

huck finn /3/ store policy

When I **got to** Hannibal, I saw many **businesses**, one next to the other, in a **row along** the main road. There was Huck Finn Inn, Tom's Treasure Box, Huck's Best Buck and a lot of other places like that. I stopped **at** the Huckleberry Burger joint and **got** a large ice water and a burger. The first thing I ordered was the ice water and the guy **behind the counter** said, „I can't give you an ice water **unless** you buy something else. Sorry, it's **store policy**.“

I **had** planned to buy a burger **anyway**, but the idea **bothered** me. I said, „You mean, if I had no money and I came in here **literally** dying **of** thirst, ready to **collapse** on your floor, and I asked for a cup of water, you'd tell me you cannot give me water?“. The **son of a bitch** smiled and said, „That's right.“ I ordered the burger. I was hungry — and thirsty.

I **kept walking in** the hot sun, all those tourists driving by and frowning **at** me. I **passed** more souvenir shops and restaurants and hotels and swimming pools, and I never felt any sense of Huck or Tom's Hannibal. I started talking to Huck again. I said, „Huck, I know I **haven't talked** to you **in a long time**, but do you see what they **have done to** you and Tom?“ Huck said, „Hell, Sidney, it doesn't **matter**, me and Tom left this town **a long time ago. We've been moving** with you, Sidney. Let's get out of this town and **head** down this river,“ then he **pointed to** the road before us. We walked out of town together, **talking** like we **used to** in the old times.