"Life on the Mississippi" by Mark Twain

**Jargon:**
invented simply as a professional shorthand; the technical language of a particular profession, group, or trade that was developed out of convenience rather than intentional trickiness.
ex:) slang refers to the way in which Bixby speaks (as slang refers to made up words), and elevated diction (proper word choice) is what the narrator will be using until he learns the technical language (jargon) of a Mississippi riverboater

**Extended Metaphor:**
a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things (without using like/as) and extends the comparison as far as the writer wants to take it
-Mark Twain uses these to add humor to his stories

**About this time period...**
Why does Twain want to become a riverboat captain? Well, at this time riverboats were a popular, needed mode of transportation for industry. In fact, shipping products on boats was vital for half of the country’s economy in the 1800s. Modern transportation such as airplanes and trucks were yet to be invented. The Mississippi River, where this story takes place, is the third-largest river in the world, and due to this it was a fast and easy way to travel (especially since its route went from the northern United States to the Gulf of Mexico).

---

A. On a separate sheet of paper, respond: What does the extended metaphor mean? Why is it being used?

“I had managed to pack my head full of islands, towns, bars, “points,” and bends, and a curiously inanimate mass of lumber it was, too.” p. 453

“My gunpowdery chief went off with a bang of course, and then went off loading and firing until he was out of adjectives. I had learned long ago that he only carried just so many rounds of ammunition, and was very sure to subside into a very placable and even remorseful old smoothbore as soon as they were all gone.” p. 454

“Now I had seen pilots gazing at the water and pretending to read it as if it were a book: but it was a book that told me nothing. A time came at last, however, when Mr. Bixby seemed to think me far enough advances to bear a lesson on water-reading. So he began--” p. 457

“The face of the water-in time, became a wonderful book (continue through paragraph).” p. 461

“What does the lovely flush in a beauty’s cheek mean to a doctor but a “break” that ripples above some deadly disease? Are not all her visible charms sown thick with what are to him the signs and symbols of hidden decay?Does he ever see her beauty at all, or doesn’t he simply view her professionally, and coment upon her unwholesome condition all to himself?” p. 462