



## ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Glossary from CliffsNotes**

<b>allycumpain</b>	elecampane, a tall, hairy perennial plant of the composite family, having flower heads with many slender, yellow rays.
<b>Barlow knife</b>	a jackknife with one blade.
<b>bars</b>	a thing that blocks the way or prevents entrance or further movement, as in a sandbar.
<b>bilgewater</b>	water that collects in the bilge of a ship, slang for worthless or silly talk.
<b>black slouch</b>	a felt hat with a broad, floppy rim.
<b>blame</b>	a milder slang alternative for "damned."
<b>bowie</b>	a steel knife about fifteen inches long, with a single edge, usually carried in a sheath.
<b>buckle</b>	to paddle hard.
<b>bullyragged</b>	scolded, chastised.
<b>Cairo</b>	city in southern Illinois, at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.
<b>calico</b>	a printed cotton fabric.
<b>camp-meeting</b>	here, a religious revival.
<b>Capet</b>	Hugh Capet, king of France (987-996); here, the duke's reference to the king.
<b>carpet-bag</b>	an old-fashioned type of traveling bag, made of carpeting.
<b>Congress-water</b>	mineral water from Saratoga said to have medicinal properties.
<b>consumption</b>	tuberculosis.
<b>corn-pone</b>	corn meal.
<b>cravats</b>	neckerchiefs or scarves.
<b>curry-comb</b>	a metal comb.
<b>dauphin</b>	the eldest son of the king of France, a title used from 1349 to 1830.
<b>delirium tremens</b>	involuntary muscle spasm usually associate with drinking alcohol and characterized by sweating, anxiety, and hallucinations.
<b>dog-fennel</b>	any of several weeds or wildflowers of the composite family, having daisy like flower heads.
<b>doggery</b>	a saloon.
<b>dog-irons</b>	iron braces used to hold firewood.
<b>down in de bills</b>	predestined, foreordained by divine decree or intent.
<b>doxolojer</b>	the doxology; a hymn of praise to God.
<b>erysipelas</b>	an acute infectious disease of the skin or mucous membranes caused by a streptococcus and characterized by local inflammation and fever.
<b>fan-tods</b>	the nervous fidgets.
<b>five-center piece</b>	monetary equivalent of a nickel. Nickels were not minted until after the Civil War.
<b>foreordination</b>	predestination.
<b>forty-rod</b>	cheap whisky.
<b>fox-fire</b>	the luminescence of decaying wood and plant remains, caused by various fungi.
<b>gabble</b>	to talk rapidly and incoherently; jabber; chatter.

<b>galoot</b> [Slang] a person, esp. an awkward, ungainly person.
<b>gar</b> needlefish.
<b>gingham</b> a yarn-dyed cotton cloth, usually woven in stripes, checks, or plaids.
<b>habob</b> aristocratic member of the community.
<b>harrow</b> a frame with spikes or sharp-edged disks, drawn by a horse or tractor and used for breaking up and leveling plowed ground, covering seeds, rooting up weeds, etc.
<b>harrow-teeth</b> wood or metal spikes used to plow land.
<b>high-toned</b> aristocratic or snobbish.
<b>hived</b> robbed.
<b>Irish potato</b> the common white potato; so called because extensively cultivated in Ireland.
<b>jackstaff</b> an iron rod or wooden bar on a ship to which the sails are fastened.
<b>jimson weed</b> jimson weed; a poisonous annual weed ( <i>Datura stramonium</i> ) of the nightshade family, with foul-smelling leaves, prickly fruit, and white or purplish, trumpet-shaped flowers.
<b>juice harp</b> Jew's harp, a small musical instrument consisting of a lyre-shaped metal frame held between the teeth and played by plucking a projecting bent piece with the finger.
<b>Langudoc</b> Languedoc, historical region of southern France.
<b>lay in ambush</b> hide in ambush.
<b>liberty-pole</b> a tall flagstaff planted in the ground.
<b>melodeum</b> melodeon; a small keyboard organ.
<b>mesmerism</b> hypnotism.
<b>Methusalem</b> Methuselah, one of the biblical patriarchs who was said to live 969 years.
<b>mud-cat</b> a catfish.
<b>Muddy</b> the Mississippi River.
<b>muggins</b> a fool.
<b>mulatter</b> mulatto, a person who has one black parent and one white parent.
<b>mullen stalks</b> stalks of the mullein, a tall plant of the figwort family, with spikes of yellow, lavender, or white flowers.
<b>mushmelon</b> a cantaloupe or other moderate sized melon.
<b>Navarre</b> historical region and former kingdom in northeast Spain and southwest France.
<b>Nebokoodnezer</b> Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylonia who conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and deported many Jews into Babylonia (586 bc).
<b>niggers</b> nigger, originally a dialectal variant of <i>Negro</i> , the term is a derogatory and vulgar racial slur directed primarily toward African Americans.
<b>nip and tuck</b> so close that the outcome is uncertain.
<b>obsequies</b> funeral rites or ceremonies.
<b>palavering</b> talking or idly chattering.
<b>peart</b> pert, lively, chipper, or smart.
<b>Pilgrim's Progress</b> a religious allegory by John Bunyan (1678).
<b>plug er dog-leg</b> a plug of cheap chewing tobacco.
<b>polly-voo franzy</b> <i>parlez-vous Francais</i> , "Do you speak French?"
<b>pow-wow</b> to confer, to have an intense discussion; originally from a North American Indian word.
<b>predestination</b> the theological doctrine that God foreordained everything that would happen.
<b>puncheon floor</b> floor made of a heavy, broad piece of roughly dressed timber with one side hewed flat.
<b>pungle</b> to pay.
<b>put in her shovel</b> offered an opinion.
<b>reticule</b> a small handbag or sewing bag, originally made of needlework and usually having a drawstring.
<b>sand in my craw</b> courage.
<b>sap-head</b> a fool.
<b>scutcheon</b> escutcheon a shield or shield-shaped surface on which a coat of arms is displayed.

<b>seneskal</b> seneschal, a steward or major-domo in the household of a medieval noble.
<b>shekel</b> a half-ounce gold or silver coin of the ancient Hebrews.
<b>Sir Walter Scott</b> (1771-1832) Scottish poet and novelist, author of <i>Ivanhoe</i> .
<b>skiff</b> a flat-bottomed boat propelled by oars.
<b>slick up</b> to polish.
<b>slough</b> a place, as a hollow, full of soft, deep mud; a swamp, bog, or marsh, especially one that is part of an inlet or backwater.
<b>smokehouse</b> a building, especially an outbuilding on a farm, where meats, fish, etc. are smoked in order to cure and flavor them.
<b>smouch</b> steal.
<b>sold</b> scammed, to be made a fool
<b>soul-butter</b> flattery.
<b>Spanish Moss</b> a plant often found growing in long, graceful strands from the branches of trees in the south eastern U.S.
<b>stabbord</b> starboard, the right side of a ship or boat or boat as one faces forward.
<b>sugar-hogshead</b> a large barrel used to store sugar.
<b>“sumter”</b> mule sumpter mule, a packhorse, mule, or other animal used for carrying baggage.
<b>taller</b> tallow, the nearly colorless solid fat extracted from the natural fat of cattle or sheep, used in making candles and soaps.
<b>tar and feather</b> to cover a person with tar and feathers as in punishment by mob action.
<b>the nation</b> slang for “damnation.”
<b>the quality</b> word used by the South to describe aristocracy.
<b>the Texas</b> a structure on the hurricane deck of a steamboat, containing the officers’ quarters, etc. and having the pilothouse on top or in front.
<b>tick</b> a cloth case covering that is filled with cotton, feathers, or hair to form a mattress or pillow.
<b>tow</b> a rope made from strands of broken or coarse flax or hemp.
<b>tow-head</b> sandbar with thick reeds.
<b>tract</b> a propagandizing pamphlet, especially one on a religious or political subject.
<b>trot line</b> a strong fishing line suspended over the water, with short, baited lines hung at intervals.
<b>two bits</b> 25 cents.
<b>yaller-boys</b> gold coins.
Bruce, Robert. <i>CliffsNotes on Huckleberry Finn</i> . 15 Aug 2007 < <a href="http://www.cliffsnotes.com/WileyCDA/LitNote/id-20.html">http://www.cliffsnotes.com/WileyCDA/LitNote/id-20.html</a> >.