

## THE PATH OF THE HERO BETWEEN TRIAL AND ADVENTURE

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**Abstract:** The field of study known as comparative literature investigates the ways in which different societies’ literary traditions and cultural practices are analyzed and compared. The importance of this study rests in the fact that it attempts to describe how two authors who come from different social and cultural backgrounds view and assess a hero’s journey. The cultural and mythological examination of the evolution of the principal characters in Dickens’ *Great Expectations* and Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* will be the primary focus of the paper and will serve as its foundation.

**Keywords:** comparison, literature, adventure, journey, characterization, etc.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Both *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain tell the tale of two ordinary orphans who go on extraordinary journeys. *Great Expectations* is set in Victorian England, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is set in frontier America. Both of these stories were grounded in the true experiences of their respective authors. Dickens’s father was forced into a debtor’s prison when he was unable to support his family. Charles was forced to work in a Victorian sweatshop for ten hours a day, pasting labels on bottles of boot blacking, when he was only twelve years old. He was left to fend for himself. Twain was only eleven years old when his father went away. He had no choice but to discontinue his education and seek employment as an apprentice printer. Both authors began their careers in the printing and journalism businesses, where they honed their writing skills for big journals. After gaining experience in those fields, they shifted their focus to creating the popular fiction that brought them fame and fortune. Pip and Huck are both experiencing the same problems. While Pip is an apprentice to a blacksmith and is dominated by his harpy sister, Huck is held captive in the oppressive environment of Widow Douglas’ and the malevolent spinster Miss Watson. Both of the boys make an attempt to escape in order to retrieve their lives. Pip gets money from an unknown benefactor in order to go upriver toward London, where he disguises himself as a gentleman, while Huck runs downriver from Widow Douglas and his abusive father. The adolescent orphan will either escape into a high fantasy or flee from reality and responsibilities in order to enjoy what seems to be one long, leisurely sail down the river. This is done in order to escape the stresses of approaching maturity and to enjoy what appears to be one long, languid sail down the river. Twain spent his childhood in Hannibal, Missouri, which is located near a river, while Dickens spent his formative years in Chatham, Kent, which is located near the mouth of the Thames. Both authors were profoundly impacted by the big rivers in their environments. The rivers serve as strong allegories for the path that one must travel through life. The fact that Pip’s life is inextricably linked to the River Thames brings to mind Huck’s trek across the Mississippi. The low life of London and the marshlands of the Thames are similar to Huck’s Mississippi in many ways due to the fact that the flotsam and jetsam of humanity, which includes con artists, gamblers, and criminals, are constantly on the move. Pip and Huck are both river people; they make their homes on the river, ride the banks of the river, pursue their fortunes, and make choices about their futures as the river flows. While Pip and Huck are swept up in the deep, dark flow of “*Old Man River*”, which is actually the Mississippi, and “*Old Father Thames*,” respectively, they are both tormented by their shadow fathers, which represent the shadow side of themselves. Both are naturally terrified after discovering the bleak aspects of their destinies from the convicted Magwitch and Huck’s violent and inebriated natural father, respectively. While Huck’s penchant for sloth, dishonesty, and self-indulgence is comparable to Old Finn’s decadent and debauched way of life, Magwitch’s acts of fraud and violence reveal where Pip’s sham attempt to be a gentleman might lead him. The fact that Magwitch and Old Finn both end up dead serves not only as a form of justice but also as a method for Pip and Huck to come to terms with their own shortcomings and move on to more responsible and adult lives in the future. Stories written by Dickens and Twain are considered ageless because of the

common themes that they explore. The parable of the orphan searching for his father is symbolic of every human spirit that has been cut off from the relationship with their heavenly parent and has become an orphan as a result.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A number of different research methods were utilized in order to approach the subject in a manner that would swiftly and clearly convey its objectives. In order to convey its findings in a way that is both concise and understandable, the study made use of a variety of research methodologies. For a research to be accepted and supportive of its aim, the authors need to give adequate data and analyses from a range of sources by illustrating every essential point of view on the topic. Only then will the research be considered acceptable. This research used a range of methodologies in order to effectively and concisely convey its point.

In this study, the descriptive technique was utilized in order to establish a systematic attempt to characterize the phenomenon of the hero's journey. Given that the works of both authors have also been adapted for the big screen, there are many aspects that can be compared and contrasted using the correlational method. This method will be used to find or prove that there is a connection between two or more aspects of the topic, such as what effect various social, political, and educational factors have had on both authors.

## 3. RESULTS

The data that were acquired throughout the procedure of the study have a significant impact on how the results are to be interpreted. We should always begin the analysis by considering what the author themselves had to say about the problem at hand. Does he offer any justification for the particular kind of composition that he has chosen to use? This and our own viewpoint regarding the subject will provide a compact analysis. When all of these different approaches are combined, the findings may be comprehended more clearly. As stated, stories by Dickens and Twain endure because their themes are familiar to readers everywhere. Each lost human soul, cut off from family at birth, can identify with the orphan on his or her journey to find meaning in life. Like Huck and Pip, we, too, are on a solitary journey downstream toward the boundless sea of eternity. Their bafflement and terror are a reflection of our own. We share in their embarrassments, blunders, and misfortunes because we, too, set out on our own adventures filled with high hopes that are all too often dashed.

## 4. DISCUSSION

Great Expectations focuses mostly on the main character, Pip. He is Mrs. Joe Gargery's younger brother, as well as Joe Gargery's brother-in-law. Joe Gargery is Mrs. Joe Gargery's husband. Pumblechook is Pip's uncle, and Pip is Pumblechook's nephew-in-law.

As the story unfolds, Pip's relationship with Mr. Wopsle, a family friend, deepens to the point where the two are practically inseparable. Pip's wish begins to come true when one Miss Havisham offers Pip an opportunity to interact with other people. Estella Havisham might consider Pip for the role of her future husband. In later years, Pip is recognized by the law as Mr. Jaggers' child. Pip acts as an antagonistic force not only towards Jaggers, but also towards Dolge Orlick. Pip starts out as Bidley's student, but he later marries Bidley's sister and becomes her brother-in-law. Pip's best friend is Herbert Pocket. Pip also forms a friendship with John Wemmick, a man he meets in London, and Wemmick becomes one of his allies. Bentley Drummle is Pip's most formidable adversary, and the two of them engage in a battle to win Estella's hand in marriage. Pip is friends with another student in the class named Startop.

A benefactor by the name of Abel Magwitch provides assistance to Pip. Pip and Abel Magwitch eventually become friends, and Pip is instrumental in Abel's successful escape. Pip receives his education from a young age from Mr. Wopsle's great aunt. Pip is responsible for the development of the narrative because his aspirations and desires are the driving force behind the plot and all of the story's subplots. He strives to accomplish numerous things throughout the course of the narrative, the first of which is to marry Estella. Pip devotes the most of the story to wooing Estella and making a good impression on her and her mother too. It is for the sake of making a good impression on Estella that he develops a second objective, which is to establish himself as a gentleman in the upper class. Pip feels motivated by his education provided by Wopsle's aunt's lessons not long after he is first introduced. He comes to the conclusion that he wants to live his life in such a way that he does not have to end it in the same manner as Joe, his brother-in-law. He is instructed by his close friend Bidley, and he is placed under Miss Havisham's tutelage so that he can realize his ambition. Because of his aspiration to one day become a gentleman, he is finally dispatched to London to complete his formal education and to undertake gentlemanly training (Ahmed, 2017). It is in London that he comes into contact with other people that contribute to the progression of the story. After having spent a considerable amount of time in London, Pip has a new objective for himself, which is to protect Magwitch, his

benefactor, from the authorities. This objective takes up the all of the final chapter of the book, and without it, a lot of the story points won't make sense or connect the way they should.

On the other hand, the title character in Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* serves both as the story's narrator and hero. Huckleberry Finn is a young boy of fourteen years old and is the son of the local alcoholic who was first featured in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Miller, 1983). At the conclusion of that novel, Huck was taken in as a foster child by the Widow Douglas and her sister Miss Watson. They moved him to town so that he might participate in the local community and receive an education. However, towards the opening of the book *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, we find out that their efforts to 'civilize' him have only been somewhat effective up until this point. Huck has the skills to read and write, but he never stops sneaking out of his window at night to hang out with Tom Sawyer and the rest of the boys. Huck's father comes back to town and kidnaps him in the hopes of getting his hands on Huck's riches. This puts a sudden end to Huck's life in the town. Huck, though, is able to get away by pretending to be dead and making his way to Jackson's Island. There, he comes face to face with Jim, a slave who had been owned by Miss Watson but had escaped after she threatened to sell him 'down the river.' They decide to travel down the Mississippi River and live a life of independence on the raft, which has become their haven away from society. During their travels, they don't interact with any other people. During their journey, Huck is forced to confront the ethics that he has internalized from society and that tell him Jim is nothing more than property and not a person. According to this set of ethical standards, the fact that he assisted Jim in evading capture constitutes a sin. Huck comes to the conclusion that he cannot betray Jim, so he says to himself, "*All right, then, I'll go to hell.*" Huck acquires the ability to determine for himself the appropriate action to take in a variety of predicaments. Huck cedes control of the narrative to Tom Sawyer in the latter one-third of the novel, allowing Sawyer's ludicrous plans to release Jim to drive the plot forward. Huck is no longer in charge, and it looks that he has given up on his mission to find a moral path. But after Jim is finally set free, Huck makes the decision that he would "*light out for the Territory*" in order to flee the civilizing effect of yet another mother figure, Tom's Aunt Sally in this case. Some people believe that because Huck made this choice, he is exonerated from the accusation that he let Tom divert him from the process of figuring out his own personal code of ethics. Others interpret this to suggest that Twain believes there is no chance for civilization to redeem itself; because society as a whole is unable to fix its fundamental flaws, such as slavery and individuals like Huck have no choice but to flee its grasp entirely.

## 5. CONCLUSION

It is possible to see *Great Expectations* as both a study of human psychological growth and a *Bildungsroman novel*. This is the peculiar style storyline that Dickens uses, in which he develops the structure of the plot while simultaneously externalizing the inner workings of Pip's brain at the same time. Pip, the main character in the book, can be seen more clearly to the readers because to the author's use of first-person narration, which serves two purposes: it helps the author develop the plot, and it allows the readers to have a better sense of Pip. This great and enormous novel can be described a work dealing with the moral reformation of Pip, if one were to look at it in that perspective.

Huck's personality evolves as he gathers more life experience, which enlightens him to the dishonesty of society and ultimately inspires him to defy it by doing what is right, which is to set Jim free, despite the fact that doing so will send him to hell and subject him to endless torment. Huck is driven to abandon the racist society in which he is currently living because he has a strong desire to break free from the restrictions imposed on him by society. In the end, Huck is morally freed from the hypocrisy and injustice that are prevalent in Southern society because he follows his heart rather than his conscience.

The voyage that Huck and Pip had in the wilderness is analogous to the one that we may take in our lives to reach the endless sea of eternity. Their bewilderment and anxiety mirrors our own in many ways. Their embarrassments, errors, and disasters are our own since each of us embarks on our own adventures with great ambitions that, unfortunately, are all too frequently not achieved. The conclusion of each of these stories about orphans presents the reader with a choice: they can continue on with another adventure, or they can face reality and accept their responsibilities. The end result of Pip's investigation is that he has come to terms with the reality. He makes his way back to his family in the manner of the prodigal son, first to Joe, then to a job that is menial but adequate, and then to the possibility of a future with Estella, the one and only woman he has ever loved. On the other hand, the American Huck dismisses such a response because he cannot stomach the idea of being civilized, he believes that he should travel to the Territory ahead of the others so that he might escape Aunt Sally's plans to adopt and civilize him.

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