in those days were religious only when it was handy for them, otherwise it was all just a big lie. There are many other passages that Twain seems to relate to and point out the impossibility for a human

to maintain and live by these rules. Not stating that it's impossible because Twain did include the character of Jim who seems to have done nothing wrong, but Jim seems to be the only honest character in the novel. Huck tries and seems to be the second most honest character, but aside from the female characters all the others seem to have a negative disposition. As a slave, Jim was assumed as uneducated, gullible and superstitious, yet he was the kindest, most honest person doing the right things.

## **2. About the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

Lies appear everywhere in politics, in daily life and in literature. This thesis focuses on the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* written by Mark Twain (born Samuel Clemens) that takes place in the South before the Civil War in the 1840s. In this novel the narrator, Huckleberry Finn, takes us from the state of Missouri down the Mississippi River to various towns. The descriptions of the river and the adventures on it are quite detailed because the author speaks from personal experience on the river. This book has been

“Censored and banned for an array of perceived failings, including obscenity, atheism, bad grammar, coarse manners, low moral tone, and antisouthernism. Every bit as diverse as the reasons for attacking the novel, *Huck Finn's* detractors encompass parents, critics, authors, religious fundamentalists, rightwing politicians, and even librarians.” (Peaches)

It uses the word “nigger” a lot which in today’s culture is offensive to many African Americans.

“Black protesters, offended by the repetitions of "nigger" in the mouths of white and black characters, Twain's minstrel-like portrayal of the escaped slave Jim and of black characters in general, and the negative traits assigned to blacks, objected to the use of *Huck Finn* in English courses” (Peaches)

For the time period the book was written in however, this word was a totally normal way to address slaves. Unfortunately, very degrading, but Twain wanted to make the novel as realistic as possible including the language of Jim and the rest of the characters. Jim’s language is very simple and seems to have a Southern accent. Huck has a little more sophisticated speech, but it also contains the Southern touch of the vernacular of the time period. The biggest liars and cheaters in the book have decent wording and accents, making them sound more sophisticated and educated. In the end

we find out that the ones who spoke the worst ended up being the best characters. In other words, the language one chooses to use can also be considered a lie. Mainly, considering the Duke and the Dauphin's case when they pretend they are from England and have to create a British accent and speak as an Englishman would. The novel is also controversial from the religious aspect, but this book, as it has caused so much turmoil, in so many aspects, the focus will be mainly on just the aspect of lies in this paper.

## **2.1 About the main character**

Huckleberry Finn is the main character and is always contemplating the positives and negatives of his lies. One of the first encounters with lying is with his drunk father he refers to as "Pap." Huck seems to have a certain respect or more of a fear for his father. This is why he tries his best to always tell the truth to Pap. Even though it is unclear whether or not Huck has respect for his father or not because in this quote he is quite rude to him:

Pap: "Starchy clothes- very. You think you're a good deal of a big bug, don't you?"

Huck: "Maybe I am, Maybe I ain't," I says. (pg 24)

When Pap asks Huck for the money he heard Huck had, Huck tells him that he truly doesn't have it and that is the truth.

Huck: "I hain't got no money, I tell you. You ask Judge Thatcher; he'll tell you the same."

Pap: "All right. I'll ask him; and I'll make him pungle, too, or I'll know the reason why. Say how much you got in your pocket? I want it."

Huck: "I hain't got only a dollar, and I want that to--"

Pap: "It don't make no difference what you want it for- you just shell it out." (pg 26)

Poor Huck even confessed to having just one single dollar and his horrible father wanted even that from him. Twain did a great job making readers really dislike Huck's father. Huck had a bad role model in his father, however he did try to overcome that influence by not lying because he saw how negative of a person his father was.



Later, when Pap steals Huck away from his caretaker the Widow Douglas, Huck begins to plan an escape from his “prison” because Pap had locked him in an isolated cabin. One night Pap came into the cabin very drunk and hallucinating. He attacked Huck with a knife thinking he was the “Angel of Death.” This would scare any child, and in response Huck grabbed a gun once Pap dozed off. But they both fell asleep and in the morning his father began asking:

“What you doin’ with this gun?”

In response, Huck said, “I judged he didn’t know nothing about what he had been doing so I says: “Somebody tried to get in, so I was laying for him.” (pg 38)

This is where Huck begins to lie and starts to fulfill the statement of Leonard Saxe, Ph.D., a polygraph expert and professor of psychology at Brandeis University, who says, "Lying has long been a part of everyday life. We couldn't get through the day without being deceptive." (Kornet) In a way Huck’s lying is almost justified because it is true that he really wouldn’t make it through the day if he didn’t lie because he would get caught.

He doesn’t tell Pap the real reason why he has the gun most likely because he is afraid. He basically had the intention of killing Pap. The story of robbers would also fit into his escape plan later. The vivid description and the acts of his escape only show just how much he wanted people and mainly Pap, to believe he was dead.

“I took the axe and smashed in the door. I beat it and hacked it a considerable a-doing it. I fetched the pig in, and took him back nearly to the table and hacked into his throat with the axe, and laid him down on the ground to bleed; I say ground because it was ground- hard packed, and no boards. Well, next I took an old sack and put a lot of big rocks in it- all I could drag- and I started it from the pig, and dragged it to the door and through the woods down to the river and dumped it in, and down it sunk, out of sight. You could easy see that something had been dragged over the ground.” (pg 42)

He is so detailed with the preciseness of everything, of deceiving, that it can be assumed he really, really wanted to be dead to his father so he would leave him alone. Maybe the lying came so easily because he was just that afraid or because he didn’t have the Widow Douglas who kept him at least a little bit in line.

“Theoretic or imagines cases of this kind were often volunteered by the children with many variations. They declare, e.g., that they would say that their mother

was out when she was in, if it would save her life, giving quite a scientific setting to such a possible occurrence, adding infrequently that this would not make it exactly right, though it would be their duty to do it, or that they would not tell a like lie to save their own lives.”(Children’s Lies)

Huck was trying to save his own life and this seems to be the turning point where Huck begins to enjoy lying and deceiving those around him. So it could be said that Huck’s father plays a big role in the reason why he begins to find lying easy and begins his lying escapade.

It must also be mentioned that during Huck’s escape plan the Bible story from the previous section briefly appears. Just as Jacob’s sons used a dead goat, Huck used a dead pig. He smeared it all over the house and dragged a bloody bag through the house to make it look like an animal and robbers got to him. With this false illusion he created a thought that he was dead. Since he was just a twelve-year old boy, Huck was so afraid of his drunk and violent father that this lie could be considered a lie with good consequences because he saved himself from his father. However, he deceived nice people who cared for him. This will be later discussed in the different types of lies. The story continues with Huck mentioning his friend Tom Sawyer;

“I did wish Tom Sawyer was there; I knowed he would take an interest in this kind of business, and throw in the fancy touches. Nobody could spread himself like Tom Sawyer in such a thing as that.”(pg 42)

## **2.2 About Tom Sawyer**

Tom Sawyer doesn’t appear as a main character in this novel as he does in three other Twain books, but it seems he is used as the imperfect, immature and mischievous character that enhances Huck’s position. Huck comes out looking like a more reasonable, mature boy than Tom. “Huck expresses a desire to be more like Tom. Tom is not physically present for most of the tale, but Huck refers to him frequently, wishing he could make up as good a story as Tom could, or come up with a better plan.” (Shmoop) But Tom outdoes himself, when he agrees to help plan the escape of Jim, the runaway slave. He acts very childish because he already knew “that Jim’s owner died and freed him in her will.” (pg 366) Tom puts everyone including himself in “great jeopardy” (Tom) and makes all the extra fancy things very unnecessary just to make it look good. When planning the slave-stealing scenario Tom says:

“Why cert’nly it would work, like rats a-fighting. But it’s too blame’ simple; there ain’t nothing to it. Whats the good of a plan that ain’t no more trouble than that? It’s as mild as goose-milk. Why, Huck, it wouldn’t make no more talk than breaking into a soap factory.” (pg 297)

The plan Huck suggested was just not enough for Tom. He wanted to go out with flying colors and didn’t consider any consequences that might harm anyone around. This helped portray Huck as the more thoughtful and caring boy even though, originally Huck was the homeless, without rules and ethics boy.

## **2.3 About the Widow Douglas**

Another character who is mentioned, who cares for Huck and is somewhat respected by him, is the Widow Douglas. She is referred to a bit in the beginning by Huck because she unofficially adopted him and was attempting to “sivilize” him. His father was an alcoholic, that was incapable of raising a small boy. An important quote in this book is directed from Huck to the Widow Douglas:

“...but she told me what she meant- I must help other people, and do everything I could for other people, and look out for them all the time and never think about myself.” (pg 14)

Huck kept considering the moral side of everything probably mainly thanks to this quote which the Widow seemed to have drilled into his mind. Huck preferred the Widow to her sister Miss Watson, and whenever Huck did something wrong, it was the Widow he didn’t want to hurt or disappoint. He was always thinking deeply of what the Widow told him.

## **2.4 About Jim**

### **2.4.1 Huck’s commitment to a lie**

After successfully faking his death and escaping in a canoe, he caught up with Miss Watson’s slave, Jim, who was also trying to escape. Jim was afraid to tell Huck why he was running away and why he wasn’t at Miss Watson’s, but Huck insisted to know and a conversation broke out,

“Well, dey’s reasons. But you wouldn’t tell on me ef I’ uz to tell you, would you Huck?”

“Blamed if I would, Jim.”

“Well I b’lieve you, Huck. I-I *run* off.”

“Jim!”

“But mind, you said you wouldn’ tell- you know you said you wouldn’ tell, Huck.”

“Well, I did. I said I wouldn’t and I’ll stick to it. Honest injun, I will. People would call me a low-down Abolitionist and despise me for keeping mum-but that don’t make no difference. I ain’t going to tell, and I ain’t a-going back there, anyways. So, now le’s know all about it.” (page 55)

In this conversation, Huck promises that he won’t tell anyone Jim is running away. Huck holds himself to this promise throughout the entire book with the exception of his hesitation in chapter sixteen and chapter thirty-one. In chapter sixteen, Huck and Jim were floating along in their raft and Jim kept speaking about being free, mentioning, what he would do, and how excited he was. Jim kept imagining they had arrived in Cairo, but all of his talking about how great it would be to be free and what he would do got Huck to thinking.

“What had poor Miss Watson done to you that you could see her nigger go off right under your eyes and never say a single word? What did that poor old woman do to you that you could treat her so mean? Why, she tried to learn you your book, she tried to learn you your manners, she tried to be good to you every way she knowed how. *That’s* what she done.” I got to feeling so mean and miserable most wished I was dead. I fidgeted up and down the raft abusing myself to myself...” (pg 112)

By the end of this quote the reader can see that Huck was bothered that he was involved in illegal action by lying about Jim, yet he knew he wanted to help Jim because he never mistreated Huck. Furthermore, the widow did tell him to always help other people. Later, Jim called Huck his “best friend” on page 113, saying, “Pooty soon I’ll be a-shoutin for joy, en I’ll say it’s on all accounts o’ Huck; I’s a free man, en I couldn’t even ben free ef it hadn’ ben for Huck; you’s de bes’ fren’ Jim’s ever had; en you’s de *only* fren’ ole Jim’s got now.”

Before Jim said this Huck was ready to “paddle ashore and tell somebody.” (pg 112) But as he was paddling off Jim also says “Dah you goes, de ole true Huck; de on’y white genman dat ever kep’ his promise to old Jim.” (Pg114) This really influenced Huck, and upon meeting a skiff with two men searching for five runaway slaves, he resisted telling on Jim and instead told a lie that the man on his raft was his

father who was deathly sick. Believing him, they went away. Once they left, he began contemplating out loud:

“Then I thought a minutes, and says to myself, hold on; s’pose you’d a’ done right and give Jim up would you felt better than what you do now? No, says I, I’d feel bad – I’d feel just the same way I do now. Well, then, says I what’s the use you learning to do right when it’s troublesome to do right and ain’t no trouble to do wrong, and wages is just the same? I was stuck. I couldn’t answer that. So I reckoned I wouldn’t bother no more about it, but after this always do whichever come handiest at the time.” (pg 116)

Huck created his own definition of what a lie is, considering it variable to the circumstances that a person finds themselves in. Here Huck summarized what was later stated in “The American Journal of Psychology” in the section about “Children’s Lies”

“The teachers, may as the history of education shows, make even children into casuists gravely disputing about the grand moral forces that beneath all others make the world of man their revelation or their sport. No two children and no two moral situations are alike. Here human sciences faces problems still too complex for formulation, where the adult has really very little to teach the child, and where conference and suggestion, and even instruction, should be restricted to specific and individual cases and not lapse into generalization.” (Children’s Lies)

A simple twelve-year old boy was able to state this in his own words from his own personal experience, when three years later an American psychologist G. Stanley Hall began gathering these thoughts and theories. In other words, Huck was able to capture theories and conclusions psychologists and professionals eventually got to.

### **2.4.2 Doubts of a lie**

The subject of Huck and Jim’s relationship comes up very strongly once more in chapter thirty-one. At this point, Jim was caught and imprisoned by Silas Phelps, Tom Sawyer’s uncle. Huck again begins thinking and considers the reasons why he should or shouldn’t help Jim across three entire pages. His thinking can be captured in just a mere segment of these three pages:

“I was stealing a poor old woman’s nigger that hadn’t ever done me no harm, and now was showing me there’s One that’s always on the lookout, and ain’t a-going to allow no such miserable doings to go only just so fur and no further. I most dropped in my tracks I was so scared. Well, I tried the best I could to kinder soften it up somehow for myself by saying I was brung up wicked, and so I warn’t so much to blame; but something inside of me kept saying, ‘There

was the Sunday school, you could ‘a’ gone to it; and if you’d ‘a’ done it they’d ‘a’ learnt you there that people that acts as I’d been acting about that nigger goes to everlasting fire.’ It made me shiver. And I about made up my mind to pray, and see if I couldn’t try to quit being the kind of a boy I was and be better. So I kneeled down. But the words wouldn’t come. Why wouldn’t they? It warn’t no use to try and hide it from Him. Nor from *me*, neither. I knowed very well why they wouldn’t come. It was because my heart warn’t right; it was because I warn’t square; it was because I was playing double. I was letting on to give up sin, but away inside of me I was holding on to the biggest one of all. I was trying to make my mouth say I would do the right thing and the clean thing, and go and write to that nigger’s owner and tell where he was; but deep down in me I knowed it was a lie, and He knowed it. You can’t pray a lie- I found that out.”(pg 271)

This proves that Huck found it troubling to be making grown up decisions. However, a factor that helped him with many of these adult decisions was the fact that he was his own master. It was just him and the river. No parents, no widow, just Jim, his caretaker and friend. It also shows that Huck really considered what God would think of him but his guilt was great and he decided that “he’ll go to hell” (pg 273) The up-bringing by Widow Douglas was confusing for him. On one side she told him to do right, but morally speaking she didn’t mention what if doing right involved lying and deceit. On the other side she taught him that God was always watching from Huck’s saying that “It warn’t no use to try and hide it from Him.”(pg 271) Believing was drilled into him so much that he did consider his fate morally and religiously.

The main focus here is Huck’s promise to lie about Jim. Even though this was a lie, the lie must be analyzed for a positive or negative outcome. An abolitionist would say this is a lie with good intention. In the eyes of slave owners, this hurt Miss Watson because she had one slave less and the slave wasn’t where he belongs. Though this lie had positive effects upon the rest of the story, Huck had no way of knowing what would come from it, much less if the consequences would be positive or negative. This was the biggest internal struggle Huck had to deal with. In the end of the book this problem is resolved with Miss Watson’s death. With her will, she set Jim free. However, Huck hadn’t known this so he kept trying to figure out the best solution and consider the consequences that would follow. He thought that if he turned Jim in, Jim would never see his family, and might be abused as a runaway slave. Huck was still confused whether it was a good thing to do or not. In this case, some people would be proud of Huck for turning Jim in and others would think it was a selfish thing to do. If

he didn't turn Jim in, Jim had a chance to find and be with his family. Huck would feel guilty for not doing the "lawful" thing at the time for slave owners, but would have basically saved a man's life. Concluding the story, the lie seems to be with a good intention for Jim, but bad intention for Miss Watson. In the end we find that it turns out to be a great outcome even though Huck didn't know what he was getting into.

Another example where Huck lies is in chapter eleven. This is where he dresses up as a girl and visits a house to find out the story of his own death. He wishes to know if there are any rumors about Jim, who had stayed behind so he would not be discovered. He lies to the woman even after she discovered he wasn't really a girl, to keep her from finding out that it was truly him. If Huck hadn't gone he wouldn't have found out that he and Jim had been discovered. The wife's husband was getting ready to investigate smoke they saw, coming from the island Huck and Jim were hiding on, so Huck was able to rush back and warn Jim for them to quickly get out.

### **2.4.3 Jim's role in the novel**

Jim seems to play a very important part in this novel. He takes the role of Huck's caretaker almost as a father. It seems as if Twain used Jim as a tool to show that slaves were human, had a heart, and were sensitive. Jim doesn't exactly lie in the book, but he does find Huck's father's dead body in a house floating by and tells Huck not to go there.

"It's a dead man. Yes, indeed; naked too. He's ben shot in de back. I rekn'n he's ben dead two er three days. Come in, Huck, but doan' look at his face- it's too gashly."(pg 64)

Eventually, Jim tells Huck at the very end of the book that his father isn't coming back anymore because it was Pap he hadn't wanted him to see. When Huck mentioned returning back home on the very last page of the book, he thought

"Pap's been back before now, and got it (Huck's money) all away from Judge Thatcher and drunk it up."

Jim says kind of solemn: "He ain't a-comin' back no mo', Huck." (pg 372)

At first Jim didn't want to explain in details as to why, but when Huck insisted Jim said:

“Doan’ you ‘member de house dat was float’n down de river, en dey wuz a man in dah, kivered up, en I went in en unkivered him and didn’ let you come in? Well, den, you kin git yo’ money when you want it, kase dat wuz him.” (pg 372)

This also proves that Jim was caring enough not to let Huck see his father’s dead body. If it was written as to hide the “humanness” of a slave, Jim would have probably carelessly let Huck see the body. Also Jim seems to be portrayed as a flawless character because that is the only lie he ever told in the story and it saved Huck. Actually, it has to be pointed out that Jim didn’t directly lie; he just told Huck that it was a nasty sight and not a good idea to look at. Therefore, it sparks up another point of what lying is about. Jim only said what he thought necessary for Huck to know and Huck didn’t question who the person was so Jim didn’t have to answer. (ex. parallel to Fallis) This could be considered a lie, but it’s meant well and all Jim did was retain extra information. This gesture highlights Jim’s personality.

#### **2.4.4 Huck’s guilt toward Jim**

When Huck took a little trip away from the raft, through the fog, he returned trying to trick Jim that he wasn’t really gone, that it was all just a dream. At first, Jim was really confused. He didn’t know what to believe until he finally caught on to Huck’s little trick and said:

“En all you wuz thinkin’bout wuz how you could make a fool uv ole Jim wid a lie. Dat truck dah is trash; en trash is what people is dat puts dirt on de head er day fren’s en makes ‘em ashamed’ Then he got up slow and walked to the wigwam, and went in there without saying anything but that. But that was enough. It made me feel so mean I could almost kissed his foot to get him to take it back. It was fifteen minutes before I could work myself up to go humble myself to a nigger; but I done it, and I warn’t ever sorry for it afterward, neither. I didn’t do him no more mean tricks, and I wouldn’t done that one if I’d ‘a’ knowed it would make him feel that way.” (pg 109-110)

It is interesting that even though slaves were at the time the lowest of the low, Huck saw that he had hurt Jim’s feelings. Even with this jocular lie he realized that sometimes it’s not nice to joke around when the person is innocent. This was one of the moments when Huck portrayed the behavior of a twelve year old, by selfishly trying a prank on a person whom he began to have respect for.



“All children find it harder to cheat in their lessons with a teacher they like. Friendships are cemented by frank confidences and secrets and promises not to tell... Rural children are more liable to long and close intimacies, and are more shy and suspicious to all strangers. The sense of personal loyalty to those who are admired is so strong that it has produced, not only many kinds and systems of fagging, but inclines children to mistake what pleases their idol as good and true.” (Children’s Lies)

Huck obviously had a relationship with Jim where Huck looked up to him, making it hard for him to deceive Jim. Jim is portrayed as

“A gentle and loyal person; he is not vengeful, he does not hate, he cannot cheat or trick another. He fears and evades violence, but he does not commit violence—as do many of the characters in this book, whether as individuals or with the clan or mob. His most memorable speeches are characterized by an open honesty and a deep capacity for unselfish love. (Brownell)

## **2.5 The Duke and the Dauphin’s presence**

Moving along, Huck and Jim meet the most cunning of characters, the Duke and Dauphin that appear in chapter nineteen. They join Jim and Huck on their journey until chapter thirty-three. They tell Huck and Jim that they are the “Duke of Bridgewater” and the “Dauphin, Looy the Seventeen.”(pg158) Huck realizes that these two really aren’t who they say they are. He ponders aloud:

“It didn’t take me long to make up my mind that these liars warn’t no kings nor dukes at all, but just lowdown humbugs and frauds. But I never said nothing, never let on; kept it to myself; it’s the best way; then you don’t have no quarrels, and don’t get into no trouble. If they wanted us to call them kings and dukes, I hadn’t no objections, ‘long as it would keep peace in the family; and it warn’t no use to tell Jim, so I didn’t tell him. If I never learnt nothing else out of pap, I learnt that the best way to get along with his kind of people is to let them have their own way.” (Pg 159)

In this instance, Huck keeps a little secret from Jim as to not trouble him, which was all in good intention and he didn’t confront the frauds to avoid any unnecessary conflicts. In return for their falseness Huck didn’t feel guilty to tell a tiny lie. He told the Duke and the Dauphin that Jim was Huck’s slave to save Jim from being recognized as a runaway slave and sold. Huck and Jim were basically at their mercy because the frauds only saw Jim as “little more than property.” (Shmoop) They even took it so far as to ridicule poor Jim and dressed him up in a costume and put blue face paint on him. The goal was for no one to recognize that he was a runaway slave, but in

the process they seemed to have a little too much fun with it. In the end they might've saved him but there wasn't an actual threat that he could have been discovered.

On the raft Huck's behavior was ironic and deceptive, because he knew the two newcomers were lying. However, he still went along with their little show and called them as they wished: "You're Grace' or 'Your Lordship'" (pg 157)

The Duke and the Dauphin continue to play along in their false roles. Using Shakespearean sonnets from Romeo and Juliet to partake in a play in a nearby town, they call themselves the "Royal Nonesuch." At first they attempt to re-create plays, but when the audience is not satisfied, they realize that they can cheat the townsmen by letting them pay for a play and then the frauds run away with the money. They move on to another town and continue trying this trick over and over again. It brings them money, but they are too selfish and greedy to care about others. Their journey eventually brings them to a town where a Mr. Peter Wilkes has died and the town was anxious for Peter's brothers Harvey and William to arrive from England. The frauds cleverly found out all the information from a local who was leaving town and took the role of the British brothers. They lied to the entire town and mainly, to the three daughters of Peter who had just become orphans. Huck had become part of their story and had to continue with the lie that he was also from England, but then the servant girl called Jo, began questioning him:

"Honest injun, now, hain't you been telling me a lot of lies?" "Honest injun," says I. "None of it at all?" "None of it at all. Not a lie in it," says I "Lay your hand on this book and say it." I see it warn't nothing but a dictionary, so I laid my hand on it and said it. So then she looked a little better satisfied and says: "Well, then, I'll believe some of it; but I hope to gracious if I'll believe the rest." (pg 222)

Once again the religiousness appears. Usually when people are to swear, they have to put their hand on the Bible. Here Huck sees that it's just a dictionary, but it does leave the reader wondering if he would tell the truth if he was given a Bible to swear by. Huck had to stay true to the fake story of the King and the Dauphin because otherwise the frauds would be discovered and it would give Huck and Jim too much exposure therefore, more likeliness of them also getting caught. The King and the Dauphin would be glad to give Jim up because by that time they had a hunch that there

was a reward out for him. As they continued in their fake performance, they were getting quite close to obtaining the inheritance left by Peter that was meant for the girls. Huck began to have doubts and just couldn't stand aside watching the ruthless and selfish act. The daughters of Peter had done nothing wrong and were very kind and caring to their guests. So once the frauds received the money and hid it in their bedroom, Huck went to go take it and hid it in the coffin with the dead Peter Wilkes. Later in the morning he was questioned by the frauds:

The king says: "Was you in my room night before last?"

"No, your majesty"-which was the way I always called him when nobody but our gang warn't around.

"Was you in there yesterday er last night?"

"No, your majesty."

"Honor bright, now- no lies."

"Honor bright, your majesty, I'm telling you the truth. I hain't been a-near your room since Miss Mary Jane took you and the duke and showed it to you." (pg 234)

### **2.5.1 Huck learns to tell the truth**

Huck knew the frauds were stealing money from innocent girls and he felt sorry for them so he had to lie to cover up his story. It is surprising at how just a mere twelve year old boy can be considering such deep thoughts, contemplating about what the right thing to do is:

"So I went to studying it out. I says to myself, I reckon a body that ups and tells the truth when he is in a tight place is taking considerable many resks, though I ain't had no experience, and can't say for certain; but it looks so to me, anyway; and yet here's a case where I'm blest if it don't look to me like the truth is better and actuly *safer* than a lie. I must lay it by in my mind, and think it over some time or other, it's so kind of strange and unregular. I never see nothing like it. Well, I says to myself at last, I'm a-going to chance it; I'll up and tell the truth this time, though it does seem most like setting down on a kag of powder and touching it off just to see where you'll go to." (pg 238)

Here it is visible that Huck got so used to lying so much, he almost forgot how to tell the truth or when it was good to speak honestly. This was a wakeup call for him. He woke and saw he had walked into an ocean of lies and was slowly, steadily

drowning in it. The truth seemed to soothe his soul and helped him realize that he had definitely done the right deed. So it can be concluded that it was a lie with good intention and in the end no one got hurt. The money was found in the coffin and not with the frauds. If he hadn't moved the money, the townspeople would have found it in the King and the Dauphin's bedroom. They would've gotten into an inescapable situation and would have been punished on the spot. Of course the frauds got what they deserved but it wasn't because of Huck. In fact it will be mentioned later that Huck wanted to warn the frauds even after what they did to Huck and Jim.

### **2.5.2 Cruel Deceit**

When the four travelers reached Pikesville, the Dauphin went exploring to find out if anyone had heard of the "Royal Nonesuch," to see if there was a possibility to perform there. The Duke stayed on the raft with Huck and Jim. Huck went to search for the Dauphin along with the Duke and came back to the raft only to find Jim gone. A boy he met along the way in the search for Jim, told him that Jim had been sold by "an old fellow-a stranger- and he sold out his chance in him for forty dollars, becuz he's got to go up the river and can't wait." (pg 270) Huck felt so betrayed by this because he felt they had gone through a lot together and "after all we'd done for them scoundrels, here it was all come to nothing everything all busted up and ruined, because they have the heart to serve Jim such a trick as that and make him a slave again all his life, and amongst strangers, too, for forty dirty dollars." (pg 270)

### **3. The search for Jim**

Huck happens to meet up with the duke seven pages later. The Duke was putting up posters about the "Royal Nonesuch." Here they confront each other, both knowing their side of the story and still lying about it. The Duke pretends as if he knows nothing about what has happened to Jim or the raft and Huck also pretends that he has no idea what happened. Then the Duke ratted on the king:

"Do you reckon that nigger would blow on us? We'd skin him if he done that!"

"How can he blow? Hain't he run off?"

“No! That old fool sold him, and never divided with me, and the money’s gone.”

“Sold him?” I says, and begun to cry; “why, he was *my* nigger, and that was my money. Where is he?- I want my nigger.”

“Well you can’t *get* your nigger, that’s all- so dry up your blubbering.”(pg 276-277)

This proves that the Duke didn’t care at all about the young boy’s feelings. The only reason he told Huck about Jim being sold is because the king didn’t include him with the money the king received. The Duke almost told the truth once in the book, but he caught himself and changed his mind.

“I’ll tell you something. We got to be here three days. If you’ll promise you won’t blow, and won’t let the nigger blow, I’ll tell you where to find him.” So I promised, and he says: “A farmer by the name of Silas Ph-“ and then he stopped. You see, he started to tell me the truth; but when he stopped that way, and begun to study and think again, I reckoned he was changing his mind. And so he was. He wouldn’t trust me; he wanted to make sure of having me out of the way the whole three days.” (pg 277)

So he went on with a new lie sending Huck to the very opposite side of town, clear out of his way. Still, even after this horrible lie, Huck finds his way into the Phelps’s family as Tom Sawyer. He finds out that the captured Jim had mentioned the “Royal Nonesuch” and that the townspeople are getting together to “drive the owdacious loafers out of town.” (pg 294) Huck wants to warn them from getting what they deserved, even though they betrayed him and did so much damage. Huck and Tom snuck out to try and warn them, they found that they had already been tarred and feathered. Huck was heading back home when he was thinking to himself: “

“So we poked along back home, and I warn’t feeling so brash as I was before, but kind of ornery, and humble, and to blame, somehow-though I hadn’t done nothing. But that’s always the way; it don’t make no difference whether you do right or wrong, a conscience ain’t got no sense, and just goes for him anyway. If I had a yaller dog that didn’t know no more than a person’s conscience does I would pison him. It takes up more room than all the rest of a person’s insides, and yet ain’t no good, no-how.” (pg 295)

This shows that the Duke and the Dauphin lied the entire time, nothing that came out of their mouths was true and everything was said with bad intentions. They hurt many people by stealing their money and emotionally distracting the town of the

dead Peter Wilkes. However, even after all their wrong-doing, mischief and deceit, Huck still sees them as humans and wants to treat them fairly and warn them before the mob.

### **3.1. At the Phelps**

When Huck seeks to find Jim, he is welcomed to the Phelps family as Tom Sawyer. Of course he does not know who they believe him to be until further conversation. When the father (Silas) arrives home, Aunt Sally plays a little trick on him. She says that he should have met Tom on his way to pick him up. When the father turns around there's a boy standing there and Silas asks:

“Why, who's that?”

“Who do you reckon 'tis?”

“I han't no idea. Who is it?”

“It's *Tom Sawyer!*” (pg 285)

Huck is relieved to find out who he is. Knowing the person he's supposed to be, made things much easier. He couldn't reveal his true identity because he wouldn't be sure if he would have access to Jim. Then once the real Tom comes up river, he's overjoyed to assume a role in Huck's “play” that had been created. Huck begins to tell him the story of Jim:

“There's one more thing- a thing that *nobody* don't know but me. And that is, there's a nigger here that I'm a-trying to steal out of slavery, and his name is *Jim*- old Miss Watson's Jim.”

He says: “What!” Why, Jim is-“

He (Tom) stopped and went to studying. I says: “I know what you'll say. You'll say it's dirty, low-down business; but what if it is? I'm low down; and I'm a-going to steal him, and I want you keep mum and not let on. Will you?”

His eye lit up, and he says: “I'll help you steal him!” (pg 287-288)

### **3.2 Tom Sawyer arrives to the Phelps**

Tom was about to reveal the truth, but instead he chose to make the escape more “fun and exciting.” When the boys arrived to the Phelps's house, Huck kept his role of being Tom Sawyer and Tom assumed the role of Tom's brother, Sid. The boys began to

precisely plan the details of how they were going to steal Jim. Tom goes way out of necessary precautions to achieve their goal of freeing Jim. They steal a number of things including spoons, candlesticks, tin plates and sheets. One night they snuck into Jim's "cell."

"He was so glad to see us he most cried; and called us honey, and all the pet names he could think of; and was for having us hunt up for a cold chisel to cut the chain off his leg with right away, and clearing out without losing any time. But Tom he showed him how unregular it would be and set down and told him about our plans and how we could alter them in a minute any time there was an alarm; and not to be the least afraid, because we would see he got away for sure." (pg 316-317)

Tom continued on explaining the wonderful plan to Jim, telling him how they would sneak a rope ladder in, in a pie. Tom even wants Jim to keep "a journal on the shirt with his blood." (pg 317) He didn't even take precautions to maybe at least warn Jim, because the boys began stuffing items into his food that at first Jim was unaware of.

"Tom shoved a piece of candlestick into the middle of a corn-pone that was in Jim's pan, and we went along with Nat, (the Phelps's slave) to see how it would work, and it worked just noble; when Jim bit into it it most mashed all his teeth out; and there warn't ever anything could 'a' worked better. Tom said so himself. Jim he never let on but what it was only just a piece of rock or something like that that's always getting into bread, you know; but after that he never bit into nothing but what he jabbed his fork into it in three or four places first." (pg 318)

This quote was a bit comical, but still it was very selfish of Tom to continue in the absurd details that were very unnecessary since he knew all along that Jim was actually free. He had to quench his childish thirst for adventure and ended up being hurt himself. Tom threatened the Phelps family through ransom notes: "Beware. Trouble is brewing. Keep a sharp lookout. Unknown friend." (pg 342) It frightened everyone around and the family became very alert. When the day finally came, a few townspeople found out that the slave was missing and sought out to hunt him down. There was huge turmoil and shots were fired. Tom was shot in the leg. Here again, Jim shows his noble character and even though he is anxious and excited to get away, he wants to make sure the wounded Tom will get to a doctor. Through the doctors' character, Twain shows yet another person fond of slavery. Or maybe the doctor wasn't for slavery, but still found it right to turn him in, a thing which Huck never did. Here

again it's visible how an un-spoiled consciousness of a child compares to that of a grown-up who is influenced by his surroundings and is weak. Throughout the novel Huck fights with the pressure around him of what other people would think and he gives it great thought. The doctor was quick to jump to a conclusion and acted upon it. His thoughts and consciousness is unknown but it can be inferred that he didn't think things through in detail. Once Jim is put back into his prison and the boys are safe, the grownups find out about the scheme and take it very lightly.

“Aunt Sally was a good deal uneasy; but Uncle Silas he said there warn't no occasion to be- boys will be boys, he said, and you'll see this one turn up in the morning all sound and right.” (pg 359)

Even after the positive outcomes of everything, Huck still felt bad about the entire lie. When Aunt Sally went to tuck Huck in he thought: “.and fetched her candle, and tucked me in, and mothered me so good I felt mean, and like I couldn't look her in the face; and she set down on the bed and talked with me a long time.” (pg 359) Huck felt really bad for the deceit. Once again he realized it wasn't nice to trick people who care for you and it seems as though he regretted what he had done even though he didn't discuss this feeling in more detail.

### **3.3 The truth is revealed**

Once the confusion and excitement settled, Tom overheard the grown-ups discussing the fate of Jim that he was going to get either “claimed or sold, (pg 367) Tom burst into their conversation:

“I mean every word I *say*, Aunt Sally, and if somebody don't go, *I'll* go. I've knowed him all his life, and so has Tom, there. Old Miss Watson died two months ago, and she was ashamed she ever was going to sell him down the river, and *said* so; and she set him free in her will.” (pg 367)

When Tom got to explaining the mixed up situation, Aunt Polly showed up. Aunt Polly is Aunt Sally's sister, and Tom Sawyer's aunt and guardian. She arrived because Aunt Sally had written that Tom and his brother Sid arrived to their home, which wasn't true and Aunt Polly sent letters asking what was Sid doing there. The letters were intercepted by the real Tom therefore, their roles wouldn't be discovered.



With Aunt Polly's arrival the truth comes out of the boys as to what their plan with Jim was and Tom confesses the entire plot.

“And his Aunt Polly she said Tom was right about old Miss Watson setting Jim free in her will; and so, sure enough. Tom Sawyer had gone and took all that trouble and bother to set a free nigger free! And I couldn't ever understand before, until that minute and that talk, how he could help a body set a nigger free with his bringing-up.” (pg 369)

Even though Huck was Tom's age, he realizes that this was just a game and why Tom had been so easily persuaded into helping commit a crime. Tom was supposed to be the more reasonable, better brought-up and facetious boy. But his behavior only strengthened Huck's personality, making him more grown-up. For Tom, everything was a game and he loved to play pranks and have “adventures.” (pg 368) For Huck, everything was real. Decisions that he had to make were life or death ones, things he had to do or not do affected others around him. All this made Huck into a mature boy. It seems that the factors in his life helped him become that. His father was a violent drunk. He wanted to save a slave. He wanted to save criminals even though they indulged in theft and also wanted to save poor girls from getting robbed of something that belonged to them. Lies became a huge part of Huck's life away from his home and he was learning how to best deal with them.

#### **4. The division of lies**

There are so many lies in this novel, and with the help of Adam Wiatros's “The Power of lies in Huckleberry Finn,” the lies will be categorized into four different kinds. We will try to decipher the lies, what intentions they had and who they hurt if anyone at all. The categories of lies are childish, vicious, innocuous and noble. We shall stick to simple definitions of these categories: childish lies are more or less used just for fun, for pleasure. Vicious lies attempt to hurt others. Innocuous lies are harmless and used to protect oneself, and noble lies are to save someone else.

##### **4.1. Analyzing the first lie**

Beginning with the first lie, Huck lies to his father about why he had the gun in his hand. This could be considered as an innocuous and childish lie, but more an innocuous one because he was afraid of getting punished or possibly even killed. The

only response from a child would be to lie to save himself. Any parent that would find out their son was even considering the possibility of killing him or her would not like the thought of that. So in the end, this lie didn't really hurt anyone because it seemed that Pap really only cared about the money he thought Huck had.

#### **4.2 Analyzing the second lie**

The entire plot to fake Huck's death is very hard to interpret where it should belong. The way he described it so vividly made it sound as if he was enjoying himself. Therefore it would be a childish lie. The main reason he was creating this illusion was to deceive his father, to save his own life so it would be innocuous. On the other hand, he did hurt the people who cared for him. Huck's lie mainly hurt the Widow. By the end of the book, everyone has learned the truth and they were relieved that Huck was still alive. But at the time of the lie, it also hurt Jim's reputation. Since Jim had run away at the same time, it looked as if Jim had killed Huck. This wasn't good, but Jim was already wanted and hunted for running anyway. In the end the lie had a good intention and ended up hurting no one.

#### **4.3 Analyzing the greatest lie in the novel**

The most important lie Huck managed to keep was that Jim was a runaway slave. This can definitely be interpreted as a noble lie because it ended up saving Jim. Only if the opinions and beliefs of slave owners are considered, would the lie be vicious. It might've been hurting Miss Watson, but she had intended to sell Jim even though she promised she wouldn't. Fortunately that kind of thinking that it's okay to own slaves for the most part has diminished into history and the cover up of Jim will be considered as a noble lie. In the very end we find that it wasn't even necessary, because Miss Watson died and in her will freed Jim, but Huck and Jim had no way of knowing so, in the end the lie really didn't hurt anyone. Even a slave owner would have to agree that he was freed lawfully; they might grumble that a black person has no right to be free, but that's another story. Huck cleverly outsmarted the slave hunters by lying that he had a father with a deadly disease on board. This also hurt no one, except maybe the slave owners, because they took pity on him and gave him some money. They were searching for different runaways whom Huck hadn't seen. Even though Huck lied

about Jim being white, he knew that they were looking for different slaves, but didn't know if they would suffice with a different runaway slave. Considering the Duke and the Dauphin, they were lying anyways so it wouldn't make much difference if Huck told them a little lie of his own that Jim was his slave. When Jim complained about having to stay on the boat while the rest of them ventured off, the Duke created a lie, an illusion that Jim was a "sick arab" so others couldn't recognize that he was a runaway. This was childish but it was a precaution they wanted to take. At the Phelps Huck lied to the other slave that was tending to Jim only to make sure no one knew Jim and Huck knew each other. This only confounded the slave a little but it was just a childish joke and lie. All the lies that were said to cover for Jim in the end were all meant well.

#### **4.4 Analyzing the different identities of Huckleberry Finn**

Huck has a tendency to take on different identities with every new person he meets in various towns. For example, when he dressed as a girl, this could be interpreted as childish and just stretching the fun, but in the end he saved himself and Jim from getting caught. It could be considered an innocuous lie. But it is amazing that even though the lady discovered he really wasn't a girl, he was able to make up a new lie that he was some other boy that was lost. Yet this doesn't really hurt the woman in any way, so again Huck lies to hide his and Jim's true identity. Huck has to assume the role of a little English boy to keep the frauds' lie believable. That was a bit foreign for him because it seems he didn't have much knowledge of the world over the ocean. The servant girl almost discovered him by asking many questions about his life in England. He was able to save his identity because one of the older sisters interrupted their conversation. It seems that Huck was most comfortable in a role where he was a fatherless child or that his family was new to the town and was struggling to get by. He resorted back to this role in at least three instances. Maybe that is why he seemed so calm and didn't have anything to say to the fact that his father was dead. He assumed the role of a boy without a father so many times that maybe it became real to him. It wasn't such a shock when he found out about the death of his father. So for the well-being of Huck all these disguises related to a fatherless boy were good for him. It seems he was at peace with becoming an orphan.

#### **4.5 Jim's "lie"**

The only lie Jim manages to tell Huck is about his father being dead. This lie has to be considered as noble because Jim took into account that Huck was just a young boy and shouldn't see dead bodies and mainly the body of his father. So Jim just told him not to go there and that it was too "gashly." (pg 64) This hurt no one because in the end Jim did tell Huck the truth and Huck was relieved.

#### **4.6 Huck's foolishness**

Another lie Huck creates is when he tries to fool Jim into thinking that he was just having a dream. This was another one of his childish pranks, which he intended just to have some fun with. But with Jim's reaction to it he felt miserable and realized that wasn't the right place or the right person to do it to since Jim had worried about Huck. Here, Huck realizes that lying can only be done to certain people, people who deserve it, who also lie, or to save another person. In this case no one needed saving and it was just child's play. In response, Huck vowed to never do it again. In the end it had a positive outcome because Huck learned from it.

#### **4.7 The frauds' lies**

The topic of the Duke and the King can all be summed up into one category of lies: vicious. From the very start of their presence on the raft they began lying. Both of them pretended to be royalty so that poor Huck and Jim would treat them that way. It didn't really hurt Huck or Jim. In fact, Jim seemed to be honored to have such guests and to be allowed to tend to their needs. However, Huck knew they were lying, he just didn't say anything. It can be said that this was a childish lie, but the rest were all created with bad intentions to hurt. Faking plays and cheating townspeople out of their money was greedy. Pretending to be the English brothers of the late Peter Wilkes was just to gain the inheritance money. Selling Jim was just for money. All three of these lies hurt people. People were cheated out of their money, orphans almost lost their inheritance entirely and Jim almost became a slave again. The people never got their money back, the inheritance fortunately, did not end up in the frauds' pockets and Jim was saved in the end. But all of these acts were done to hurt someone. Overall, the

Duke and the King were mean people who did vain things to hurt others. In the end they did get what they deserved, even though it wasn't enough, but it hurt Huck to see them get punished so harshly.

#### **4.8 Lying to the Phelps**

Once Jim is captured and held at Silas Phelps's farm, Huck has no other way to save him than to get into their house. With huge luck, the family mistakes him for Tom Sawyer and he is able to fill the lie because he knows Tom and his family back at home. This lie was done to save Huck and at the same time, Jim. He couldn't have barged in as Huckleberry Finn. So instead he played along, hurting no one, until the real Tom came around. Tom was happy to join in on Huck's lie. The boys continued to play along until Tom's aunt (Aunt Polly) ventured out and discovered what was happening. When they were discovered, the family was displeased momentarily but glad in the end that everyone was safe and in Huck's case alive.

Tom's lie, or at least him not revealing the fact the Jim was free, was very childish of Tom. He wanted to create a huge fiasco and make it more exciting. Instead of telling Huck the truth, Tom went on creating the best "plan to steal Jim." (pg 297) In the end, he got himself shot and puts Jim and Huck in danger. Fortunately, no one was hurt. But the situation could have been resolved peacefully and normally if Tom had told Huck the truth about Jim.

In the end the true identities of both boys are revealed and both aunts were a bit surprised, but no one was physically hurt. Mentally they were confused and angry for being deceived but at the end of the day the aunts were glad that all three trouble-makers, including the slave, were okay.

#### **5. Conclusion**

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a perfect example of how people use lying to manipulate others to get what they want. Using the Duke and the Dauphin, Twain showed how selfishly people can act. They deceive others who consider them friends just to get what they desire and don't let anything stand in their way. They don't even stop to consider Huck and what he would do without a slave. When taking

Jim into consideration, he is the ideal, moral and most admirable character in this novel. He portrays how people should act instead of what they say and preach through their religion. The presence of Tom makes the situation somewhat more comical yet more exasperating with his carelessness about others.

Twain did a phenomenal job depicting so many different personalities. They ranged from an uneducated slave who became a martyr through his role to sinners who lied and deceived to get what they wanted and in the end got a taste of punishment, to a boy with a drunk father and rough childhood who turned out to be pretty mature and responsible, and even further to a boy of the same age with much better up-bringing who turned out to be quite childish and irresponsible. Using all these personalities Twain got his readers to see all of the characters flaws and wrong-doings through the eyes of a simple homespun twelve-year old boy. Twain used Huck's thoughts and opinions to dive deeply into such a complex subject of lies and to point out that all lies and lying necessarily isn't bad. Of course this is a general statement. As Ph.D Saxe stated:

“Although we're socialized from the time we can speak to believe that it's always better to tell the truth, in reality society often encourages and even rewards deception. Show up late for an early morning meeting at work and it's best not to admit that you overslept. "You're punished far more than you would be if you lie and say you were stuck in traffic," Saxe notes. Moreover, lying is integral to many occupations. Think how often we see lawyers constructing far-fetched theories on behalf of their clients or reporters misrepresenting themselves in order to gain access to good stories.” (Kornet)

With all these lies being presented, one must question if the word “lie” really is so negative. So much lying appears in the novel that it is hard to try to deny that lying is part of human life. Granted, this is only one novel out of so many, yet it is a perfect example of how humans behave. Where a simple lie can escalate into a huge web of lies through which one can get into trouble. For example, at first Huck didn't think much of helping Jim escape. He saw it more of an adventure, therefore he covered for Jim. Then he began to realize that the situation was serious and real, but he had already started it, so it was only fair to stick to it. The struggle he had with right and wrong was a wonderful example of the contrast of good and bad, and what outcomes any decisions would have.

The book even tries to convey the message that even though the Widow Douglas tried to teach him morals, he was still okay with being “condemned,” by continuing on with trying to save Jim. Even though this book was written more than one hundred years ago, the battle between morality and what religion is, is a current issue even today. Making this book a great guide as to how humans work. From Huck having to struggle between the real facts of life that he saw to what was drilled into his mind by religion.

Twain is secretly weaving in religion and pointing out the flaws it can have. From a religious aspect Huck would be condemned and he even admitted he was okay with going to hell. Religion had taught him that if you sin, you will go to hell. From a moral aspect, he kept considering what the widow told him. He must “help other people, and do everything he could for other people.” This statement actually intertwines with religion and both parts kind of cross each other out. If a person lies, he will go to hell, but if he lies to save someone, then what happens? This novel is proof that Huck was one to take that risk to find out what happened when he does lie. In this particular novel everything ended “happily ever after.” So what does this express about lies? Are they really that bad people have made them to be? Or is it just yet another lie humanity has created.

## 6. Resumé

Úvod práce je zaměřen na definici lži ze slovníku: “ Zrádné prohlášení, které úmyslně klame: záměrně nepravdivé: podvod”. V dnešní společnosti se lež vždy uznává jako záporná. Možná je to pravda, v některých případech, ale tato práce dokazuje, že jsou lži v mnoha případech používány kvůli tomu, aby někoho zachránily nebo mají dobrý úmysl. Je zjevné, že se lži a lhaní objevují všude, a i když lidé říkají, že jsou pravdomluvní, nemusí to tak vždy být.

Dále je používána definice lži z Bible „ úmyslné porušení pravdy.“ Bibli lze použít díky možným důkazům, jelikož se zjevně Twain snažil dát diskrétně najevo, jak absurdní dokáže být náboženství a víra. Musel ale psát opatrně, neboť v té době bylo stále hodně věřících, i když už kolem čtyřicátých let devatenáctého století lidé začali pochybovat o pravdivosti náboženství i Bible. Románem, kterým se tato práce zabývá je Dobrodružství Huckleberryho Finna od Marka Twaina, ve kterém je mnoho skrytých odkazů na citace z Bible i z konkrétních příběhů. Zaměříme-li se na určitou kapitolu Genesis 37, zjistíme, že lež nakonec pomohla zachránit Egypt před zkázou. Po uvedení příběhu dále práce poukazuje na konkrétní výtažky, které se vyskytují v Bibli a mají něco společného s děním v knize. Například v Galatským 3:28 je citace “<sup>28</sup>Není už rozdílu mezi Židem a Řekem, otrokem a pánem, mužem a ženou; všichni jsme si v Kristu rovni.” Sice je to v Bibli, ale ironické v té době, kdy mnozí jižané věřili v otroctví, a přesto silně používali Bibli jako průvodce života, kde takové citace byly k nalezení.

Dále následuje stručný popis románu Dobrodružství Huckleberryho Finna, je román, který se odehrává na Jihu Ameriky před občanskou válkou. Doposud je kniha velice kontroverzním tématem z mnoha hledisek .je cenzurovaná a někde zakázaná díky tomu, že určitá společnost si vymanila, že kniha obsahuje některé nedostatky, včetně obscénnosti, ateismu, špatné gramatiky, hrubého chování, morálního nízkého tónu, a proti-jížanství.

Práce pokračuje popisem různých lží, které se v této knize vyskytují. Nejdříve se objeví Huckleberry Finn a popis jeho první lži. Díky tomu, že jeho otec byl



alkoholik a nebyl schopný se o Huckleberryho postarat. Dokonce jednou svého syna v opilosti i málem zabil. Počátky Huckleberryho lhaní má své kořeny ve strachu z otce . Díky tomuto strachu začal předstírat svou vlastní smrt. Tím jak detailně popsal přípravy na svou smrt, je očividné, že se začal vžívat do role lháře.

Dále je popis lži, které se různé postavy dopustili v Huckleberryho dobrodružství. Například Tom Sawyer, vdova Douglas, Jim, vévoda a nejstarší syn královský. Každá lež je tu vysvětlena podle konkrétní situace, kromě jiného spojená i s postavami, s nimiž tato lež souvisí. Dále je tu kladen důraz na hlavní postavu Huckleberryho Finna, díky, kterému získáváme mnoho pohledů, názorů a úvah v různých situacích a scénách v příběhu. Třeba postava Toma Sawyera je v knize hlavně, aby vyzdvihla Huckleberryho postavení. Tom je zobrazen jako dobře vychovaný, věřící a lepší než Huckleberry, přesto se chová velice dětinsky a vidí ve všem jen legraci. Při tom Huckleberry musí řešit v životě opravdové problémy. Huckleberryho rozhodnutí bylo otázkou života či smrti. I přes jejich věkový rozdíl bylo vidět jak moc je vyspělejší prostý Huckleberry, oproti řádně vychovanému Tomovi.

Lež, která hraje v knize hlavní roli je ta, kde Huckleberry musí lhát kvůli černošskému otroku Jimovi, který by byl jinak potrestán a vrácen zpět do otroctví. Přes celou dobu jeho dobrodružství Huckleberry polemizuje nad dobrem a zlem, které by vyšlo z jeho činů. Jestli je morálně správné zakrývat Jimovu pravou identitu, nebo jestli by bylo křesťansky správné ho udat lovcům otroků. I přesto, že byl Jim otrokem, byl považován za nevzdělance, Huckleberry si k němu našel cestu, ve které ho považoval za dospělého a choval k němu určitý respekt. Když viděl, jak se Jim urazil a vylekal po dětinské taškařici, kterou mu Huckleberry provedl, tak si vše rozmyslel. Uvědomil si, že pro lidi, které má rád a něco v jeho životě znamenají, nemá smysl lhát a něco předstírat. Nakonec vše dobře dopadne a Jim je osvobozen. Ale Huckleberry nevěděl fakt, že díky smrti Jimovy majitelky byl Jim v její poslední vůli osvobozen. Po celou dobu Huckleberry přemýšlí, zda je opravdu správné Jima osvobodit. Výsledkem Huckleberryho lži je, že se vlastně nikdo nezranil a nikdo nepřišel k újmě. Oproti postavám, které se objeví v devatenácté kapitole: Vévoda a nejstarší syn královský. Jsou to ty nejzlomyslnější postavy, které se v knize vyskytují. Stále provádí naschvály a neustále lžou. Už jen to, že se představují jako Vévoda a královský syn, je jen pouhý

začátek jejich lhaní. Poté chtějí okrást obyvatelé jednoho města o jejich peníze, tím že vybírali vstup a pak nepředvedli žádné představení. Nebo v jiném městě předstírali, že jsou bratry zdejšího zesnulého Petra Wilkese. Zde chtěli okrást nevinná děvčata, která se právě stala sirotky. Celkově role těchto dvou podvodníků ukazuje příklad zlých lidí, kteří způsobují zlé skutky a mají sobecký a zlé úmysly.

Ke konci práce, jsou lži tříděny do skupin: zlomyslných, dětinských, neškodných a ušlechtilých. Hlavní pozornost této práce je kladena na to, jestli jsou všechny lži považovány za špatné, proč jsou některé s dobrým úmyslem, některé někomu pomohou nebo naopak ublíží a jestli mají kladný výsledek. Například Jimova lež. Jim viděl zastřelené tělo Huckleberryho otce, ale raději mu poradil ať se drží dál. Nebyla to přímá lež, ale skrýval pravdu. Až na úplném konci knihy, se Jim svěřil Huckleberrymu s pravou identitou té mrtvoly. Tím, že mu neřekl kdo to je, ho vlastně chránil, tudíž by se ta lež měla považovat za ušlechtilou, protože měla dobrý úmysl, nikoho nezranila, spíše zabránila malému klukovi, aby nemusel vidět krutou realitu.

Dobrodružství Huckleberryho Finna je dobrým příkladem jak lidé používají lži, aby mohli manipulovat ostatní a aby získali to, co chtějí. Vévoda a nejstarší syn královský jsou používány Twainem, aby dokázal, jak hodně sobecky se lidé dokáží chovat. Klamou lidi, kteří je považují jako přátele jen, aby získali to, po čem touží a nic jim v tom nebránilo. Ani se nezastaví uvažovat nad tím, co by Huck dělal bez svého otroka, než ho nemilosrdně prodají. Když se mluví o Jimovi, tak je v tomto románu on ten ideální, mravní a nejvíce obdivuhodná postava. Toto může být považováno jako zobrazení toho, jak se lidé ve skutečnosti mají chovat místo toho, aby se jen odvolávali na mravní hodnoty náboženství. Přítomnost Toma Sawyera zlehčuje vážnou situaci, ale přesto je rozčilující jeho nedbalost. Twain mimořádně dokázal popsat tolik jedinečných osobností; s rozsahem od nevzdělaného otroka, který nakonec symbolizoval mučedníka pro hříšníky, kteří lhali a podváděli, aby dostali to, co chtěli a nakonec byli potrestáni. Od kluka s otcem alkoholikem a drsným dětstvím, který vospěl do ukázněného a zodpovědného chlapce, oproti klukovi stejného věku, který měl mnohem lepší výchovu, a který byl nakonec dětinský a nezodpovědný. Využitím všech těchto osobností mohl Twain ukázat svým čtenářům nedostatky a špatnosti skrze oči prostého chlapce. Skrz jeho myšlenky a názory se Twain může pustit do tak

komplexního tématu lži a může dokázat, že ne všechny lži jsou špatné. Jistě je to obecné tvrzení, ale člověk musí zvážit situaci a prostředí, kde se ta lež odehrává. Každá lež má své klady a zápory, bez ohledu na to, jestli se společnost snaží snížit zápory. Každá možnost, kterou si člověk vybere, má vždy dvě stránky.

V knize se objevuje tolik lží, že se objeví otázka zda-li je slovo lež opravdu tak negativní. Lhaní se objevuje všude a je těžké zapřít, že je součástí lidského života. Sice je to jeden román z mnoha, ale je dobrým příkladem toho, jak se lidé chovají. Kde se z jednoduché lži stane komplikované síť lží. Například zpočátku Huckleberry moc neřešil to, že pomůže Jimovi uprchnout. Bylo to pro něj více jako dobrodružství, ale časem začínal poznávat, že se situace změnila v opravdovou a vážnou. Jednou už ale se lží začal, a tak bylo jen správné v ní pokračovat. Boj, který Huckleberry vedl, byl vzorovým příkladem porovnání mezi dobrem a zlem a jaké výsledky by různá rozhodnutí měla. Také se kniha snaží sdělit to, že i když se vdova Douglasová snažila Huckleberrého učit dobrým mravům, byl i tak smířen s tím, že by mohl být odsouzen životu v pekle. I když kniha byla psána více než před sto lety, boj mezi morálností a tím co náboženství opravdu znamená je běžným problémem i v dnešní době. Tato kniha je výborným průvodcem toho, jak lidé fungují. Huckleberry musel bojovat mezi krutou realitou, kterou viděl na vlastní oči, a tím co mu bylo vsugerováno náboženstvím.

Twain tajně nutí čtenáře číst mezi řádky a poukazuje na nedostatky v náboženství. Z náboženského aspektu, by byl Huckleberry odsouzen a sám přiznal, že by mu odsouzení nevadilo. Náboženství ho naučilo, že pokud člověk zhřeší, půjde do pekla. Z morálního aspektu uvažoval nad tím, co mu vdova Douglasová stále říkala, že musí pomáhat lidem. Tento koncept se vlastně proplétá a navzájem se vylučuje. Pokud člověk lže, bude odsouzen do pekla, ale pokud se uchýlí ke lži, aby někoho zachránil, co se stane potom? Tento román je důkazem toho, že Huckleberry byl ten, který riskoval odhalení toho, co se stane, když lže. V tomto konkrétním díle vše skončilo tím, že všichni „žili šťastně až do smrti“ Tak co to opravdu vyjadřuje o lži? Jsou opravdu tak negativní, jak je lidé určili? Nebo je to jen další lež kterou lidstvo stvořilo.

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