



## Teaching Three Great Books with Dr. Flora Armetta

### Lesson 5: Huckleberry Finn, Part Four

#### Outline:

##### The Grangerfords (Chapter 17)

- Meanings behind Twain's description of the items in the house & the Grangerfords' actions:
  - The clock: hypocrisy
  - Emmeline Grangerfords' poetry: worshipping death & over-memorializing everyday experiences
  - Rifles in church: hypocrisy
  - Buck/Huck foil: "...You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on raft."
- Socratic Circle/Essay Prompts
  - *Huckleberry Finn* is the first truly American novel. Why?
    - Life
    - Freedom (compare Huck, Jim, & the American ideal)
    - Land and rivers
    - Citizenship
    - Use Declaration of Independence
    - Happiness

##### The King and the Duke

- *Huckleberry Finn* is commonly referred to as 'picaresque' (**picaro** - low-born adventurer)
  - First-person, from the POV of a picaro
  - Episodic
  - Focuses on individual & usually ridiculous moments that function as sketches of stereotypical character and place types (*Don Quixote* is one of the best known picaresque novels; show students Table of Contents)
- Focus on the scene concerning the king and the duke - the Shakespeare scene (Chapter 21)
  - **Creative writing exercise** - have students complete a silly narrative by pasting together different quotes, perhaps from Mother Goose, etc.
  - **Vocabulary** - doxology, high-falutin', spondulics, "hark from the tomb" (euphemisms), "dolphin" (dauphin)

##### Questions for Revealing Large Themes

- Elements of nature and their symbolic value - Twain uses this symbolism to reflect his view on living in nature versus living in civilization



- What do Twain's scene concerning religion tells us about his view of Christianity?
- Similarly, how are **Biblical principles** reflected in the novel?
  - Philippians 4:8
  - John 15:13