American Freedom Story: a journey from "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" to the "Secret Life of Bees"

This dissertation identifies an American freedom story in a set of novels from 1885 to 2002 beginning with the foundation text Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Five American writers use similar elements and approaches to consider the freedom quest: Willa Cather, Zora Neale Hurston, Maxine Hong Kingston, Bharati Mukherjee, and Sue Monk Kidd. This story frame leads a misfit hero to leave family and hometown to form a community and experience personal freedom without cultural, religious, gender, racial, or ethnic limitations. The community, as well as the experience of freedom, exists only fleetingly. As the notion of freedom itself changes in America from the Civil War to the present, the hero and the quest in these novels must change as well. The use of the freedom story genre facilitates viewing these works and their diverse authors across historical time, critical approaches, and social contexts.

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Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer are both young boys growing up before the Civil War along the Mississippi. We will write a custom essay on The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn specifically for you for only $16.38 $13.90/page. Order now. We will write a custom sample essay on The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn specifically for you FOR ONLY $16.38 $13.90/page. Hire Writer. We will write a custom sample essay on The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn specifically for you FOR ONLY $16.38 $13.90/page. They continue their journey down the river until, they help two men by letting them raft with them. One man claims he's a Duke while the other claims he's the rightful King of France, Huck can see right through their lies but Jim is fascinated and gives both men tremendous respect. American authors tend to write about life in their times. Mark Twain lived in the 1800's and witnessed the Civil War era. At that time, our nation was divided over the issue of slavery. The inhumane treatment of slaves moved Twain to use his... Whenever Huck Finn steers his raft from the free currents of the river to the brambles on the banks of the Mississippi he renews his interaction with the society of the American south. When Twain's narrative comes ashore with Huck, the narrative... Mark Twain's satiric masterwork The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn has, over time, manifested itself as a novel of pronounced controversy proportionate to its tremendous literary worth. The story of an "uncivilized" Southern boy and the intrigues...