

Character Description: Huck Finn from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Below is the description of Huckleberry Finn in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Read the description and answer the questions below.

Huckleberry was cordially hated and dreaded by all the mothers of the town, because he was idle and lawless and vulgar and bad—and because all their children admired him so, and delighted in his forbidden society, and wished they dared to be like him. Tom was like the rest of the respectable boys, in that he envied Huckleberry his gaudy outcast condition, and was under strict orders not to play with him. So he played with him every time he got a chance. Huckleberry was always dressed in the cast-off clothes of full-grown men, and they were in perennial bloom and fluttering with rags. His hat was a vast ruin with a wide crescent lopped out of its brim; his coat, when he wore one, hung nearly to his heels and had the rearward buttons far down the back; but one suspender supported his trousers; the seat of the trousers bagged low and contained nothing, the fringed legs dragged in the dirt when not rolled up.

Huckleberry came and went, at his own free will. He slept on doorsteps in fine weather and in empty hogsheads in wet; he did not have to go to school or to church, or call any being master or obey anybody; he could go fishing or swimming when and where he chose, and stay as long as it suited him; nobody forbade him to fight; he could sit up as late as he pleased; he was always the first boy that went barefoot in the spring and the last to resume leather in the fall; he never had to wash, nor put on clean clothes; he could swear wonderfully. In a word, everything that goes to make life precious that boy had. So thought every harassed, hampered, respectable boy in St. Petersburg.

Questions:

1. Where did Huck's clothes come from? _____
2. How did Huck hold up his pants? _____
3. How often did Huck have to take a bath? _____
4. Who told Huck what to do? _____
5. When did Huck go barefoot? _____

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Answers: Student's answers will vary; examples of correct answers:

Questions:

1. Where did Huck's clothes come from? **They were old clothes from grown men.**
2. How did Huck hold up his pants? **With one suspender**
3. How often did Huck have to take a bath? **Never**
4. Who told Huck what to do? **No one**
5. When did Huck go barefoot? **Spring through fall**