Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*By*

*Mark Twain*

Understanding Dialects

A dialect is a speech pattern of a specific social group. The characters in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* speak in several different dialects. These dialects add color and authenticity to the story. Readers today can still understand the speech of Twain’s characters, although they often find that reading certain passages aloud makes it easier to follow.

Below are quotations from four of the characters in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. On the lines following each quotation, rewrite it in correct modern English.

1. Tom Sawyer: “Don’t you reckon that the people that made the books knows what’s the correct thing to do? Do you reckon you can learn ‘em anything?”

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1. Pap: “Your mother couldn’t read, and she couldn’t write, nuther, before she died. None of the family couldn’t…I ain’t the man to stand it-you hear?”

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1. Huck: “…I warn’t disappointed. A big double loaf come along, and I most git it ….Of course I was where the current set in the closet to the shore—I knowed enough for that.”

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1. Jim: “Why, yes, dat’s so; I—I’d done forgot it. A harem’s a bo’d’nhouse, I reck’n. Mos’ likely dey had rackety times in de nussery.”

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