Chapter 1

Vocabulary

…without you have read … unless you have read
stretched/stretchers lied/liars
…an awful sight of money … an awful lot of money
sivilize civilize
…lit out… got/ran away
warn’t wasn’t
victuals food and drink
grumble a little over the victuals say grace
goggles glasses/spectacles
middling hard quite hard
set up straight sit up straight
gap and stretch yawn and stretch

Short Commentary

In this chapter, two of the main elements in the book are introduced: the conflict between “civilization” and the natural life Huck wants to lead; and Huck’s ability to highlight the hypocrisy latent in “civilized” life, particularly in relation to religion.
Chapter 2

Vocabulary

scrouched down  
crouched down

Who dah?  
Who’s there?

could a touched him  
could have touched him

I dasn’t  
I daren’t

with the quality  
with finer folk

ef  
if

sumf’n  
something

I’s gwyne  
I’m going to

betwixt  
between

resk  
risk

…his back was all over saddle-boils …  
he had saddle sores all over his back

high-toned  
posh, fancy

hain’t he  
hasn’t he

bothersome  
troublesome

clumb  
climbed

clayey  
covered in clay

Short Commentary

The weaknesses in Tom Sawyer’s character and ideas are brought out in this chapter. The question is: why do the boys go along with it? At the moment, you could say that this is a child-like quality, but look out for it later.

Notice also the similarities between the processes by which Jim inflates the story about witches, and the way the boys ‘wind up’ the oath they all have to swear.
Chapter 3

Vocabulary

ornery  
difficult

whale me  
beat me

hog-drovers  
people who herd pigs

‘julery’  
jewellery

pow-wow  
discuss

ambuscade  
ambush

primer-class  
the youngest class in a Sunday school

tract  
religious essay

numskull  
idiot

hash you up  
beat you up

lick the other crowd  
beat the other crowd

sap head  
idiot

Short Commentary

“It had all the marks of a Sunday School.” Which side does Huck stand? Does he believe in Tom, or not? Is it credible that he can consistently see through Tom’s stories, but still keep rubbing lamps?
Chapter 4

Vocabulary

uncommon tired extremely tired
played hookey played truant
the hiding I got the beating I got
yhey warn’t so raspy on me they didn’t irritate me so much
climb climbed
old slick counterfeit quarter a fake 25¢ which was greasy to the touch (because it was made of inferior metal)
a-gwyne going
spec expects
at de las’ in the end
hirt hurt
po’ poor
by-en-by in due course of time/after a while
fum from
kin can
resk risk
‘kase because
set sat

Short Commentary

Huck sees some tracks in the snow – and notices something special about the boot-heels of the person who made them. He rushes across to the Judge and divests himself of all his money (selling them to Judge Thatcher for a dollar), and then tries to divine the future with Jim’s help. Why?
### Chapter 5

#### Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sort of hitched</td>
<td>almost stopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an old black slouch</td>
<td>a kind of ‘cowboy’ hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>starchy</td>
<td>posh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’ve put on considerble many frills</td>
<td>you’ve become quite refined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ll take you down a peg</td>
<td>I’ll make you know your place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hifalut’n</td>
<td>fancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ll learn people</td>
<td>I’ll teach people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lemme</td>
<td>let me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ll tan you good</td>
<td>I’ll give you a good beating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yaller</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>give you a cowhide</td>
<td>beat you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shell it out</td>
<td>hand it over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bullyragged</td>
<td>shouted at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he’d make it warm for him</td>
<td>he’d beat him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>was just old pie</td>
<td>treated him nicely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temperance</td>
<td>abstinence from alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afeard</td>
<td>afraid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stanchion</td>
<td>a metal rod running down the outside of the building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forty rods</td>
<td>1 rod = 5.0292 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>had to take soundings before they could</td>
<td>i.e. it was knee deep in mess (a sounding is a measurement of the depth of water under a ship)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Short Commentary

There’s a lot in this chapter about the hostility which existed between the uneducated and the educated at the time, and about the naivety of ‘do-gooders’. Why do you think this hostility existed?

Chapter 6

Vocabulary

raised Cain  
_game_  
licked me  
too handy with his hick’ry  
welts  
chimbly  
for wadding  
toted  
some lines  
hollered  
suthin’  
anear  
mulatter  

caused a lot of trouble  
birds (for eating)  
beat me  
beat me too much  
wells caused by being beaten  
chimney  
wadding was used in muzzle-loading guns to stop the ball from rolling out and to compress the charge so that the ball would go further.  
carried  
some fishing lines  
shouted  
something  
near  
mulatto (i.e. someone with both white and black ancestors)
nabob literally, a high official in a 
Muslim country – here a term of 
abuse for a black person seen to 
be ’above himself’

set stock-still sit absolutely still

piling it on exaggerating

**Short Commentary**

Now Huck’s been abducted by his father. His life in the cabin isn’t very pleasant – but it 
does have its advantages, according to Huck. What are they and why do you think that 
Huck is ambivalent about being rescued by the Judge and Miss Watson?

**Chapter 7**

**Vocabulary**

roust me out wake me up

palavering talking

cord-wood 1 cord = 3.62 cu. m. This wood
is thus sawn timber which has drifted loose.

skillet frying pan

a bag of meal a bag of flour

whetstone a stone used for sharpening tools

rowlocks the brackets on the boat oars fit into

ripped out something brisk swore at them

the dead water the calm water in the lee of the island
Short Commentary

This is the story of Huck’s escape from his father’s custody. Notice that he refers to Tom Sawyer as he’s making his preparations. What do you think about the contrast between Tom Sawyer’s way of thinking and acting, and Huck’s way of making his escape?

Chapter 8

Vocabulary

quicksilver  
mercury

baker’s bread … none of your low-down corn-pone  
bread baked with wheat flour and yeast, rather than sourdough-baked maize bread

deef  
deaf

haggled  
cut (roughly)

ef  
if

Honest injun  
a way of indicating that you’re telling the truth

low down Ablitionist  
a disgusting Abolitionist (i.e. someone who advocating ending slavery)

keeping mum  
keeping quiet

poory  
pretty

down to Orleans  
down the Mississippi to New Orleans (which was one of the central slave markets)

nigger trader  
a travelling buyer and seller of slaves

oneasy  
uneasy

do’  
door
shet
lit out
shin down de hill ... ‘bove de town
ran away
ran down the hill expecting to
steal a skiff along the shore
somewhere upstream of the
town
cooper shop
barrel-makers
shavins
wood shavings and sawdust in a
pit in the barrel-makers’
workshop
camp-meetn
prayer meeting out in the open
air
p’int
point (a spit of land sticking out
into the river)
raff
raft
tuck ahold
took hold
bank too bluff
the bank was too steep
specalat’n
speculating
one-laigged
one-legged
sot
set
ketchéd
acquired (caught)
Balum’s Ass
Balaam’s Ass (a donkey in the
Bible owned by the Gentile
soothsayer, Balaam, who
complained when his master
beat him unjustly)
chuckle-heads
idiots
k’leck
collect
squah
square (i.e. even)
Short Commentary

Huck meets up with Jim and finds out why Jim has run away from Miss Watson. He also finds out how Jim escaped. Both Jim and Huck tend to make light of the way they managed to cope with the difficulties they face – are they right to do this?

Chapter 9

Vocabulary

tolerable long steep hill

frame house

gashly

calico

two bits

reticule

vials of medicine

curry-comb

quite a long steep hill

a wooden house (built around a timber frame with panelling on the outside)

ghastly

cheap cotton

25¢

a small bag used by ladies for keeping sewing articles in

glass tubes with medicine in

a comb used to brush horses

Short Commentary

The search of the frame house is going to be very important later on in the story. Can you work out why?

Chapter 10

Vocabulary

a-ha’nting

planted and comfortable

rummaged

haunting (as a ghost)

buried properly

searched
blanket overcoat an overcoat made of thick, blanket material

peart cocky

I’d druther I’d rather

rubbage rubbish

the joint of a stove pipe i.e. you couldn’t see anything by looking under Huck’s bonnet

britches trousers

Short Commentary

This is one of the chapters in which Twain pokes fun at the superstitious nature of Huck, Jim and many of their contemporaries. How does he do this?

Chapter 11

Vocabulary

Take a cheer take a chair

hain’t haven’t

what a hard lot he was what a bad person he was

boo-hooing protesting

sence since

I let drive I threw (the lump of lead)

hive throw

‘prentice apprentice (apprentices had to sign a contract that they would stay with their masters until they were 21, and the only simple way to break that contract was to run away – which was against the law)
to cut

blinders

the flaps of leather which shield a horse’s eyes, so that it can only look forwards (and thus not be frightened in crowds)

Short Commentary

This is a classic chapter. Twain manages to move the plot along in a very witty, but elegant way. How?

Chapter 12

Vocabulary

harrow a farming implement used to break up the soil after ploughing

mushmelon honeydew melon

punkin pumpkin

chimbly-guy the wires which hold the smokestack upright

wrack wreck

seegars cigars

derrick a sort of crane used to load and unload the boat with

a-biling boiling

betwixt between

orter ought to

Shore’s as sure as

turn State’s evidence give evidence against his companions in return for a lighter sentence himself
court’n around after a halter  

pickins  

**Short Commentary**

This is another key chapter in the book. Take note of the contrast between Jim’s sense and Huck’s recklessness. Why do you think this chapter will turn out to be important?

**Chapter 13**

**Vocabulary**

paddle-box  

cretur  

beatenest  

who in the dingnation  

rapscallions  

the cover over the steamship’s paddle  

creature  

most extraordinary  

who on earth  

rascals  

**Short Commentary**

Notice how inventive Huck is in making up plausible stories. What do you think inspired him to add the details which made the ferry-boat captain go and look for the wreck?
# Chapter 14

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>spyglass</td>
<td><strong>telescope</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prime</td>
<td><strong>excellent</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skasely</td>
<td><strong>scarcely</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k’yards</td>
<td><strong>cards</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bo’d’n house</td>
<td><strong>boarding house (i.e. cheap hotel)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rackety times</td>
<td><strong>lots of arguments and noise</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nussery</td>
<td><strong>nursery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blimblammin’</td>
<td><strong>arguing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biler-factry</td>
<td><strong>boiler factory</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k’yer</td>
<td><strong>care</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bofe un</td>
<td><strong>both of</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>had any gumption</td>
<td><strong>had any sense or initiative</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pints</td>
<td><strong>points</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘spute</td>
<td><strong>dispute</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mine you</td>
<td><strong>mind you</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furder</td>
<td><strong>further</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waseful</td>
<td><strong>wasteful</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diffunt</td>
<td><strong>different</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warn’t no consekens</td>
<td><strong>was no great matter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cain’t get no situation</td>
<td><strong>can’t get a job</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I be ding-busted!  

I’ll be damned

jabber  

talk

Polly-voo-franzy  

Parlez-vous français? (Do you speak French?)

‘low  

allow

mos’ sholy  

most surely

**Short Commentary**

The introduction of the concept of royalty and aristocracy will become important later too. Huck’s conclusion is that it’s Jim who is being illogical about the existence of French. Is this actually the case?

**Chapter 15**

**Vocabulary**

dead brush  

*dead bushes*

Jack-o-lantern  

*wisp of marsh gas (methane) which had ignited (also, in popular folklore, a spirit of the dead hanging around a marsh)*

snag  

*a branch sticking up out of the water*

cat-nap  

*short doze*

tangle-headed  

*confused*

dog my cats  

*(an expression of amazement)*

humble myself  

*apologize*

**Short Commentary**

This is a dramatic incident – and it also illustrates the changing relationship between Huck and Jim. In what way do you think their relationship changes?
Chapter 16

Vocabulary

lightning bugs fireflies
staid stayed
ell an obsolete measurement of length (approx. 94 cms)
coming right out flat-footed stating plainly
doan’ less’ talk don’t let’s talk
it was all up with Cairo the option of changing rivers at Cairo had been missed
sheering off turning away
clum climbed

Short Commentary

Huck’s crisis of conscience is a very important incident in the book. The contrast between the way his culture expects him to act and the way he wants to act is very sharp. What exactly would the consequences of not turning Jim in be for Huck?

Chapter 17

Vocabulary

parlor best room
rag carpet hand-made carpet made out of bits of old clothes
… frowsy-headed … his hair was in a mess
cob pipes pipes made out of corn cobs (maize)
… trimmed down to nothing … (he had become very thin)
deck passage

the cheapest way of travelling by river boat (sleeping on the deck)

It ain’t no slouch of a name to spell

It’s a difficult name to spell

brass dog irons

brass implements used to hold up logs being burned on a fire

peddlers

travelling handymen

t Tuckered out

worn out

split-bottom chairs

chairs with a woven cane seat

wee

small

reticule

small cloth bag used for keeping sewing implements in

betwixt

between

bushels

lots

Short Commentary

In this chapter the Grangerfords and the Shepherdsons are introduced. Notice how approving Huck is of everything about the Grangerfords. Notice too the emphasis on death!

Chapter 18

Vocabulary

junketings

parties

kin-folks

relatives

high-toned

upper class

pommel

raised part at the front of the saddle

som’ers along there

around that time
blame' foolishness  
ornery  
prefore or destination  
ransacked it  
flinders  
sich punkin heads  
crick  
fambly

complete stupidity  
irritating  
Huck’s attempt to say ‘predestination’, or ‘ordination’  
searched it thoroughly  
splinters  
such idiots  
creek  
family

Short Commentary

The contrast between the practices and characters of the white people and the negroes is brought out very clearly in this chapter, as is the contrast between life on the raft and life ashore.

The question this chapter brings up is: what is moral behavior? Jim shows once again that he behaves altruistically, risking capture and re-enslavement in order to make sure that Huck is safe.

Chapter 19

Vocabulary

sweep
snag
scow
chimbley
pow-wow
hove out

long oar
submerged piece of wood just sticking up above the surface of the water
small trading boat
chimney
noise
thrown out
as tight as they could foot it

as fast as they could run

britches

trousers

galluses

a type of sock

carpet bag

bag made of an old carpet sewn together

temperance revival

teetotal meeting

mesmerism

hypnotism

phrenology

describing someone’s character by feeling the bumps on their head

nation sorry

very sorry

Dauphin

the eldest son of a king of France

huffy

in a bad mood

Short Commentary

In this chapter we meet the King and the Duke for the first time. Huck makes it clear that he sees through them, but his comment at the end of the chapter is very significant for what follows. Is Huck ever taken in by them?

Chapter 20

Vocabulary

one-horse place

a very small, poor farm

ketcheted

caught

cipher out

work out

would a sejested

would have suggested

fitten

fitting

the histrionic muse is the darling

I like acting best of all
trod the boards

acted

country jakes

country bumpkins (fools)

linsey-woolsey/gingham/calico
different kinds of cloth

lining out a hymn

teaching the crowd to sing a hymn by singing a line or two and having them sing after him

contrite

repentant

swabbing

wiping

preserve the unities

a reference to the classical style of drama

**Short Commentary**

We see the King and the Duke in action for the first time. Note the description of the religious meeting.

**Chapter 21**

**Vocabulary**

rusty

*in a bad way (hung-over)*

chippered them up

*freshened them up/woke them up*

languishy

*sweetly and longingly*

oak laths

*thin, flat pieces of wood*

highland fling/sailor’s hornpipe

two dances

shackly

*ramshackle*

chaw

*piece of chewing tobacco*

on salary

*being paid for it*

chaw up

*beaten*
sassed

argued with

spoon vittles

soft food

c’a’m

calm

blackguarding Sherburn

slandering Sherburn

lynched

hanged

**Short Commentary**

This chapter describes a typical small Southern town, and its inhabitants. Colonel Sherburn is the best man in the town, a flower of Southern chivalry, and the Boggs incident shows such a flower doing his best work.

**Chapter 22**

**Vocabulary**

bucks and wenches

male and female slaves

skaddle

run

palings

fence

sot

drunkard

**Short Commentary**

Colonel Sherburn’s indictment of Southern men is a very significant statement. To what extent do you think it reflects Twain’s own view of the nature of the white people. Note Sherburn’s comments about Northerners - Twain himself was a Southerner who went to live in the North.

The description of the circus is one of the commonest extracts from Huckleberry Finn.

**Chapter 23**

**Vocabulary**

it was too various for me

it smelled too strong

like the dickens was after you

like the devil was after you
Short Commentary

We have just seen white, free society at its worst, and this chapter begins with a discussion about the nature of kings (presumably the ‘cream’ of society). Twain then exposes us to a recollection Jim has of his family. Huck’s comment on p. 218 is very revealing (“… I do believe he cared just as much for his people as white folks does for their’n. It don’t seem natural, but I reckon it’s so.”).

Both the Grangerfords and Colonel Sherburn pay a lot of lip-service to morality. How does theirs measure up against Jim’s?

Chapter 24

Vocabulary

beaver

toting

the ones that Peter was thickest with

dissentering minister

a kind of hat

carrying

Peter’s closest friends

Dissenting Minister (Baptist, or Methodist, for example)

Short Commentary

“The clothes make the man” - you see the King and the Duke preparing their next scam.
Chapter 25

Vocabulary

the King hunched the Duke  
leak  
flapdoodle  
doxolojer  
to-wit/vizz  
passel of sapheads  
yaller-boys  
furrin  
defsisit  
the boss dodge  
the vale of sorrers  
lingo  
prime good hit

the King gave the Duke a sign  
weep  
nonsense  
doxology  
namely  
a bunch of idiots  
gold pieces  
foreign  
deficit  
the best trick  
the vale of sorrows (this wordly life)  
language  
a good reply

Short Commentary

This is the beginning of the incident with the Wilks’ family. The King and the Duke behave in their usual way, and set up a situation where they themselves are the losers.

Chapter 26

Vocabulary

up garret  
cubby

up in the attic  
alcove
pallet

stretch

reptile

rough, straw bed

lies

reptile

Short Commentary

Here we see Huck fashioning his own form of morality in the face of the conventions of both the cheats and the respectable people around in him.

Chapter 27

Vocabulary

remainders

resk

smouch it

the beats

skreky and colicky

pison long

rubbage

hogged

dad fetch the whole business

histrionic talent

remains

risk

steal it

(here) the King and the Duke

(the melodium sounded shrill and as if it had hiccups)

extremely long

rubbish

stolen

damn the whole business

acting talent

Short Commentary

Twain extracts a great deal of comedy from the scene where the undertaker goes out to quieten down the dog.
Chapter 28

Vocabulary

hair trunk

a trunk made of compressed horsehair

a-biling

boiling (with anger)

she was just full of sand

she had guts

mumps/measles/whooping cough/erysipelas/consumption/yaller janders/brain fever

different kinds of disease

muggins

fool

Short Commentary

Compare Huck’s plan to get the girls off the hook with Tom’s to get Jim freed at the end of the book.

Chapter 29

Vocabulary

complices

accomplices

it’s his hand you’ve got there

that’s in his hand-writing

Short Commentary

This chapter contains the end of the Wilks’ episode.

Chapter 30

Vocabulary

aholt

hold

Heel it

Run for it
Leggo the boy
penitentiary
.cravats

Short Commentary
Note the change of attitude of the King and the Duke towards Huck and Jim.

Chapter 31
Vocabulary
yellocution
edlocution (the art of speaking properly)
don’t work your jaw
don’t tell anyone about us
get entirely shut of them
get rid of them for good

Short Commentary
In this chapter, Huck’s moral dilemma about seeing Jim either as Miss Watson’s property (and thus making himself guilty of theft), or as a fellow human-being, comes to a head. His choice is unequivocal, but does it make him morally bad (and bound for hell)?

Chapter 32
Vocabulary
mortification
gangrene (rot)
out a piece in the country
a little way out into the country
pump them a little
question them closely
I druther
I’d rather

Short Commentary
The description of the Phelps’ place is very detailed - why? Note the reaction of Mrs Phelps to the news that the supposed steamboat explosion killed a negro.
Chapter 33

Vocabulary

staid  stayed
ha’nt  haunt
I hain’t come back  I haven’t come back
keep mum  don’t say anything
I let go all holts  I was completely amazed
store clothes  best clothes (bought in a shop, rather than home-made)
that was always nuts to Tom Sawyer  Tom Sawyer always thrived on that
to meeky along up that yard  to come quietly and humbly up the yard
owdacious  (audacious) bold
spinning-stick  implement used to spin yarn from wool
ther’ll be an idiot short  there’ll be one less idiot
Methusalem-numskull  the oldest fool (referring to Methusaleh - the oldest man in the Bible)
impudent whelps  cheeky young puppies
putrified  (petrified) turned into stone
smack  kiss
pison  poison
Chapter 34

Vocabulary

britches  trousers
bullinesses  bits of bravado
tit-tat-toe, three in a row  children’s games
lean-to  a small extension to a building, built up against the side of it
chuckle-headed  stupid
scole me  scold me (tell me off)

Short Commentary

This is where the contrast between Huck’s sensible escape plans and Tom’s increasingly far-fetched ones becomes clear. The question is, though, why does Huck go along with them?

Chapter 35

Vocabulary

resky  risky
seneskal  (seneschal) watchman
vassles  (vassals) servants
et  eaten
clew  clue
hickry-bark  wooden
pewter  (tenn)
donjon-keep  dungeon keep (prison in the main tower of a castle)
captivated

being held prisoner

spos’n

supposing

gold-leaf distinctions

useless details

smouch

steal

sejest

suggest

weatherboarding

planks nailed horizontally across the outside walls of a house to add protection from the weather

Short Commentary

Tom now goes off on a flight of fancy, based on all sorts of adventure stories he has read over the years. At the same time, he knows full well that this is all a game. Huck, on the other hand, takes the situation seriously (as far as he knows, it is), but once again, consistently fails to put up any argument at all in favour of his highly practical ideas against Tom’s ridiculous ones … why is this?

Chapter 36

Vocabulary

counterpin

(counterpain) coverlet on the bed

cold chisel

a tool used (with a hammer) to break bricks, stones or pieces of metal

chawed

chewed

wusshup

worship

Short Commentary

The episode with the case knife shows the extent of Tom’s own hypocrisy (which Huck interprets as noble feelings!). Bear in mind, though, that whilst this is all a game for Tom, Huck and Jim are running real risks. Huck is involved in theft (which will be punished severely, since his character is so bad), and Jim is in imminent risk of losing his freedom again (and probably never seeing his family again).
Chapter 37

Vocabulary

sluicing out  
around the gills  
wool-gettering memory  
I’ve been remiss  
yistiddy  
go for the woods till the weather moderated  
nigh me

pouring out  
in the face  
(wool-getting) a memory which only collects useless bits of information in an unsystematic way  
I’ve neglected things I should have done  
yesterday  
get out of the way until she had calmed down  
near me

Short Commentary

Once again, we see the quickness of Tom Sawyer’s wits … but there is still the question of how a character who is so sensible and rational can be so consistently irrational (is he too old for all these fantasies he has?), and why Huck just goes along with it.

Chapter 38

Vocabulary

distressid-tough  
scrabble  
scutcheon/bend or dexter base/satire murrey/couchant/common charge/chevron vert/chief engrailed/invected lines/field azure/nombril points/rampant/dancette indented/sable/bar sinister/gules

(distressingly tough) very difficult  
scratch  
Twain using heraldry terms to make fun of Tom’s pretensions
didn’t give my hands no show to get rid of the sores

didn’t give my blisters on my hands a chance to heal

pint

point

twyste

twice

Short Commentary

Notice the ridiculous scene where Jim breaks out of the cabin to help Tom and Huck get the grindstone in!

Chapter 39

Vocabulary

we like-to

we would have liked to

allycumpain

a plant which takes away the pain of hornet stings!

nonnamous

anonymous

mullet-headed

stupid

togs

clothes

leasure

leisure

Short Commentary

There are some fine comic scenes, when Aunt Sally finds the snakes, for example, which were exactly what Twain’s readers liked.

Chapter 40

Vocabulary

Injun file

(Indian file) one after the other in a line
Short Commentary

Compare once again Jim's reaction to Tom's getting a bullet in his leg, with that of the white people in similar situations.

Chapter 41

Vocabulary

gunnel  the edge of the canoe
natcherl  natural
sasser o 'm'lases  saucer of molasses
I 'low I'd take 'n' lash 'm t'll  I think I'd whip them until ...
brown study  she sat quietly and day-dreamed (in a depressed way)

Chapter 42

Vocabulary

nuss  nurse
getting pretty sultry for us  getting warm for us (i.e. we were getting into trouble)
ruputation  reputation

Chapter the Last

Vocabulary

gwineter  going to