

## HUCKLEBERRY FINN, JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

### Adaptation by Rubén Castro Ilizaliturri

#### ■ SCENE 1

*(Enter Huckleberry Finn, a boy of about 12 years of age)*

**Huck:** Hoo, hoo, hoo. Let's see, Tom Sawyer and I got six thousand dollars each, as a reward for the money that the robbers hid in the cave. And now Judge Thatcher has taken it and put it in a bank. According to him, it will earn interest. He is going to give us each a dollar a day.

*(Enter Miss Watson)*

**Miss Watson:** Huckleberry, sit up straight; and don't look at me like that. I'm going to make a civilized man out of you even if it is the last thing I do in this world. So when you die, you will be right with me, next to our lord.

**Huck:** Well ma'am, don't get me wrong, I know you mean well, but I just can't see any advantage in going where you will go. So I've made up my mind, I just won't try to.

**Miss Watson:** Ho, Lord! I can't believe what I just heard. No, no, no, I didn't hear anything. I'll pray, pray for your soul. BE AFRAID OF THE DARKNESS THAT WAITS FOR YOU DOWN THERE, BECAUSE YOU WILL GO TO HELL, GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOU

*(Exits)*

#### SONG

**I'm not afraid,  
In the dark,  
All the colours  
Are the same.  
I'm not afraid,  
Because I know  
I have a friend  
Somewhere, somewhere,  
I have a friend  
I'm not afraid.**

*(Enter Huck's father, drinking)*

**Father:** Look who's here. I've been looking for you all morning. Aren't you gonna say hello to your father? What's the matter? Do you think you are better than me because you can read and write? Is that it? Now you think less of your father because he can't?

**Huck:** No, sir. As a matter of fact, I don't think about you at all.

**Father:** You've hurt my feelings. Now, give me the money people say you have.

**Huck:** I don't have any money. Judge Thatcher took it and put it in a bank.

**Father:** That's a lie. You come with me to the cabin and stay there, until you can show your father some respect.

*(Huck's father leads him to the cabin and locks him in. Huck destroys the cabin)*

SONG

**"I'm not afraid"**

## ■ **SCENE 2**

*(Enter Huck and Jim, an escaped slave)*

**Huck:** *(Frightened)* Aaaaaaaaagghh!

**Jim:** *(Frightened)* Aaaaaaaaagghh!

**Huck:** Jim!

**Jim:** Huck? P-p-please don't hurt me. I-I-I've always liked ghosts and done all I can for them. Y-y-y you, you go and get back in the river, where you belong.

**Huck:** What are you doing here?

**Jim:** What am *I* doing here? What about you? What are *you* doing here?

**Huck:** I ran away. How long have you been on the island?

**Jim:** I came here the night after you got killed. But aren't you dead?

**Huck:** No, Jim, I'm not dead. I escaped. So why are you here? How come you are wearing boots?

**Jim:** I escaped too, Huck. I stole these boots. Miss Watson, she is going to sell me. She said she could get up to 800 bucks for me. We should help each other to be free.

**Huck:** How, Jim? I am just a kid and you're a slave.

**Jim:** The river, Huck. The Union army gained control of the Mississippi River at the battle of Vicksburg. The river can take us to the northern states where slaves can be free. President Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation, which means all men of colour, even the ones who escaped, can be free. If they join the Union army.

**Huck:** You're going to join the Union army? Jim, be realistic, you are not so young any more. Look, perhaps if you go back Miss Watson will change her mind about selling you.

**Jim:** Some people say that in the northern states, even a black man could become president.

**Huck:** Come on Jim, do you really believe that? OK, but how will we get there?

**Jim:** The river, it's our only chance. The river will take us to freedom. We'll make a raft. But first we need to find out how much people know about our situation. I've got an idea. You go to the next house and ask.

**Huck:** Just ask? Jim, that won't work

**Jim:** Come on, Huck, if anyone should be afraid it's me. I'm a slave on the run; you're just a kid on the run. Look, put this on. Go on, knock at the door, and above all, act natural. I'll wait for you by the river.

*(Huck puts on a dress and cap)*

### ■ **SCENE 3**

*(Enter Judith. Huck enters disguised as a girl)*

#### SONG

**Working, working  
Like a slave,  
Without any freedom,  
Without any pay,  
Working, working  
Like a woman,  
Working like a slave.**

**Huck:** Hello, is there anybody home? Could I have some fresh water to drink, ma'am?

**Judith:** Come in, help yourself. What is your name, honey?

**Huck:** Sarah Williams, ma'am. I'm a little lost. Have you heard anything about what's going on in Hookerville, ma'am?

*(Huck starts stealing things. Judith notices but keeps working)*

**Judith:** We've heard a lot of stories, but we don't know who killed that boy, Huck Finn. Some people think it was done by a runaway slave named Jim, on the orders of Huck's own father, so he could get his hands on Huck's money. So the people in town went after Huck's father, but he escaped as well, not before claiming that his son made up the whole thing and that he'll find him and clear his name.

**Huck:** Jim? Why him?

**Judith:** Well, the slave Jim ran off the same night Huck Finn disappeared. There is a reward of 300 hundred dollars. I see you are *really* helping yourself. What did you say your name was, honey?

**Huck:** Er... Mary Williams.

**Judith:** Honey, I thought you said it was Sarah?

**Huck:** Oh, yes, ma'am, I said that... er... my first name is Sarah. Some people call me Sarah... er... some people call me Mary.

**Judith:** And some people call me the Virgin Mary. Come on, what's your real name? Sit down and stay where you are.

**Huck:** (*Speaking very quickly*) OK, OK, I'll tell you the truth; you see my father and my mother are dead, and a judge bound me out to a mean old farmer, and he treated me so bad I couldn't stand it no longer. So I took my chance and ran away.

**Judith:** OK, now you can repeat that again slowly, with better diction and pronunciation.

**Huck:** OK, OK, I'll tell you the truth; you see, my father and my mother are dead, and a judge bound me out to a mean old farmer, and he treated me so bad I couldn't stand it any longer. So I took my chance and ran away.

**Judith:** Relax, I am not going to hurt you, or tell on you. You've been treated badly and you've made up your mind to stop it. I wish I could do the same, and run away from Charlie. I got married dreaming my husband would be my Prince Charming. But he turned out to be my worst nightmare. So what's your real name, kid?

**Huck:** Michael Jackson, ma'am.

**Judith:** Oh, really? Look, kid, you're not black enough, white enough or dead enough to be Michael Jackson so why don't you just tell me your name is Huck Finn? Well, Judith Loftus is my name. Now you'd better go before my husband shows up. Go, go!

**Huck:** I'm gone and thank you, ma'am.

**Judith:** Hey, Michael, Huck, or whatever your name is, wait for me. I want to join you. I've decided to run away too. My husband will find out you've been here and knowing him will get really mad. He's going to kill me sooner or later. I need to leave, to be myself. To be free!

**Huck:** But you're a woman!

**Judith:** And you're a dead kid with no manners, with a runaway slave who's worth 300 bucks.

**Huck:** You have a point. How did you know Jim was with me?

**Judith:** I didn't. I just found out. A woman's intuition. So what do you think, kid?

**Huck:** Well even if I agree, you can't join us.

**Judith:** Why not?

**Huck:** It's too dangerous for a woman. We've got a long way to go.

**Judith:** Well, as a woman I have an even longer way to go. I'm surprised and disappointed, Huck. I really thought you were different and a lot wiser than this.

**Huck:** I am sorry but we can't take you. It would really complicate things, even more for Jim. Good-bye and thank you again.

*(Huck exits)*

**Judith:** Men! I guess I'll take my chances on my own. I don't want to become another statistic. Good luck to both of you.

*(Judith exits)*

## ■ **SCENE 4**

*(Enter Huck)*

**Huck:** Jim? Are you there?

**Jim:** Yes, I'm here. So, did you get any information?

**Huck:** You don't want to know. People think you killed me.

**Jim:** What!

**Huck:** So we'd better hurry up and make a raft.

**Jim:** But I only stole these boots and ran away.

**Huck:** Well, your head is worth 300 dollars now, and my father is surely after me. This fog is so thick I think we are lost. I can't see a thing.

**Jim:** I think we are lost. I can't see a thing.

**Huck:** I just said that.

**Jim:** What?

**Huck:** I can't see a thing.

**Jim:** I just said that.

**Huck:** What?

**Jim:** I just said that.

**Huck:** Excuse me. What did you say?

**Jim:** When?

**Huck:** Just now.

**Jim:** Just now?

**Huck:** Yes!

**Jim:** When?

**Huck:** JUST NOW!

**Jim:** WHEN?

**Huck:** Forget it!

**Jim:** Forget what?

## ■ **SCENE 5**

**Huck:** Sh!

**Voice:** Hey, you on the raft, where are you from?

**Jim:** Huck, you do the talking and above all, act natural.

*(Jim hides)*

**Huck:** Why me?

**Jim:** Because you are white and are supposed to be the hero.

**Huck:** Er... Hookerville, sir.

**Voice:** Any men on the raft, kid?

**Huck:** Er... o-o-only one, sir.

**Voice:** Well, five slaves ran off tonight. One of them an Indian. Is your man white or coloured?

**Huck:** He's... er... white, sir.

**Voice:** Why are you so nervous, kid? I think I'll come and see for myself.

**Huck:** Oh, thank you sir. It's Pap. He's sick. Everybody runs away when I ask them to help us.

**Voice:** What's the matter with your father?

**Huck:** It's... a... well, he's sick... but don't leave us...

*(Jim stands up slowly, covered by a blanket)*

**Jim:** Please, help us, sir. You don't need to get close to the raft. Please.

**Voice:** Keep away kid. Your pap's got something contagious. Have you come from Mexico? Get away, get away!

**Huck:** Please, sir, don't leave us.

**Voice:** I'm sorry, but I, I can't help you. Sorry, get away, keep away...

## ■ **SCENE 6**

**Huck:** You were good, very good.

**Jim:** Thank you; you weren't so bad yourself. This fog is getting thicker; keep your eyes and ears open. *(He starts to bang on a tin)* HULO...O...

**Huck:** Hulooo? What does that mean?

**Jim:** We've got to let other boats know we're here to... Ssshhhh!

**Huck:** Something is coming towards us. Jim, it's a dead body in the water.

**Jim:** Don't look Huck, it's too terrible.

**Huck:** Who is it Jim?

**Jim:** I don't know. Let's move to the bank, it's not safe on the river right now. Perhaps we should look for some food to take with us.

**Huck:** Food? Where? We are in the middle of nowhere and with fog so thick you could cut it with a knife.

**Jim:** In the forest we should find some fruits or roots that we can cook. Follow me.

**Huck:** Jim.

**Jim:** What?

**Huck:** I'm scared, I can't see a thing. Hey, I feel something moving, I think we are in snake country. Oh, my God, yes, we are surrounded by snakes! Let's get back to the raft, run, run! I'm scared, really frightened.

**Jim:** So am I, but we still have a long way to go.

**Huck:** I'm a kid with a runaway slave. I left behind a drunken father who will kill me if he finds me. Wouldn't you feel scared in that situation?

**Jim:** Yes, but we must keep going.

## ■ SCENE 7

**Voice:** Get him! Don't let him escape! Get him, get him!

**Huck:** What's going on? Hurry, Jim, hide under the blanket.

**Voice:** Get him, don't let him escape! Get him, get him! Come on he's hiding somewhere!

*(Enter Duke)*

**Duke:** Hey, kid, help me, please, please, save me! Hurry! Row! Row! We must leave. Thank you, thank you. You've saved my life

**Huck:** No problem. My raft is your raft. Who are you, and why were those people chasing you?

**Duke:** Who am I?

**Huck:** Yes. Who are you?

**Duke:** How could I sink so low, when I was once so high? Why must I go on living when my heart is broken? Kid, I'm not blaming you. I have brought this upon myself.

**Huck:** Brought what upon yourself?

**Duke:** You would never believe me.

**Huck:** Try me.

*(They land and start making camp. Huck tries to hide Jim from the Duke)*

**Duke:** Kid, since you saved my life, I feel you must know. By rights I am a duke!

**Huck:** A duke?

**Duke:** Yes. My great-grandfather, the eldest son of the Duke of Bridgewater, fled to this country to breathe the pure air of freedom.

**Jim:** *(From under blanket)* You can say that again!

**Duke:** To breathe the pure air of freedom. Where did that voice come from? Anyway, I am the rightful Duke of Bridgewater, at your service. "Liberté, égalité et fraternité".

**Huck:** *(To Jim)* And I thought you were good.

## ■ **SCENE 8**

**Jim:** What the devil is he saying?

**Huck:** He's speaking French, Jim.

**Duke:** Oui.

*(The Duke takes out a picture of Jim)*

**Jim:** Why? Don't French people speak the same way we do?

**Duke:** Look. *(Sees Jim)* What is important is that you both helped me to escape. And why are you hiding under the blanket? Oh, you are a man of colour and your name is Jim. I see. I think it would be better for you if you carried on hiding under the blanket and kept as quiet as possible. So, where are you going?

**Huck:** We're going to Cairo.

**Duke:** What a coincidence, just like me! I think we all want the same thing, to get away and fast. So why don't we all just enjoy the ride together. What's for supper?

**Huck:** We don't have any food.

**Duke:** I guess if you are providing the raft, perhaps I can find a way to get us money to buy some food. Huck, I think you have the skills for what we need to do. I'll explain to you on the way to town. You can come out now, Jim.

*(Exit Duke)*

## ■ SCENE 9

**Jim:** Has he gone?

**Huck:** No, he is looking this way. Wait a couple of minutes, Jim. You'd better stay here and look after the raft. I am going to see what he has in mind.

**Jim:** That guy is dangerous. You can't trust him.

**Huck:** I know, but I'm smarter than him. Besides, whatever he's up to, it may be worth watching, and we might get something out of it.

**Jim:** Huck, you don't know what you are doing. Listen, it's better to keep your mouth shut and let people think you are a fool, than to open it and let them know it. I think we should go.

**Huck:** You think I am a fool? Well, I think you are just a stupid slave who doesn't know anything. Leave if you like.

*(Huck exits)*

## ■ SCENE 10

**Jim:** What can I do? What should I do? Should I stay? No, I can't take that chance, I'd better go. That boy thinks he is smart, but he just doesn't know any better, like you guys. For him the fact that I'm a slave is the most natural thing in the world. Like many good people, he believes keeping slaves is a good thing. Sometimes even we slaves think the same, or worse, that it's not worth fighting for our freedom: if the master gives us a place to sleep and sometimes even lets us have the same food he eats, then that's enough. You see, all of us fear freedom, because we're used to our chains. I can't leave him, he's my friend. I'd better go with them.

*(Exit Jim)*

## ■ SCENE 11

*(Enter Huck)*

**Huck:** Come, sinners, come learn from the good book and save yourselves. Come, sick and sore, the Lord is here to hear your repentance. Accept him. Give, give to him; yes, yes, you need to give to the lord. Give your soul, give your money. Oh yes, the Lord needs your money to save all the many lost souls. Don't be afraid.

**Duke:** Ho, Lord, a-a-men! I'm not afraid. Please let me speak to the people, let me thank you in public. Because of you, and the Lord, I'm a changed man. I was a pirate for many years out in the Indian Ocean, in the Caribbean, you name it, I was there. But, thanks be to God, I was robbed last night. And I'm glad of it, because I'm a changed man now, and happy for the very first time in my life. And, poor as I am, I'll start right off and work, work my way back to the Indian Ocean, and devote the rest of my life to trying to turn pirates onto the true path. And though it is going to take me a long time to get there without money, I will get there anyway. I will never surrender.

**Huck:** Let's take up a collection for him, take up a collection. He needs the money. Come on!

**Duke:** Thank you, brothers and sisters, and when the time comes to convert a pirate I will say to him: "Don't thank me, don't give me any credit; it all belongs to them dear people in – what's the name of this town? Pokeville. And that dear preacher there, the truest friend a pirate ever had!" (*To Huck*) OK, how much we got? Only 87.75? I think you need more practice; you started asking for the money too soon, remember to warm up your audience first. Look kid, I need to take care of some business, why don't you take a walk around the town, I'll meet you here in a couple of hours. (*Starts to leave*)

**Huck:** Hey, give me money to buy some food.

**Duke:** Yes, of course. Here is a buck - that will buy you a good meal.

*(Exits)*

**Huck:** A buck! I make 87 bucks in less than 10 minutes and I get a buck! This guy sounds a lot like Judge Thatcher. Hey, Mr. Duke, wait for me; hold it for a second, Mr. Duke!

*(Exits)*

## ■ **SCENE 12**

**Jim:** Where are they? I hope they didn't run into any trouble.

**Sheriff:** Hands up, boy, don't move, and don't try anything or I'll shoot you. Well, I guess that guy was right. Come on boy, you know what to do.

*(Jim is chained and put into the prison)*

**Sheriff:** Today is my lucky day. I'll have to celebrate. Some whisky would be perfect. But no, I shouldn't, I'm on duty... but... well, OK... just one bottle.

*(Enter Huck, looking for the Duke)*

**Huck:** Where the hell is Mr. Duke, Jim? Jim! How did you get there?

**Jim:** The Duke turned me in, I guess.

**Huck:** The Duke! Of course. I should have listened to you, Jim. I am sorry. What can I do?

**Jim:** I don't know, but I am afraid I'll be hanged!

**Huck:** Don't be so pessimistic.

**Jim:** Well, tell me then! How are you gonna help me?

**Huck:** I don't know, Jim. I'm a criminal myself, helping a slave to run away? ?

**Jim:** You are right. I understand. You have a lot to lose and nothing to gain. Good-bye, Huck, they are taking me away.

**Huck:** Just let me think! I don't know what I'm gonna do, but I'll find a way to help you, Jim. *(To audience)* What can I do? I could buy him, after all he is a slave, but I don't have any money. I could rob a bank, but I would probably get into trouble. I could wait for a miracle, but that might take forever. I could... yes! *(Shouting out to passers by)* Sale! Best prices! Sale! Sale! T-shirt for a dollar! Trousers for 3 dollars! Sale! Forget it. I couldn't sell a coke in the desert. I've got to take the bull by the horns. He is my friend: we started this journey together, and we will finish it together.

### ■ SCENE 13

*(Sheriff enters, drunk, and falls asleep. Huck takes his key but the Sheriff wakes up)*

**Sheriff:** What the hell! Help, help! The prisoner is trying to escape! OK, kid, if you like this slave so much I guess you won't mind going to hell with him.

**Huck:** Stop, stop! Don't shoot! I was doing you a favour. This man... this man... is a slave no more. His former owner sent a telegram granting his freedom.

**Sheriff:** Let me see the telegram.

**Huck:** Er, sure, I have it right here, let me see. I think, I think I've lost it. I swear I had it with me.

**Sheriff:** Well, I think you are lying. Now, you do *me* a favour and lock yourself in, boy. *(Huck enters jail)* Good, now you can watch from the front row how your slave friend is going to be hanged. *(To Jim)* Come on, boy, it's time for the big party. Remember you are the main entertainment tonight.

**Huck:** I am sorry, Jim. I should have listened to you. Please forgive me.

**Jim:** No Huck, I am the one that should ask for forgiveness.

**Huck:** You? Why?

**Jim:** You had no reason to run away. Your father is dead.

**Huck:** What?

**Jim:** Do you remember the body we saw floating on the river... it was your father. I should have told you then, but I couldn't. Part of me was afraid you wouldn't help me to run away. I am sorry.

**Huck:** My father's dead... I am free. It doesn't matter Jim, we must keep going. You are my friend, we started this journey together, and we will finish it together.

**Jim:** It's too late now, Huck, good bye.

*(Black out)*

## ■ EPILOGUE

**Actor 1:** No, no I can't do this, why don't we just stop the play here? It is too hard to do this play with just two actors.

**Actor 2:** And how do you suggest we finish it?

**Actor 1:** We just tell them what happened with Huck and Jim at the end.

**Actor 2:** OK, well as for Jim, he didn't die in the gallows His former owner, Miss Watson, sent a telegram granting his freedom and he became a free man. But still people looked at him as a man of colour. In his lifetime he always had to prove that he was a free man.

**Actor 1:** And as for Huckleberry Finn, well, he set off for the Indian territories, because after all he likes adventures.

**THE END**

## SYNOPSIS

### **Scene 1**

Huck says he and Tom have each received six thousand dollars' reward. Miss Watson says she will pray for Huck's soul. Huck's father locks him in the cabin and Huck destroys it.

### **Scene 2**

Huck and Jim meet and decide to escape together by river. Jim intends joining the Union army, as he has heard about President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

### **Scene 3**

Huck dresses as a girl and asks Judith for something to drink. Judith realises who he is and asks if she can go with him and Jim, to escape from her violent husband; Huck refuses.

### **Scene 4**

Huck tells Jim that people think Jim killed Huck and that there is a reward for Jim's capture. They get lost in thick fog.

### **Scene 5**

Someone approaches the raft, Jim covers himself with a blanket pretending to be Huck's ill father and the person goes away again.

### **Scene 6**

They continue down the river on the raft as the fog gets thicker. They see a dead body in the river. Jim suggests look for food. They discover they are surrounded by snakes.

### **Scene 7**

A man joins Huck and Jim on their raft, as he is also running away. He tells them he is "the rightful Duke of Bridgewater."

### **Scene 8**

Huck tells the Duke he and Jim are going to Cairo and the Duke says he is also going there. He tells Huck and Jim that he can find a way to get money to buy food.

### **Scene 9**

The Duke leaves the raft. Huck and Jim have an argument and Huck leaves, too.

**Scene 10**

Jim's monologue about slavery and freedom. Jim decides to follow Huck and the Duke.

**Scene 11**

In a nearby town Huck pretends to be a preacher and the Duke a converted pirate, in order to make money. The Duke leaves with nearly all the money they make.

**Scene 12**

The Sheriff puts Jim in prison. Huck finds Jim and the Sheriff starts taking Jim away. Huck decides he will do whatever he can to help Jim escape.

**Scene 13**

Huck steals the Sheriff's keys and tries to free Jim but is caught and put in prison as well. Jim explains to Huck that his father is dead. Huck is now free, although he is in prison.

**Epilogue**

The two actors explain how Jim was not executed in the end but was given his freedom by Miss Watson. Huck went to the Indian territories in search of adventures.

## ACTIVITY PACK

### NOTA A LOS PROFESORES

Los siguientes ejercicios se han pensado para que la función de teatro no sea un evento aislado sino que tenga una continuación, de forma que el vocabulario y las estructuras puedan asimilarse mejor.

Los alumnos pueden trabajar el vocabulario de antemano y los ejercicios escritos pueden ayudarles antes y después de la representación.

Firewalk Theatre espera y desea que tanto vosotros como los alumnos disfrutéis con la función y que los alumnos se interesen no sólo por el idioma sino también por el teatro.

### Sequence of Events

The following events happen in the play. Put them in the correct order.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Judith tells Huck she wants to run away with him and Jim. | ...  |
| Miss Watson says Huck will go to hell.                    | .... |
| Huck thinks there are snakes in the forest.               | .... |
| Jim tells Huck about the Emancipation Proclamation.       | .... |
| The sheriff drinks some whisky.                           | .... |
| Judge Thatcher puts Huck's reward money in the bank.      | ..1. |
| Huck sets off for the Indian territories.                 | .... |
| The sheriff puts Huck in jail.                            | ...  |
|   |      |
| Huck and Jim get lost in the fog.                         | ...  |
| Huck meets the Duke                                       | ...  |

### Correct the Mistakes

There is one grammatical mistake in each of the following sentences from the script. Find the mistakes and correct them.

- 1) And now Judge Thatcher has took it and put it in a bank.
- 2) We should to help each other to be free.
- 3) OK, I'll tell you the true.
- 4) So, did you get any informations?
- 5) Everybody run away when I ask them to help us.
- 6) This fog is getting thickest.
- 7) You'd better to stay here and look after the raft.
- 8) As many good people, he believes keeping slaves is a good thing.
- 9) And thought it is going to take me a long time to get there without money, I will get there anyway.
- 10) I don't have no money.

### Comprehension - True or False?

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F)

- 1) Tom Sawyer and Huck got six thousand dollars' reward money.
- 2) Jim thinks Huck is a ghost when he encounters him in Scene 2.
- 3) Huck asks Judith for some orange juice to drink.
- 4) Jim stole some shoes.
- 5) Huck tells the Voice his father is ill.
- 6) The Duke speaks French.
- 7) Jim trusts the Duke.
- 8) The Duke says he was a pirate until he found religion
- 9) Huck tries to sell his clothes.
- 10) Huck tells the sheriff that Jim's former owner sent a telegram asking for Jim to be put in jail.

### Vocabulary: definitions

Match the words and phrases from the play with their definitions.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Advantage (n, Scene 1)                        | a) Special ability (n)                  |
| 2) Buck, n, Scene 2)                             | b) Idiot (n)                            |
| 3) Nightmare (n, Scene 3)                        | c) Face bravely a problem or danger (v) |
| 4) Bound me out (v – infinitive “bind”, Scene 3) | d) Start on a journey (v)               |
| 5) Frightened (adj, Scene 6)                     | e) Hired me (v)                         |
| 6) Skill (n, Scene 8)                            | f) Positive aspect (n)                  |
| 7) Fool (n, Scene 9)                             | g) Dollar (n, slang)                    |
| 8) Repentance (n, Scene 11)                      | h) Telling an untruth (v)               |
| 9) Take the bull by the horns (v, Scene 12)      | i) Bad dream (n)                        |
| 10) Lying (v – infinitive “lie”, Scene 13)       | j) Scared (adj)                         |
| 11) Set off (v, Epilogue)                        | k) Regret (n)                           |

### Multiple choice gap-fill

In Scene 10 Jim talks about slavery. Fill in the gaps with what you consider to be a suitable word.

What can I ..... (*do/make/have*)? What ..... (*would/should/may*) I do? Should I ..... (*march/walk/stay*)? No, I can't take that ..... (*opportunity/chance/idea*), I'd ..... (*better/good/must*) go. That boy thinks he is smart, but he just ..... (*isn't/doesn't/haven't*) know any better, (*as/like/just*) you guys. For him the fact that I'm a slave is the most natural thing (*in/on/to*) the world. Like many good people, he believes ..... (*making/keeping/treating*) slaves is a good thing. Sometimes even we slaves think the same, or worse, that it's not worth fighting for our ..... (*freeness/free/freedom*): if the master gives us a place to sleep and sometimes even lets us have the same food he eats, then that's enough. You see, all of us ..... (*afraid/fear/frightened*) freedom, because we're ..... (*used/using/usual*) to our chains. I can't leave him, he's my friend. I'd better go with ..... (*them/they/their*).

## Opposites of Adjectives

Using a dictionary if necessary, find opposites for the following words from the script. Sometimes more than one word is possible.

- 1) Wrong (Scene 1)
- 2) Dead (Scene 2)
- 3) Mean (Scene 3)
- 4) Thick (Scene 6)
- 5) Sick (Scenes 11 and 5)
- 6) Drunken (Scene 6)
- 7) Quiet (Scene 8)
- 8) Same (Scene 8)
- 9) Dangerous (Scene 9)
- 10) Worse (Scene 10)

## **Oral Work**

### Roleplay

In groups, imagine that two of you are Huck and Jim, respectively, on the raft, and you are approached by several of the following characters who want to join you on your “journey to freedom”. However, there is only room for one more person.

Each character must present a convincing argument to persuade Huck and Jim to choose him/her to take on their journey. When all of the characters have presented their arguments, Huck and Jim discuss the characters’ reasons for joining them on the raft and then take a vote to decide who to take with them.

Characters:

- A peasant who is drowning
- A rich woman who is unhappy with her husband
- An orphaned child
- A politician
- An unemployed cook
- A blind man

### Group Discussion 1

In groups, discuss Judith’s statement from Scene 3.

“Well, as a woman I have an even longer way to go. I’m surprised and disappointed, Huck. I really thought you were different and a lot wiser than this.

Men! I guess I’ll take my chances on my own. I don’t want to become another statistic.”

Some points you might want to consider are: Do you think women still have “a long way to go” today? What is the statistic that she is referring to? Have attitudes towards the difference between men and women changed much since Judith’s time? Do you think that there are any differences? If so, what? Do you think sexual discrimination is a serious problem nowadays? Do you think the fact that America now has a black president will improve things?

### Group Discussion 2

One of the themes of the play is inequality. In groups, first decide what type of discrimination (eg, age, gender, race, etc.) is implied in the following quotations from the script and then discuss your opinion on the statements.

Do you think you are better than me because you can read and write? (Scene 1)

I am just a kid and you’re a slave. (Scene 2)

Be realistic, you are not so young any more. (Scene 2)

It’s too dangerous for a woman. (Scene 3)

Because you are white and are supposed to be the hero. (Scene 5)

### Group Discussion 3

In Scene 10 Jim says “All of us fear freedom, because we’re used to our chains.”

Do you think Jim is just referring to slaves with this statement? Do we all “fear freedom”? Is everyone “in chains” in some way? – if so, how? Can we escape from our “chains”? Discuss these and any other points which occur to you when you think about this comment.

### 10) Alternative title

In small groups decide on an alternative title for the play, giving reasons to justify your choice. You can use one of the following titles or make up one of your own:

Huckleberry Finn and the Runaway Slave; Freedom vs. Slavery; One Boy and His Raft; Ebony and Ivory; Friendship Rules!

When all the groups have decided on their title take a class vote on the best one.

## KEY

### Sequence of Events

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Judith tells Huck she wants to run away with him and Jim. | 4  |
| Miss Watson says Huck will go to hell.                    | 2  |
| Huck thinks there are snakes in the forest.               | 6  |
| Jim tells Huck about the Emancipation Proclamation.       | 3  |
| The sheriff drinks some whisky.                           | 8  |
| Judge Thatcher puts Huck's reward money in the bank.      | 1  |
| Huck sets off for the Indian territories.                 | 10 |
| The sheriff puts Huck in jail.                            | 9  |
| <br>  |    |
| Huck and Jim get lost in the fog.                         | 5  |
| Huck meets the Duke                                       | 7  |

### Correct the Mistakes

- 1) And now Judge Thatcher has *taken* it and put it in a bank.
- 2) We should *help* each other to be free.
- 3) OK, I'll tell you the *truth*.
- 4) So, did you get any *information*?
- 5) Everybody *runs* away when I ask them to help us.
- 6) This fog is getting *thicker*.
- 7) You'd better *stay* here and look after the raft.
- 8) *Like* many good people, he believes keeping slaves is a good thing.
- 9) And though it is going to take me a long time to get there without money, I will get there anyway.
- 10) I don't have *any* money.

### Comprehension - True or false?

- 1) Tom Sawyer and Huck got six thousand dollars' reward money – T.
- 2) Jim thinks Huck is a ghost when he encounters him in Scene 2 – T.
- 3) Huck asks Judith for some orange juice to drink – F.
- 4) Jim stole some shoes – F.
- 5) Huck tells the Voice his father is ill – T.
- 6) The Duke speaks French – T.
- 7) Jim trusts the Duke – F.
- 8) The Duke says he was a pirate until he found religion – T.
- 9) Huck tries to sell his clothes – T.
- 10) Huck tells the sheriff that Jim's former owner sent a telegram asking for Jim to be put in jail – F.

### Vocabulary: definitions

- 1) f
- 2) g
- 3) i
- 4) e
- 5) j
- 6) a
- 7) b
- 8) k
- 9) c
- 10) h
- 11) d

### Multiple choice gap-fill

What can I **do**? What **should** I do? Should I **stay**? No, I can't take that **chance**, I'd **better** go. That boy thinks he is smart, but he just **doesn't** know any better, **like** you guys. For him the fact that I'm a slave is the most natural thing **in** the world. Like many good people, he believes **keeping** slaves is a good thing. Sometimes even we slaves think the same, or worse, that it's not worth fighting for our **freedom**: if the master gives us a place to sleep and sometimes even lets us have the same food he eats, then that's enough. You see, all of us **fear** freedom, because we're **used** to our chains. I can't leave him, he's my friend. I'd better go with **them**.

### Opposites of Adjectives

- 1) Wrong - Right
- 2) Dead - Alive
- 3) Mean - Generous
- 4) Thick – Thin
- 5) Sick – Well/Healthy
- 6) Drunken - Sober
- 7) Quiet - Noisy
- 8) Same – Different
- 9) Dangerous - Safe
- 10) Worse – Better