

## HUCK FINN: REASON VERSUS RELIGION

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*The following is the script to the stop-motion animation movie Brian made on Sunday, 16 January 2005 and Monday, 17 January 2005 for 12<sup>th</sup>-grade AP Literature and Composition. I moved around toy characters to act out these scenes, and later I added the text below in between the stop-motion segments. Each (a), (b), etc. line was one screen of text.*

*Huck sits next to the Widow Douglas after supper (Page 2):*

- (a) 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;
- (b) but by and by she let it out that Moses had been dead a considerable long time;
- (c) so then I didn't care no more about him, because I don't take no stock in dead people.

*Huck and Miracles (Pages 10 to 11):*

- (a) Miss Watson she took me in the closet and prayed, but nothing come of it.
- (b) She told me to pray every day, and whatever I asked for I would get it.
- (c) I set down one time back in the woods, and had a long think about it. 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 Miss Watson fat up?
- (d) No, says I to myself, there ain't nothing in it.

*Huck with the Grangerfords (Page 109)*

- (a) Next Sunday [the Grangerfords] all went to church [...]. The men took their guns along, [...] and kept them between their knees or stood them handy against the wall. The Shepherdsons done the same.
- (b) It was pretty ornery preaching—all about brotherly love, and such-like tiresomeness; but everybody said it was a good sermon, and they all talked it over going home [...].

*The king scams the camp-meeting crowd (Pages 131 to 132)*

- (a) [At the Pokeville camp meeting,] the preacher begun to preach, [...] and went weaving first to one side of the platform and then to the other, [...] and shouting his words out with all his might [...].
- (b) Well, the first I knowed, the king got a-going, [...] he went a-charging up onto the platform, and the preacher he begged him to speak to the people, and he done it.
- (c) He told them he was a pirate—been a pirate for thirty years out in the Indian Ocean—[...] and, poor as he was, he was going to start right off and work his way back to the Indian Ocean, and put in the rest of his life trying to turn the pirates into the true path [...].
- (d) [S]omebody sings out, “Take up a collection for him, take up a collection!” [...] So the king went all through the crowd with his hat, swabbing his eyes, and blessing the people [...].

*Tom's Religion (Pages ?)*

- (a) Huck: Well then, if we don't want picks and shovels [for digging out Jim], what do we want?
- (b) Tom: A couple of case-knives.
- (c) Huck: To dig the foundations out from under that cabin with?
- (d) Tom: Yes
- (e) Huck: Confound it, it's foolish, Tom.
- (f) Tom: It don't make no difference how foolish it is, it's the right way—and it's the regular way. And there ain't no other way, that ever I heard of, and I've read all the books that gives any information about these things.

*Ending quote:*

Ours is a terrible religion.

-Mark Twain, 1906