Your Name

Ms. VanLeuvan

American Studies English

6 February 2015

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Haikus

“Low-Down Abolitionist”

Huck learns Jim’s secret,

But promises to keep mum.

-Abolitionist!

Reflection Paragraph:

Introduce the haiku and how it connects to the novel.

Analyze the word choice that you use in your haiku.

Provide insight into the overall theme of your haiku.

For this poem I selected the scene on Jackson’s Island where Huck learns that Jim has “run off,” but promises to keep it a secret. This is one of the first dramatic moments in the novel as it establishes the connection between Huck and Jim and sets up the conflict that Huck will experience throughout the story. I use the words “keep mum” in the second line because I think they capture the way Huck talks about keeping the secret, so this diction brings out his personality and point of view. The major emphasis of my poem comes in the final line. Luckily, *Abolitionist* has five syllables, so it fits perfectly. But more importantly, it captures the conflict well. To Huck, *Abolitionist* is a dirty word – or so he had been taught. By capitalizing the word, giving it its own line, and following it with an exclamation point (!), I capture the horror and confusion that Huck experiences when he realizes the impact of the promise. I use a dash right before the word *Abolitionist* to make the statement almost like a gasp as it goes through Huck’s mind. The word choice in my haiku acts to enforce the internal conflict that Huck experiences throughout the novel. While Huck is on his journey down the Mississippi River, he struggles to assert his own human feelings against the attitudes of a slave-holding society.