



# Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks)

*Shelley Fisher Fishkin*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks)

Shelley Fisher Fishkin

**Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks)** Shelley Fisher Fishkin

Published in 1884, *Huck Finn* has become one of the most widely taught novels in American curricula. But where did *Huckleberry Finn* come from, and what made it so distinctive? Shelley Fisher Fishkin suggests that in *Huckleberry Finn*, more than in any other work, Mark Twain let African-American voices, language, and rhetorical traditions play a major role in the creation of his art.

In *Was Huck Black?*, Fishkin combines close readings of published and unpublished writing by Twain with intensive biographical and historical research and insights gleaned from linguistics, literary theory, and folklore to shed new light on the role African-American speech played in the genesis of *Huckleberry Finn*. Given that book's importance in American culture, her analysis illuminates, as well, how the voices of African-Americans have shaped our sense of what is distinctively "American" about American literature. Fishkin shows that Mark Twain was surrounded, throughout his life, by richly talented African-American speakers whose rhetorical gifts Twain admired candidly and profusely. A black child named Jimmy whom Twain called "the most artless, sociable and exhaustless talker I ever came across" helped Twain understand the potential of a vernacular narrator in the years before he began writing *Huckleberry Finn*, and served as a model for the voice with which Twain would transform American literature. A slave named Jerry whom Twain referred to as an "impudent and satirical and delightful young black man" taught Twain about "signifying"--satire in an African-American vein--when Twain was a teenager (later Twain would recall that he thought him "the greatest man in the United States" at the time). Other African-American voices left their mark on Twain's imagination as well--but their role in the creation of his art has never been recognized. *Was Huck Black?* adds a new dimension to current debates over multiculturalism and the canon.

American literary historians have told a largely segregated story: white writers come from white literary ancestors, black writers from black ones. The truth is more complicated and more interesting. While African-American culture shaped *Huckleberry Finn*, that novel, in turn, helped shape African-American writing in the twentieth century. As Ralph Ellison commented in an interview with Fishkin, Twain "made it possible for many of us to find our own voices."

*Was Huck Black?* dramatizes the crucial role of black voices in Twain's art, and takes the first steps beyond traditional cultural boundaries to unveil an American literary heritage that is infinitely richer and more complex than we had thought.

 [Download Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American V ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) Shelley Fisher Fishkin**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Bobby Miller:**

This Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is definitely information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. That Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) without we recognize teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't be worry Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) having good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Kathi Adamo:**

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the subject Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) suitable to you? Often the book was written by famous writer in this era. The particular book untitled Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks)is one of several books this everyone read now. This specific book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new shape that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their concept in the simple way, so all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this publication. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world with this book.

#### **Elaine Roberts:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

#### **Kathryn Granger:**

As we know that book is significant thing to add our expertise for everything. By a guide we can know everything we want. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year had been

exactly added. This reserve Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) was filled regarding science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has various feel when they reading the book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book you wanted.

**Download and Read Online Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) Shelley Fisher Fishkin #QY95UR8VZWI**

## **Read Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin for online ebook**

Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin books to read online.

## **Online Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin ebook PDF download**

**Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin Doc**

**Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin Mobipocket**

**Was Huck Black?: Mark Twain and African-American Voices (Oxford Paperbacks) by Shelley Fisher Fishkin EPub**