

<< 《哈克贝利·费恩历险记》 >>

图书基本信息

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前言

The Concord (Mass) Public Library committee has decided to ex-clude Mark Twain ' S latest book from the library . One member ofthe committee says that , while he does not wish to call it immoral . he thinks it contains but linle humor , and that of a very coarse type . He regards it as the veriest trash . The librarian and the other mem-bers of the committee entertain similar views , characterizing it asrough , coarse and inelegant , dealing with a series of experiencesnot elevating , the whole book being more suited to the slums thanto intelligent , respectable people . (Boston Transcript , March 17 , 1885) The Concord Public Library was not the only group to condemnMark Twain ' S Adventures of Huckleberry Finn . This novel aboutthe adventures of a fourteen . year-old boy has generated contro . versy in every year since it was published in 1884 .

“ What !

” thenewcomer to the . novel might exclaim - “ this popular boy ' S bookabout a happy and wholesome young life in rural America ?

” Yet , ironically , it is true . Even by the standards of the late twentiethcentury , Adventures ofHuckleberry Finn is one of the most radicaland darkly bitter books in the American canon . What does it pres . ent as good and worthy ?

For one thing , it represents the breakingof a federal law as moral .

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内容概要

Since the time of its publication in 1884, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has generated heated controversy. One of the most frequently banned books in the history of literature, it raises issues of race relations, censorship, civil disobedience, and adolescent group psychology as relevant today as they were in the 1880s. This collection of historical documents, collateral readings, and commentary captures the stormy character of the slave-holding frontier on the eve of war and highlights the legacy of past conflicts in contemporary society. These materials will promote interdisciplinary study of the novel and enrich the student's understanding of the issues raised. 作者简介

: CLAUDIA DURST JOHNSON is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alabama, where she served as chair of the English Department for twelve years. She is series editor of the "Literature in Context" series, for which she has authored numerous works.

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章节摘录

Literary Analysis : Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Forms of Enslavement THE FLUID
STRUCTURE Mark Twain ' S Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is . in the way it is put together and in the
various stories it tells . a repudiation of traditional forms of plot structure . the rules and manners of gen . teel
society , and the restraints civilization places upon the free spirit . In looking at the way the novel is constructed
 . one can see that Mark Twain has dispensed with a tightly constructed plot in favor of an episodic narrative that
takes its form from nature . in this case , the mighty Mississippi River flowing through the heart of America . A
single , thoroughly American geographic feature not only contributes to the novel ' S endorsement of freedom
and nature , it is also a key to and a reflection of the book ' S structure . The action of the novel is comprised
of numerous episodes which are held together , not by the usual kind of plot , but by the river itself . Episodes occur
on the river or close by the river , and there is always a return to the river . Because of its episodic nature
 . the novel ' S form can best be described as picaresque , meaning “ a novel of the road , ” in this case , a
journey on the river . The unifying elements in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn are the character of Huck , who
relates the story and is always in the middle of the action .

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