

Name _____

Clinch's Choice Answer Key

Close Reading Prompt (Model Responses)

1. Clinch highlights themes of addiction, abuse, moral corruption, and the consequences of neglect.
2. By focusing on Finn, readers better understand the toxic environment Huck escaped, making Huck's independence more heroic and significant.

Short Essay

You may share the following prompts with your students to help them in completing this part of the worksheet:

- What truths about society or family does this perspective reveal?
- How does it add depth to Twain's original world?
- What lasting message does it leave with modern readers?

Sample Response: Jon Clinch chose to reimagine Finn to explore the origins of Huck's struggles. By focusing on an abusive, destructive father, Clinch reveals the generational cycles of violence and addiction that shape families. This perspective adds depth to Twain's classic by showing what Huck was running from. It reminds readers that heroes often emerge in response to darkness. Clinch's novel leaves a lasting message about resilience, survival, and the importance of breaking free from destructive legacies.