

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Finn on Trial Answer Key

### Model Responses

Side A: Finn's Actions Can Be Justified	Side B: Finn's Actions Cannot Be Justified
He grew up in poverty with little guidance or education.	He chose violence even when he had other options.
His alcoholism reflects a disease, not simply bad choices.	He repeatedly abused Huck, causing trauma.

### Debate Questions (Sample Insights)

1. Poverty or addiction may explain behavior but do not excuse causing harm.
2. Had Finn resisted addiction and taken responsibility, Huck might have grown up with safety and stability.

### Written Reflection (Sample)

Finn's actions cannot be fully justified. While poverty and addiction shaped his life, he repeatedly chose violence and neglect. For example, he kidnapped Huck and locked him in the cabin, which showed disregard for Huck's safety. He also squandered chances to change, preferring gambling and alcohol over responsibility. This resembles modern cases of child abuse in families struggling with addiction. Explanations exist, but the harm remains. Huck's suffering makes it clear that Finn's actions, though shaped by his circumstances, are ultimately unjustifiable.