

Why you should read Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

1. Huck is a delightful, memorable, and truly unique character who will stay with you long after the novel is finished.
2. Twain is a master with dialect – he recreates a region and time period through his language.
3. Huck’s adventures resonate with the most fanciful, imaginative, and universal aspects of childhood.
4. It is stunning and important to realize how far our country has come with regard to our own humanity and how we regard the humanity of others.
5. Most of the time, it is simply a fun read – reminiscent of our favorite tales from childhood.

Why you may struggle with Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

1. Although it is interesting to see how far our country has come, it is painful – frightening, even – to remember where we began.
2. Twain’s painstaking recreation of the regional dialect is very difficult to read (at first).
3. Although wildly imaginative and fun, Huck’s adventures tend to ramble in a few places.
4. The last chapters are unsettling and have frustrated many readers.

Still interested? A suggestion before you begin...

- The character’s dialect – particularly Jim’s – might be challenging to read. Try not to sound out the words, but read them quickly and let your brain adjust. You will still get the meaning and the dialect will get easier as you get used to it.

- You can download the novel for free:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/76>

http://publicliterature.org/books/huckleberry_finn/xaa.php