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The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

MARK TWAIN



THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Mark Twain

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A MISCHIEVOUS, ADVENTUROUS BOY

‘Tom! Tom!’ the old lady shouted, but there was no answer. She looked around the room. ‘He is hiding again! The naughty boy!’ she said to herself and shouted again, ‘Tom! When I find you, I will ...’, but she didn’t finish her sentence. She was bending down and looking under the bed. Tom was not there. She went to the open door and stood there shouting, ‘Tom, where are you?’ Just then, she heard a noise behind her. She turned around and saw Tom coming out of the closet.

‘What were you doing in the closet?’ the old lady asked. Tom did not answer her. Then she asked, ‘What is that on your hands and around your mouth?’

‘I don’t know, Aunt Polly.’

‘I know,’ she said angrily. ‘I told you not to eat that jam! It is not for you.’

Tom suddenly screamed, ‘Oh, look Auntie! There is something behind you!’

When the old lady turned around in fear, Tom ran out and quickly climbed up the wooden fence in the garden. He jumped down to the other side and disappeared.

Aunt Polly just stood at the door in shock. Then, she began to laugh. ‘Oh, that boy! He always makes me angry, but I love him.’

A Mischievous, Adventurous Boy



When the old lady turned around in fear, Tom ran out and quickly climbed up the wooden fence in the garden.

Tom liked adventure, and he often got into trouble. He was a very lazy boy and often **skipped** school. His aunt wanted to punish him many times, but she couldn't. She felt sorry for him. He was her dead sister's son, and he was only 12 years old.

'He is going to skip school again,' Aunt Polly said to herself. 'Well, if he doesn't go to school this afternoon, I will surely give him a punishment. It's Saturday tomorrow, and there is no school. I will make him work when all his friends are playing. I must do this. He must learn to be a better boy.'

Tom didn't go to school that afternoon. He went swimming in the river and had lots of fun. When he came back home, his younger brother Sid was helping Aunt Polly prepare supper. Sid was a good, quiet boy. He didn't cause any trouble for their old aunt.

'How was school, Tom?' Aunt Polly asked while they were having supper. She was sure he didn't go school. 'Wasn't it too warm in the classroom?'

'Yes, it was. It always is,' answered Tom.

The old lady noticed Tom's wet hair. 'Didn't you go swimming?' she asked.

'No,' answered Tom, but Aunt Polly knew he was lying. She went near him and touched his hair. Tom was afraid and quickly said, 'My hair is wet because I poured water over my head. I felt very hot.'

After supper, Tom went out again. He came back late at night. He was afraid of his aunt, so climbed in quietly through an open window.

Aunt Polly was lying in bed, but she was awake. She saw Tom's clothes. They were covered in dust and dirt.

'Oh, he had a fight with someone, again. Well, he will definitely have his lesson tomorrow. He will stay at home and work all day,' she thought to herself.

The next morning, Tom stood on the sidewalk, in front of the wooden fence with a **bucket** of white paint and a long-handled brush. He was very unhappy. It was a beautiful, sunny summer morning. All the boys were going swimming because it was Saturday. But Tom had to paint the fence. His aunt told him to do so as a punishment.

'How am I going to paint this fence? It is so long and wide. I will have to work all day,' he thought sadly.

He painted a very small part of the fence and sat down. He was bored and tired. He had no energy to paint the whole fence. He was worried, too. 'When the boys see me, they will laugh at me,' he thought to himself.

Then he had an idea. 'The boys can paint the fence for me. And I will give them something for their help.' He searched his pockets for valuable things. There were just a few **marbles**. 'No one will help me just for these marbles,' he said to himself. And he began to think of a better plan. Suddenly, he had a wonderful idea.

He began to paint again. He was smiling, thinking about his clever plan. Ten minutes later, his friend Ben Rogers passed by. He had an apple in his hand.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Tom didn't look at him. Ben came nearer and said, 'Oh, you are in big trouble, aren't you?' Tom didn't answer him; he continued painting. 'There is no school today. But you have to work, don't you?' said Ben again.

Finally, Tom turned to him and said, 'Oh, is it you, Ben? I didn't see you.'

'I am going swimming. Do you want to come with me? Or do you prefer to stay here and work?' asked Ben.

'This is not work for me,' Tom said as he moved the brush up and down the fence slowly and carefully. 'I love painting. I go swimming every day, but I can't paint every day.'

Ben was surprised and said, 'So, you are enjoying this!' He began to watch Tom with a lot of interest. Tom was painting happily and **whistling** at the same time. Now and then, he stopped and stepped backwards to look at his work. Ben stopped **nibbling** on his apple. He continued to watch Tom. 'Can I paint a little?' he asked.

'Sorry, but you can't,' answered Tom. 'This fence must be perfect. My aunt wanted me to do it because I am good at painting. I paint very carefully.'

'Please let me do it,' begged Ben. 'I will **share** my apple with you.'

Tom was not interested in this offer. Then Ben said, 'You can have all of it.'

So, Tom gave the brush to Ben and sat under a tree. He ate Ben's apple with great **pleasure**. Afterwards, Bill Fisher and Johnny Miller

came down the street. They stopped and laughed at Tom at first, but in a moment, they also began to paint the fence. They each had to give something to Tom. In the end, Tom had a treasure of interesting things; lots of colourful marbles, a blue bottle, a small knife handle, a kite, a kitten with one eye, a dog collar, and six fire crackers.

The boys finished painting the fence in a few hours. Tom was very happy and proud of himself. The work was done, but he didn't work at all! He went in the house.

Aunt Polly was half asleep on the sofa with her cat on her **lap**. She was surprised to see Tom because she was expecting him to run away without painting the fence.

'Can I go and play with my friends now, Aunt Polly?' Tom asked.

'You can't go anywhere until you finish the work,' she answered.

'Oh, but the work is done. The fence is just perfect. Go and look, Aunt Polly.'

The old lady couldn't believe her eyes when she looked at the fence. It was white and clean! With a big smile on her face, she said, 'Go and play. But don't come home late in the evening.' She gave Tom a big apple. Tom happily ran off to the village **square**. The boys were playing a war game there. He joined them and became the general of one of the armies. His friend Joe Harper was the general of the other army.



So, Tom gave the brush to Ben and sat under a tree. He ate Ben's apple with great pleasure.

Joe Harper was Tom's best friend and partner in many adventures. After the war game, the two boys decided to have another battle on another day. Tom started to walk home.

While he was walking past his friend Jeff Thatcher's house, he saw a beautiful girl in the garden. She had blond hair and blue eyes. Tom stopped and watched the girl until she noticed him. When she saw him, he stopped looking. He began to dance, jump and walk on his hands. He wanted to get her attention. The girl threw a flower to him over the fence and went inside. Tom took the flower and put it under his shirt, near his heart. He was in love! He forgot about his first love, Amy Lawrence.

On Sunday morning, Tom went to church with his aunt, his brother Sid and Aunt Polly's daughter Mary. The beautiful girl and her parents were at the church together with Jeff Thatcher's parents. The girl's father, Judge Thatcher, was Jeff's uncle. Judge Thatcher and his family were new in the village. They came from a big city. Tom was very excited and happy when he saw the beautiful girl again.

On Monday morning, it was time for school again, and Tom was very unhappy. He told his aunt that he was sick. But Aunt Polly didn't believe him. So, he had to go to school. He met his friend Huckleberry Finn on the way.

The other boys in the village could not play or talk with Huckleberry. Their parents didn't **allow** it. Huckleberry did not have a mother, and his father was always drunk. The poor boy slept in the streets. He wore dirty clothes with holes in them. He never wore shoes in the summer. He spent his days wandering around, swimming and fishing in the river.

He didn't go to school or to church. All the boys **envied** him for his free life. They wished to live like him. Huckleberry often did strange things. And now, he was carrying a dead cat.

'Hello, Huck! What are you doing with that dead cat?' Tom asked him.

'I will take it to the graveyard tonight,' said Huck. 'I want to see ghosts. Dead cats can call the ghosts from their graves at midnight.'

'Really? Can I come to the graveyard with you?' asked Tom.

'Of course you can come, if you are not afraid of ghosts,' Huckleberry said.

'No, I am not afraid. I'd love to see a ghost,' said Tom. 'Come to our house at 11 tonight. But Aunt Polly must not see you. So, when you arrive, **meow** like a cat under my window. I'll jump out and go with you.'

Huckleberry agreed, and Tom continued to walk to school. He was very late, as usual. When he entered the classroom, the teacher angrily said, 'Tom Sawyer, you are late again!'

Tom looked around the room and saw the beautiful new girl. There was no other girl on the seat next to her. Tom was very excited again. He quickly thought of a plan for sitting next to her. So, he openly said, 'I met Huckleberry Finn on the way. I stopped and talked to him.'

The children in the room were all shocked. They all looked at Tom. How could he say this to the teacher? Was he crazy? Why didn't he lie and give a better excuse for being late?

Tom's answer made the teacher **furious**. 'What!' he cried out in

anger and gave Tom a beating with his long stick. 'Go and sit in the girls' section!' he ordered.

This punishment made Tom very happy. This was his plan. He went to the girls' part of the room and sat next to the new girl. All the boys in the classroom **giggled**. The beautiful girl turned her back to Tom at first. A few minutes later, Tom put an apple on the desk in front of her, but she pushed it back.

This time, Tom began to draw a picture. He tried to hide it with his left hand. The girl got **curious** and asked, 'What are you drawing?'

Tom said it was a house, and she looked at it. She said, 'Draw a man, too.' And Tom drew a funny man. Then she asked Tom to draw her own picture, and Tom drew a girl next to the man. The girl said, 'You draw very well. I can't draw anything.'

'I can teach you at lunch, if you stay here' Tom said. 'What's your name?'

'Becky Thatcher. And your name is Tom Sawyer, isn't it?'

'Yes,' Tom answered happily and added, 'But you can call me 'Tom'.'

Just then, Tom felt a hand on his ear. The teacher was pulling it! He moved Tom to the boys' section. The whole class laughed at Tom, but Tom didn't mind it. His ear hurt, but he was very happy. And his heart was full of love!





Just then, Tom felt a hand on his ear. The teacher was pulling it!

ACTIVITIES

A. Choose the correct word for each picture from the box and write it in the blank under the picture.

lap	mischievous	square	giggling
bucket	whistling	marbles	sharing



1. _____



2. playing



3. _____



4. _____
a cookie



5. band in the village



6. carrying a



7. on his mother's



8. a _____
boy

B. Mark the correct alternatives.

1. There was ___ on Tom's hands and mouth when he came out of the closet.

- a) blood
- b) jam
- c) mud
- d) chocolate

2. Aunt Polly made Tom paint the fence because ___.

- a) it was old and dirty
- b) she wanted to punish him
- c) she didn't want him to go swimming
- d) he was good at painting things

3. The boys painted the fence for Tom because ___.

- a) Tom gave them marbles
- b) they wanted Tom to play with them
- c) they thought the job was fun
- d) Aunt Polly gave them apples

4. The boys in the village did not play or talk with Huckleberry Finn because ___.

- a) they hated him
- b) he didn't go to school
- c) their parents didn't allow them
- d) they envied him

5. The teacher gave Tom a beating, and punished him because ___.

- a) he was late to school
- b) he was talking to Becky in class
- c) he was giggling
- d) he talked to Huckleberry Finn on the way

C. Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (a-g).

1. nibble (v): ____	a. happiness; enjoyment
2. allow (v): ____	b. to eat or chew in small bites
3. envy (v): ____	c. extremely angry
4. pleasure (n): ____	d. to be jealous of
5. curious (adj.): ____	e. wanting to know or learn something
6. furious (adj.): ____	f. willing to do dangerous things
7. adventurous (adj.): ____	g. to give permission; to let

D. Circle the right word(s) in bold.

1. Aunt Polly knew Tom went swimming because his **shirt** / **hair** was wet.
2. Aunt Polly gave Tom **some jam** / **an apple** as a reward for painting the fence.
3. Tom Sawyer's best friend was **Joe Harper** / **Huckleberry Finn**.
4. Mary was Tom Sawyer's **sister** / **cousin**.
5. The new, beautiful girl threw **an apple** / **a flower** to Tom over the garden fence.
6. Judge Thatcher was **Becky** / **Jeff** Thatcher's father.

GLOSSARY

Chapter 1 - A Mischievous, Adventurous Boy

allow (v) to let someone do or have something

bucket (n) a plastic or metal container with a handle used for carrying water

curious (adj) wanting to know about something; eager

envy (v) to wish that you had something that someone else has; to be jealous of
envy (n)

furious (adj) very angry

furiously (adv)

giggle (v) to laugh repeatedly in an uncontrolled way at something silly, funny or rude
giggle (n)

lap (n) the upper part of your legs when you sit down

marble (n) a small coloured glass ball that children play with by rolling along the ground

nibble (v) to eat something by taking small bites

pleasure (n) a feeling of happiness and satisfaction

share (v) to give some part of your food, money and etc to someone else
share (n)

skip (v) to not to do something that you should do; to miss

square (n) a large open area in the centre of a city or town

whistle (v) to make a musical sound by blowing air out through your lips
whistle (n)

Chapter 2 - Murder in the Graveyard

beat (v) when your heart beats, it moves in a regular rhythm
beat (n)

coffin (n) a long, narrow box to bury a dead person

corpse (n) the dead body of a person

dig (v) to move earth by using a spade or your hands

fist (n) a hand when it is tightly closed

grab (v) to take hold of someone or something with a sudden movement
grab (n)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Twain (1835-1910) was an American writer, who is considered by many to be the ‘father of American literature.’ He was brought up in Missouri, a town located along the great Mississippi River. This town later provided the setting for his novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

When Twain was 11 years old, his father died, and Twain started to work as a printer’s apprentice to support his family. In 1859, he became a river pilot on the Mississippi River. When the American Civil War broke in 1861, he went to West of America, and he worked as a miner for a short time. Later, he became a writer for the local Virginia City newspaper.

Humour was an important element in Twain’s writings, but his books increasingly became more serious in his later life. In 1876, Twain published *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1885. He also wrote poetry, short stories and non-fiction.

Sources

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