You are to read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; then complete the provided study guide questions for *Huck Finn*. Bring the completed questions to class with you on the first day of school. You must also read at least one additional book from the List of Suggested Books below. Ideally, you should read more than the minimum in order to improve your reading skills and vocabulary. During the first few days of school, you will have to give some account of what you have read, either an in-class or out-of-class writing assignment.

### List of Suggested Books

*Bridge Over the River Kwai* by Pierre Boulle: prisoners of war have to decide which side they are on.


*The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy: USSR versus America in search of a defecting Russian sub.

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the master detective of all time, with his assistant Watson, solves the most baffling crimes.

*The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas: a timeless adventure tale of the ultimate revenge.


*Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry: McMurtry’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the last days of the great North American cattle drives.

*Mutiny on the Bounty* by Nordoff and Hall: this classic tale of the sea stirs the souls of all who would fight tyranny.
*The Three Musketeers* by Alexander Dumas: 17th-century France provides the colorful background for this extraordinary adventure.

*Summer of ’49* by David Halberstam: titanic struggle for dominance between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

*Adrift* by Steven Callahan: true adventure of survival at sea.

*Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand: historical account of the career of the little horse that captured American hearts during the Great Depression.

*The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown: popular murder mystery that puts a spin on the way we look at some of the world’s most celebrated art.

*The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay: the inspiring tale of one boy’s quest to become a champion and a leader. (Don’t be put off by the length. This is a page-turner).
Study Guide for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Humanities 8
Summer 2006

Please respond in writing to the following questions. There are not necessarily any right answers. Just compose answers that demonstrate your ability to interpret the text at a sophisticated level. You may type your answers or write them by hand, but be sure that your work is legible. Have your answers with you on the first day of class.

Do you sense any change from *Tom Sawyer* in Mark Twain’s style or intent with the opening of *Huck Finn*?
Why does he include “The Notice”? Is the shift in narrative voice from third person (in *Tom Sawyer*) to first person in *Huck Finn* significant?

Twain’s signature writing style is his use of satire. Identify places in the text where Twain uses humor to poke fun at someone or something. For example, the townspeople that Huck, Jim, and the two charlatans meet are often gullible rubes, easy marks for the con artists. Why does Twain portray them this way? Identify other places in the story where Twain creates humorous satire through language, dialect, idioms, or just misunderstandings.

Sometimes when readers first meet Jim, they are put off because they think Twain has created an unflattering picture of the slave. Close reading sheds a different light on the character of Jim. Examine the Jim scenes carefully, and use textual evidence to support your idea of what Twain is trying to accomplish with Jim’s character. (Be sure to examine the scene where Huck and Jim go on the floating house and discover the dead man. Figure out why Jim won’t let Huck see the man’s face.)

Why does Huck spell civilization with an “s”? At the end of the novel, Huck says, “…I reckon I got to light out for the territory…because Aunt Sally she’s going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can’t stand it. I been there before” (281). Why does Huck need to leave “sivilization”? (Look up irony. It might be helpful to you when you address these questions.)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is an odyssey. Where does Huck’s journey truly begin? Pinpoint a moment when Huck is truly “on his way”? Explain why you chose that moment. As Huck continues his journey down the river, sometimes he makes good decisions, and sometimes he makes bad ones. Give examples of some of his decisions and discuss whether the decisions were good or bad. What is Huck learning on his journey?

At the end of Chapter 18, Huck says, “You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft.” Write about the roles of land, the river, and the raft in *Huckleberry Finn*.

BONUS: Where is the longest sentence in the book?