Book Review: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Reviewer: Ean Milligan

Samuel L. Clemens took the pen name Mark Twain from a steamboat term meaning two fathoms deep, enough for safe passage. Twain grew up in Missouri along the Mississippi in the mid-1800s and wrote his stories based on his experiences. Twain enjoyed using satire to entertain the reader.

Twain lets Huckleberry Finn (Huck) tell the story from Huck’s point of view. Huck speaks in Southern dialect and slang giving the novel an authentic feel. Throughout the novel, Huck uses rough language which was part of his life and story.

Huck starts out living with the old widow and her sister Miss Watson until his drunken father comes and kidnaps him. When he can’t stand living with his father anymore, Huck comes up with an elaborate plan to make it look like robbers killed Huck. Then, Huck lives on an island in the Mississippi River until he finds Jim, Miss Watson’s escaped slave. Jim and Huck try to reach a safe place for Jim to live down river.

Although I liked this book, some beginning some parts seemed to be unnecessary, but as the story went along, it pulled me in. At times, I found myself unable to stop reading and hoping that Huck would find Jim or that they would make it to shore alive. I enjoyed reading this book and would like to read more of Twain’s stories. I recommend this book to those who like adventures and like learning a little history while reading a fictional book.