

(B)

Huck's Journey, My Journey  
Final Assessment *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Due \_\_\_\_\_

*"Lessons, there are always lessons"*

-Bill Peden

Your final assessment for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is to craft a visual artifact that communicates your *thorough* understanding of the text. I'd like you to focus on Huck's moral development throughout the novel – consider his journey down the river (literal and figurative) as an adventure in learning life's lessons. Huck learns about human nature, himself, and society. I imagine that you have learned a few lessons in your life – I expect that, whether you realize it or not, many of the most important lessons have occurred somewhere other than the classroom. Consider these, consider the more formal education and exposure you have had, and make connections between the lessons Huck learned and your very own lessons.

**The Assignment**

- Choose three life lessons that Huck learns. As always, *be specific!*
  - Weak: Huck learns that Jim is a good person even though he is black.
  - Strong: Huck realizes, through his personal interactions with a person who has been marginalized by society, that stereotypes do not always hold true and traditions can be challenged.
- Through a conceptual interpretation and representation (video, painting, collage, performance, diorama, sculpture, illustrations, etc.) clearly exhibit the parallel experiences between Huck's Journey and your very own.
- You have unlimited creative freedom, but *must, must, must* be sure you exhibit a firm grasp of the material we have discussed and covered in regards to *Huck*.

**The Process**

1. Brainstorm (the most important step in *all* of your writing, right?!):
  - a. The many lessons Huck learns. (Tip: It could be helpful to consider larger themes in the novel and how Twain explores these through Huck's character.)
  - b. What specifically (events, relationships, etc) led Huck to learning particular lessons.
  - c. What price he paid, if any, in order to learn those lessons.
  - d. Think of similar lessons you have learned (think big!).
  - e. What led you to learning those lessons – be specific!
  - f. What similarities are found in your respective journeys?
2. Choose *one* lesson from the three to analyze and represent in your final presentation.
  - a. The focus you choose should be the strongest and clearest connection you have; you will need to support it artistically and in a more formal writing assignment.
3. Create your conceptual piece! Conceptual art places emphasis on the ideas behind the art. You can create whatever you wish...whatever it is *must* have a visual component (If you choose to write a song, there must be a visual element that compliments your words and presentation and it *must* be essential to defending your argument).
4. Presentations begin **Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**.

**The Assessment\*:**

While this is a creative assignment I expect you to exhibit evidence of an in-depth understanding and engagement with the text. It must be *clear* to me in (1) the product that you present, (2) the presentation of that project, and (3) the artist's statement that you have a thorough understanding of *Huck Finn*. I'm interested in your ability to critically engage with a work of literature and draw connections between your experiences and the text. Keep in mind this is your final assessment for this unit.

\*Rubric forthcoming.