



Title: James: A Novel
Author: Percival Everett
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BOOK RESUME: JAMES

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view

When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Brimming with the electrifying humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never before.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Percival Everett [is] our current Great American Novelist. . . [*James*] is a masterpiece that will help redefine one of the classics of American literature, while also being a major achievement on its own. . . I almost cannot imagine a future where teachers assign *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* without also assigning *James* alongside it. . . Everett is one of the most, if not the most interesting writers working today." —*The Chicago Tribune*

"[A] sly response to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. . . While *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* lampooned American society through the naiveté of its young narrator, *James* critiques White racism with the sharp insight of a character who's felt the lash . . . What's most striking, ultimately, is the way *James* both honors and interrogates *Huck Finn*, along with the nation that reveres it." —*The Washington Post*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner of the 2024 National Book Award for Fiction
- Winner of the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Giving "James" a Voice: Percival Everett on His Reimagining of Huck Finn | Amanpour and Company, Amanpour and Company \(2024\)](#)
- [Percival Everett: 'Reading Is the Most Subversive Thing We Can Do', Word In Black \(2025\)](#)

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.