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| ***Passage 1*** | **Page number and location**: pg. 19 – about halfway down |
| **Quick summary of passage**: After Tommy Barnes gets scared and threatens to tell the gang’s secrets, Tom Sawyer gives him a nickel to keep quiet. |
| **Reason passage is significant**: This shows the ridiculousness of the Tom’s gang; it shows they won’t really be robbers and killers, and Tom isn’t following his own oath and acting like a robber/murderer. Tom is regurgitating ideas from books he’s read and pretending, but it seems not all of the other boys understand that at this time. |
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| ***Passage 2*** | **Page number and location**: first paragraph of pg. 20 |
| **Quick summary of passage**: Huck reveals an overly simple understanding of praying. |
| **Reason passage is significant**: This shows Huck doesn’t understand religion and has a hard time relating to the “sivilized” ways of the Widow. It also shows Huck’s lack of education because he tends to take things literally; instead of praying for forgiveness like the Widow might, he prays for physical things (fish hooks, etc.) and gets disappointed when they don’t appear, which leads to him easily writing off the Widow’s efforts to further civilize/educate Huck. |
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| ***Passage 3*** | **Page number and location**: Huck’s conversation with his father on the top of page 28 |
| **Quick summary of passage**: Huck’s dad resents that Huck is becoming educated. |
| **Reason passage is significant**: Pap is a prideful man – he clearly thinks little of educated people, and he thinks he’s just as good as them. He thinks Huck’s ability to read and write shows disrespect toward him. This conversation and Pap’s thick dialect (he’s even harder to understand than Huck) shows the trend that, in this book, the more educated the character, the more properly he/she speaks. Huck doesn’t want to be like Pap, so perhaps he’ll continue to learn as much as he can, thinking the more he learns, the less he’ll be like Pap.  |

Significant passages for book group discussion