**Thinking about the Text**

**Basic Reading Check**

1. In what theme was Emmeline Grangerford most interested?

How did Emmeline die??

death, the dead, loss/despair—she would write poetry based on local obituaries—“tributes”

1. While staying with the Grangerfords, how does Huck rediscover Jim? What else does he discover?

A slave leads him down to see a nest of water moccasins—Jim is hiding with the raft—After the elopement of Sophia and Harney goes awry and the feud explodes (Buck is killed amongst others), Huck sets sail with Jim

1. How does the “King” fool the people at the camp meeting?

He pretends to be a reformed pirate who has turned back to God and is in need of help-- $$$

1. How does the “Duke” arrange for the raft to float by day?

They print a $200 reward poster for Jim and tie him up—to make it appear as though they have captured the runaway slave

1. What does Colonel Sherburn do to Boggs and what is the town’s response? Shoots him in cold blood, broad daylight—the town decides to lynch Sherburn for the crime
2. What does Jim reveal to Huck about his daughter Elizabeth?

Jim recalls a time he hit his daughter, thinking she was being defiant, but comes to understand the child was deaf. His REMORSE and GUILT over what he did is what makes Jim DIFFERENT than everyone else in this chapter. Jim is written in a way that he is a BETTER person than everyone else. He is the MORAL CENTER of the book.

1. In what ways does Twain SATIRIZE the episode with the Grangerfords and Shepherdsons? In what ways is the fictional feud similar to the real-life feud between the Hatfields and McCoys?

Satirical details: abundance of guns (the youngest and the oldest are never without a gun in their hands), abundance of paranoia (interrogation of Huck, dead bolts on the doors), abundance of hymn books and Bibles; family has the appearance of respectable, well-to-do people and yet…—sermon about friendship and brotherly love….feud is going strong—lots of killing on botn anymore

1. At the end of ch XVIII, Huck says, “You feel mighty free and comfortable on a raft.” How does Twain contrast life on the raft with life on the shore? What does the river symbolize?

**\*\*\* RIVER MOTIF (recurring symbol)**

**Life on the raft is free and easy =SAFE.**

Ch 18/19—“ there weren’t no home like a raft…other places seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft don’t…you feel mighty free and comfortable on a raft…so quiet, so smooth, so lovely…”

**Life on land is violent, corrupt, hypocritical = UNSAFE**

1. Huck knows the “Duke” and “King” are frauds from the beginning—why then does he “let them have their way”? What does this reveal about Huck’s character?

Huck has learned from experience that the best way to deal with people like this is to let them keep their lies if it means keeping the peace—to dispute them would only lead to trouble—things would escalate and possibly turn out badly for Huck and Jim

1. What connection does Huck find between the “Duke” and “King” and real royalty? What does this seem to suggest about how Twain feels about people with unlimited power?

They are all corrupt. Twain seems to suggest that people in positions of power naturally abuse it. Twain sees people in power no better than average crooks, cheats, or swindlers—they are all playing the same game to him.

1. What is Twain attempting to SATIRIZE in the episode with Sherburn and the lynch mob? What comments about human behavior is he making?

He is satirizing several things: failed justice, corruption, and the cowardice of the average man. His speech to the lynch mob, reveals that most people are FOLLOWERS and most people are COWARDLY. Twain, through the voice of Sherburn, recognizes that violence of this sort if senseless and cowardly. He also criticizes how quickly violence can get out of control at the hands of a careless leader. During Twain’s time, the KKK was notorious for lynching African Americans for no other purpose than to satisfy their own prejudices. Twain is possibly criticizing this group directly—he references “coming at night with your hoods and masks”