Mark Twain called *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* "a book of mine where a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat."

The purpose of this activity is to discover examples of Huck's "sound heart" and examples of his "deformed conscience" and to see how his "conscience suffers defeat." It is the premise of this lesson that Huck's sound heart is nurtured on the river and that his deformed conscience is developed on the shore.

Terms to define:

1. conscience: __________________________________________________________________
2. sound: ______________________________________________________________________

In your groups, draw a theme out of "the hat." Circle yours in the list provided below.

- Love
- Education (learning)
- Slavery
- Pretense
- Religion
- Parenting
- Racism
- Society (social customs/rules)
- Trust

A. Your task is to go back through the book to find examples that fit your theme. Use the River/Shore diagram on page three to record as much information as you can. So on the diagram, you will record what happens on shore as well as what happens on the river. Then, study the data you have recorded in order to draw conclusions.

B. Questions to consider: Record ideas/notes here to use for your paragraph later. Use bulleted lists or short phrases to convey your ideas when possible.

a. What is the significant difference between the things you listed on the river side versus the shore side? That is, what *qualities or characteristics* are common among the things on each side?
b. How do any of the things you listed connect with Huck’s deformed conscience?

c. How do any of the things you listed connect with Huck’s sound heart?

d. What does Huck learn?

e. How do you know that Huck’s deformed conscience has suffered defeat? In other words, what did he learn that makes his “sound heart” win?

C. Use whatever is appropriate from your notes above to help you write your paragraph on page four.
   a. General prompt: Huck’s experiences with __________ (insert your theme) teach him that ______________________ (finish this statement in whatever way seems important to you). Then develop your paragraph to support this statement (using your details from your notes).

D. Be prepared to read your paragraph to the class.