

# book club questions

## JAMES BY PERCIVAL EVERETT

---

Have you read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn?

How does James differ from The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn?

How does perspective influence the story?

Discuss the Mississippi River as a backdrop for Huck's and Jim's/James's adventure.

Discuss water as a symbol in the novel.

What is the significance of the age difference between Huck and Jim/James?

Discuss this story as a satire, both in Twain's and Everett's writing.

Why did the author/Jim choose the name "James"?

In what format did you read James, and how did it impact your experience?

Compare and contrast Huck and Jim/James.

How do Huck and Jim/James view family?

What do Huck and Jim/James see in each other?

Discuss why Huck and Jim/James each seek escape.

Discuss the dangers Huck and Jim/James faced.

Discuss the theme of race and slavery.

What role does gender play in the novel?

What role does religion play in the novel?

What does the story say about literacy and education?

Discuss Jim's/James's dialogue and "code-switching."

Discuss this quote: "Belief has nothing to do with truth."

What does freedom mean to Huck and to Jim/James?

Did James help you see the titular character in a different light?

What's next for Jim/James?

How does James compare to other historical fiction of the era that you've read?

Do you recommend any other classic retellings?