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TOM SAWYER

-Mark Twain (1835-1910)



About the Author : Mark Twain's real name Samuel Longhorne Clemens. He was a great American writer, humorist, publisher and lecturer. He took birth in Florida Missouri on November 30, 1835. His notable literary works are Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. He died on April 21, 1910 in New York.

About the Lesson : Tom's parents are dead. His aunt brings him up. She is fond of him but she is strict as Tom is naughty. He is always up to some mischief. Let us find out what types of mischiefs he gets into and how his aunty handles him.

Nouns	:	cupboard	bucket	fence	fun
		attention	collar	coats	medicine
Verbs	:	turned round	rushed out	promised	spoil
		wrapped	guessed		
Adjectives	:	rolling	hundred	lazy	wicked
		broken	great	easy	thoughtful
Adverbs	:	suddenly	heavily	quietly	heartily
Phrases	:	look after	fresh and lovely	went on	just a little
		all the same			

(II)

THIS IS TOM SAWYER

[1] "Tom"

No answer.

"Tom"

No answer.

"Where can he be ?" Aunt Polly asked herself, "He must be somewhere here."

She went to the door, looked out into the garden and then shouted again, "Tom ! Tom !"

No answer.



The old lady stood there thoughtfully. Suddenly she heard a sound behind her. She turned round quickly. There was Tom near the cupboard door. There was jam all round his mouth.

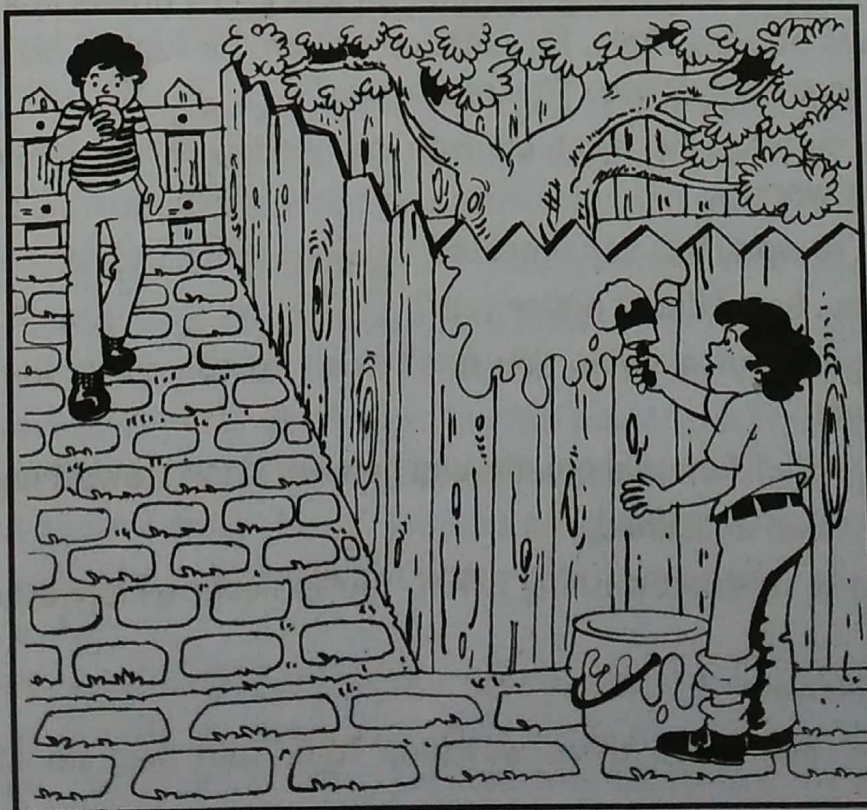
“What have you been doing ?” Aunt Polly asked angrily. When Tom did not answer, she went on, “You’ve been stealing the jam again. Don’t tell me that you haven’t. Haven’t I told you a hundred times to keep away from that cupboard ? Where’s my stick ?” Aunt Polly took her stick and raised it high. She was about to strike Tom hard.

[2] “Look behind you, Auntie,” shouted Tom.

Aunt Polly looked behind her. This was Tom’s chance.

He rushed out of the house. He climbed over the fence. Soon he was far away.

[3] Aunt Polly was angry but she had to laugh. “He’s a bad boy,” she said to herself. “But I love him. He’s my poor dead sister’s boy, and I must look after him. I don’t like to hurt him, but I have to. If I don’t punish him, he’ll grow up lazy and wicked. Yes, I must be strict.” Aunt Polly sighed. “I’ll have to punish him for stealing the jam. But how ? I know tomorrow is Saturday and there’s no school on Saturdays. The boys have a holiday. But I’ll make Tom work. That will punish him.”





The next day was Saturday. The school was shut. All the boys in the village were free. It was a beautiful day. The sun was shining and the birds were singing. The trees and flowers looked so fresh and lovely. Tom, of course, wanted to go for swimming. All the other boys were going.

[4] Tom came sadly out of the house. In one hand he held a long brush. In the other he carried a bucket which was full of whitewash. His aunt was making him whitewash the fence. Tom looked sadly at the fence. "How high it is ! How long it is !," he thought. Indeed the height of the fence was nine feet and its length was thirty yards. Tom put his brush into the whitewash. He drew it slowly across the fence. It made a very small white mark. Tom tried again. Another very small white mark. Tom sat down and sighed heavily.

He took out all the things that he had in his pockets. He had some marbles, some pieces of string and two or three broken toys.

"No one will whitewash the fence for these," he thought.

"No. I must think of a better plan." He thought and thought. Soon he had an idea.

He picked up his brush again and began working hard. Ben Rogers was coming down the street. Tom pretended not to see him. He worked harder than ever. Ben was eating an apple. He looked very happy. He was pretending that he was a big ship, and he was rolling like one. He was giving orders in a loud voice, and the ship was obeying them. He came up to Tom. He rubbed his eyes. "Why, Tom," he cried in great surprise. "You're working."

Tom said nothing. He went on with his whitewashing. He looked very interested in his work.

"Tom, you're working," Ben repeated.

"Oh, it's you, Ben. I didn't notice you."

"I'm just going for a swim. You don't want to come, do you ? You like working, don't you ?"

[5] "This isn't work." Tom said quietly, and he went on whitewashing.

"Not work," Ben exclaimed.

"Oh, no, I like it. Whitewashing is fun. You've never whitewashed a fence, have you ?"

"Well, no, I haven't."

For a time, Ben stood there watching Tom. Tom paid no attention to



him. All his attention was given to his work. At last Ben said, "Let me whitewash a little."

"Oh, no, Ben. I'm going to make this fence look fine. I've promised Aunt Polly. Besides, it's interesting."

"Let me do just a little," begged Ben.

"No, I'm sorry, Ben, but I can't. Aunt said that I must do it myself. If you do it, you'll make a mistake. You'll spoil everything. It's looking so nice now."

"I shan't make a mistake. I'll be careful. You can have my apple if you let me."

Slowly and unwillingly Tom handed the brush to Ben. Ben worked hard. He soon grew hot, but he went on working. Tom sat there, watching and eating Ben's apple.

When Ben had done enough, other boys came along. At first they laughed at Tom, as Ben had done. But soon they were whitewashing the fence. Of course they had to pay Tom before he let them help him. They gave him their best things—twelve marbles, a tin soldier, a key, a dog's collar, the handle of a knife and four pieces of orange. Tom had an easy time. He did not work but soon the fence had three coats of whitewash on it.

(II)

NEW MEDICINE FOR TOM

[6] Tom was not feeling well. He could not sleep as well as he used to. He could not eat as much as he used to. He did not want to run away from school. Sometimes he did not want to play. He was troubled and sad.

"The boy is ill", Aunt Polly thought, "I must give him some medicine."

Aunt Polly was fond of all kinds of medicine. She had a lot of books on this subject. Her newest idea was this—when a boy was ill, he must bathe in cold water everyday. And so every morning she made Tom stand outside in the yard. There she threw ice-cold water over him. After that, she wrapped him in a wet sheet and made him lie in bed. Tom did not get better. He got worse. Aunt Polly tried a new idea. She threw hot water over him instead of cold. That did not help Tom either.

[7] At this time, Aunt Polly heard about a new medicine. It was called Pain-killer. It had the taste of fire. All the same, Aunt Polly made Tom drink it. Three spoonfuls after each meal. Tom hated it. When his aunt was not looking, he quickly poured



the medicine into a hole in the floor. Tom was busy doing this one day when the cat came in. Tom poured some of the medicine into its mouth. At once it jumped high into the air. It started dancing on its back legs. It rushed about the room, breaking everything in its path. It ran about as if it were mad. Tom laughed and laughed. It was a long time since he had laughed so heartily. Aunt Polly heard the noise and came rushing in.

“What’s the matter?”

Tom could not speak for laughing. At last he pointed and said, “Look, look at the cat.”

“What’s the matter with it? You’ve been giving it that medicine?”

“I don’t know,” said Tom, still laughing.

Aunt Polly saw the bottle of Pain-killer, the spoon, and a saucer. She guessed the truth.

Tom expected his Aunt to be angry. To his surprise she was only thoughtful. “It’s not a medicine for cats,” she said. “Perhaps it’s not a good medicine for boys. You needn’t take any more of it, Tom.” This was good news for Tom. He began to feel better.

Glossary

shouted	: cried out चीखकर बोली
thoughtfully	: seriously गम्भीरतापूर्वक
turned round	: turned back पीछे मुड़ी
suddenly	: all of a sudden अचानक
cupboard	: almirah अलमारी
keep away	: remain off दूर रहना
about to strike	: ready to hit मारने के लिए तैयार
rushed out	: run out बाहर पहुँचा
look after	: take care of देखभाल करना
wicked	: a bad person दुष्ट
sighed	: took a deep breath आह भरी
begged	: requested meekly गिड़गिड़ाया
marbles	: small round pieces of glass कंचे
coats	: layers परतें



wrapped	: covered लपेटा
as he used to	: as he was in the habit of जैसा किया करता था
string	: a piece of rope डोरी
all the same	: nevertheless तथापि
pretended	: excused बहाना बनाया
guessed	: imagined अनुमान लगाया
expected	: hoped आशा की

EXERCISE

Comprehension

In the examination paper, there are asked only two questions from each paragraph. Given below are some more questions for extra practice.

Read the following passages and answer the questions given thereupon :

(I)

(1) *The old lady Tom hard. (From Para 1)*

1. Why did the old lady turn round quickly ?
2. Whom does the word 'you' stand for in this passage ?
3. Why did Aunt Polly raise her stick high ?

(2) *Aunt Polly was angrywill punish him." (From Para 3)*

1. Why was Aunt Polly angry with Tom ?
2. Why did Aunt Polly love Tom ?
3. Why did Aunt Polly want to punish Tom on a holiday ?
4. How did she plan to punish Tom ?
5. Why was Aunt Polly kind and strict with Tom ?

(3) *Tom came sadly sighed heavily. (From Para 4)*

1. How did Tom look at the fence and why ?
2. Why did Tom draw the brush slowly ?
3. Why did Tom sigh heavily ?
4. What did he hold in his hands ?
5. What did he have in his bucket ?
6. Why did Tom sit down and sigh heavily ?

(4) *Slowly and unwillingly whitewash on it. (From Para 5)*

1. Who was Ben ?
2. What was Tom doing while Ben was whitewashing the fence ?
3. Why did Tom give the brush slowly and unwillingly ?
4. What were the things that Tom got from his friends ?
5. How did Tom have an easy time ?



[III]

(5) Aunt Polly was Tom either. (From Para 6)

1. Why was Aunt Polly fond of medicines ?
2. What two types of treatments did Aunt Polly adopt ?
3. What was Aunt Polly's newest idea ? How did she treat Tom ?
4. Why did Aunt Polly give Tom treatments herself instead of calling a doctor ?
5. What was the condition of Tom after Aunt Polly's bath-treatment ?

(6) "What's the feel better. (From Para 7)

1. What was the truth that Aunt Polly guessed ?
2. How did Aunt Polly guess the truth ?
3. Why did Aunt Polly advise Tom not to take the medicine any more ?

Long Answer Type Questions

Read the following questions and answer them in about 60 words :

1. Who was Tom ? Why and how did Aunt Polly punish him ?
2. Who was Ben Roger ? Why did he request Tom to let him whitewash the fence ?
3. Did Tom whitewash the fence ? If not, how did he save himself from the punishment given to him by Aunt Polly ?
4. What treatment did Aunt Polly apply on Tom ? How did he feel better ?
Or Describe the bath treatment and its effect on Tom.
5. What was the strange behaviour of the cat after Tom had given it a pain-killer ?
6. How did Tom get rid of the pain-killer given to him by his aunt ?
7. Give the character sketch of Tom Sawyer.
8. Give the character sketch of Aunt Polly.

Short Answer Type Questions

Read the following questions and answer them in about 25 words :

[I]

1. Tom did not answer when his aunt called out to him. Where was he ? What was he doing ?
2. "Look behind you, Auntie!" shouted Tom. What was behind Auntie ? Why did Tom say this ?
3. Aunt Polly took her stick and raised it high. Why did she raise her stick ? Could she hit him ? Why ?
4. "But I love him," Why did she love him ? Whose son was he ?
5. "I don't like to hurt him, but I have to." Why did she have to punish him ? How did she punish him for stealing the jam ?

6. Why did Tom come out of the house sadly ?
7. Did Tom regard whitewashing as work or play ? How did he convince his friends of it ?
8. Did Tom paint the whole fence ? What did he get from his friends ?

[III]

9. Why did Tom's aunt decide to give him the bath-treatment ?
10. Describe the bath-treatment given by Aunt Polly to Tom. What was its effect on Tom ?
11. Why did Tom not like the pain-killer ? Whom did he give it to ?
12. What was the effect of the pain-killer on the cat ? Seeing it what did Tom do ?
13. Why did Aunt Polly say to Tom, "You need not take any more of the medicine?"
14. Tom did not have the pain-killer. Why was his aunt not angry with him ?
15. If you had been Tom's aunt, how would you have punished Tom for stealing the jam ?

Vocabulary

(a) Match the words under 'A' with their meanings under 'B' :

'A'	'B'
(i) surprise	requested
coats	fake show
threw	poured
pretend	astonishment
begged	layers
strike	almirah
cupboard	hit
(ii) wrapped	run
rush	think
get better	opportunity
guess	covered
chance	recover
hated	lifted
raised	disliked

(b) Fill in the blanks with the words given below :

perhaps, fully, unwillingly, quietly

1. Let him do his work
2. it's not a good medicine for you.
3. You have spoiled your health.
4. My friend gave his consent



(c) Use the following words and phrases in your own sentences so as to make their meanings clear :

spoonful, any more, fresh and lovely, notice, keep away, quietly, wicked.

(d) Fill in blanks with appropriate letter/letters :

s_ou_, c__b_ard, s_ick, st__ke, p_n_sh, wh_t_wash, m_rb_e, t_ys, ma_k,
m_st_ke.

(e) Project work :

(i) What is debate?

(ii) What is a sentence ? Write its types.

(iii) Write the names of parts of speech.

APPRECIATING THE TEXT

This is a humorous story. Tom is a funny character. His funny tricks amuse the readers from the beginning upto the end. He befools his aunt also. He makes his friends work for him willingly. Due to these wise tricks every reader will appreciate the lesson.

LET'S PONDER OVER

To be orphan is a curse. But it is beyond the control of man. There are so many orphans in the world. Let's think over their lot. What is our duty towards them ? Do we perform even a fraction of it ?

□