

Questions on
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Chapter 39

1. What happens to the first set of rats that Huck and Jim catch?
2. What does Tom insist Jim do while in the shed?
3. What happened to Huck and Tom each time one of their snakes showed up in the house?
4. Why was Jim having a hard time getting to sleep?
5. What caused Jim and the boys to get stomachaches?
6. What is the point of writing a note to warn the Phelps that someone is going to steal their runaway slave?

Chapter 40

1. Why did Huck have to return to the cellar cupboard after he and Tom got back to the room?
2. Who was in the sitting room when Huck got there?
3. What was the “stuff” that was oozing out of Huck’s hat?
4. What causes the noise that the farmers hear when they are close to Huck, Tom, and Jim?
5. Why didn’t the dogs make a fuss when they came upon Huck, Tom, and Jim?
6. Why was Tom “the gladdest of all” when they had finally made it to the raft?
7. What does Jim say to do that is selfless and brave?

Chapter 41

1. How does Huck say Tom got shot?
2. Why doesn’t Huck go back to the island with the man?
3. Who does Huck meet when he wakes up the next morning?
4. What excuse does Huck give Aunt Sally for him and Tom not being in their room when she locked them in?
5. What makes Huck feel bad at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 42

1. From which city was the letter that arrived for the Phelps?
2. Why does the doctor say that they should not be too hard on Jim?
3. What two things does the doctor say Jim is worth? (One is a dollar amount; the other is not.)
4. What is Tom’s explanation of the events that have recently transpired?
5. What important information does Tom reveal about Jim?
6. Who tells Aunt Sally who Tom and Sid really are?
7. What happened to the most recent letter Aunt Polly sent?

Answers:

Chapter 39

1. The son lets them loose in the house.
2. Tom insists that Jim keep a journal.
3. They get a “licking” (a beating or spanking).
4. Jim couldn’t sleep due to all the spiders, snakes, and other critters with him.
5. They ate the sawdust from Jim’s inscriptions.
6. Just for the excitement of it.

Chapter 40

1. He returned to get the butter.
2. Aunt Sally and fifteen farmers were in the sitting room.
3. Butter.
4. A nail snapped loose (splinter).
5. The dogs belonged to Huck and Tom.
6. He had a bullet in his calf.
7. Jim tells Huck to get a doctor for Tom even though he might be caught.

Chapter 41

1. He says Tom shot himself while dreaming.
2. The canoe was too small for both the doctor and Huck.
3. Uncle Silas.
4. There was a lot of noise and shooting, and they wanted to see what all the commotion was.
5. He feels bad because Aunt Sally was so upset and was kind to him.

Chapter 42

1. St. Petersburg.
2. Jim risked his freedom to help "Sid."
3. \$1,000.00 and kind treatment.
4. He said that Jim was set free in Mrs. Watson's will and that Mrs. Watson had died.
5. Aunt Polly tells Aunt Sally who Tom and Sid really are.
6. Tom took the first letter, and Huck hid the second one.