Introductions:

The King:

The *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain is at its heart a bildungsroman of its titular character, Huck Finn. Huck has a long journey throughout the novel—both physically and developmentally. Taking place in the antebellum south, the primary moral concerns dealt with are those of slavery and racial equality. The height of Huck’s moral development comes near the end of the novel when Huck’s gradual shifting and uncertain attitudes about slavery and societal norms as a whole are staked down after a night of deep thought.

The Duke:

A recurring controversy surrounding the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* concerns what moral message Mark Twain means to send the reader, if one even exists. Though Twain writes a notice at the beginning of the book that states “person’s attempting to find a moral in (this book) will be banished,” there is one definite lesson contained within the book—which concerns slavery. Twain uses the pivotal scene of Huckleberry’s moral growth where he protects Jim from being captured to show the reader that though slavery is socially accepted, it is not truly right, and that to discriminate between true right and wrong one must rely on one’s own perceptions—which is the deepest meaning of the book.

A body paragraph:

Tom Sawyer:

The single pivotal moment occurs when Huck plays with Jim by making him believe that Huck was dead when the two are separated by the fog. Jim was deeply afflicted by the possible death of Huck, yet Huck taunts and jokes about the situation. Huck, deeply naïve, does not understand the implications for Jim’s despair. Aside from being travel companions, Huck was Jim’s only viable method of escape into freedom. Huck play with this idea of liberation, which is a serious issue for Jim. Huck seeks adventure and escape from his abusive father, but Jim is after basic human rights. Huck partially realized his wrong-doings, stating that “It took me fifteen minutes to work myself up to go and humble myself to a nigger—but I done it” (Twain 87). After this event occurs, Huck starts to recognize the human emotions within Jim.