

Chapters 35-39 Comprehension and Analysis Questions

1. In Chapter 35, Huck tells Tom that he believes the plan for freeing Jim is becoming foolish, to which Tom replies, “[i]t don’t make no difference how foolish it is, it’s the *right* way,” (243). Based upon what you already know of Tom, what additional inferences can you make about his character?
2. As Tom and Huck start digging, it quickly becomes apparent that the case knives they are using will not be sufficient to dig through the foundation of the structure Jim is imprisoned inside. Tom eventually concedes that it would be more appropriate to use a pick, but concedes that it “ain’t moral,” but that they have to “dig him out with the picks, and *let* on that it’s case-knives,” (245). What does this tell you about Tom? How dedicated is he to doing things the “right” way?
3. Later in the same chapter, we meet Nat again, one of Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas’ slaves. He is terrified of witches, and is convinced by Tom that he is being haunted. Is Nat portrayed favorably in this chapter? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think that Tom and Huck elect to “let on” that it took them six months to make their rope ladder?
5. What do you make of the fact that Tom has virtually no idea what all of the components of the Coat of Arms are?

Symbolism (Choose One)

For one of the following, please provide a brief analysis of what you feel the symbolic importance of each item is. Your analysis should be 3-5 sentences in length.

- The Witch Pie
- The Coat of Arms
- Tom Sawyer (Both as a *name* which Huck embraces and as a person)