

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Chapters 1-3

Vocabulary: Match the words on the left with the appropriate definitions on the right. Then use each to fill in the sentences that follow.

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|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. guile | a. to desire another's possession |
| 2. sagacity | b. scorn |
| 3. derision | c. begging |
| 4. alacrity | d. fleeting; vanishing |
| 5. covet | e. deceit |
| 6. obliged | f. sullenly |
| 7. intrepid | g. cheerful eagerness |
| 8. evanescent | h. wisdom |
| 9. pliant | i. required |
| 10. audacious | j. fearless; valiant |
| 11. morosely | k. flexible |
| 12. beseeching | l. adventurous; daring |

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- The _____ body of the gymnast made even the most difficult moves look easy.
 - Many people _____ the wealth of successful performers.
 - The soldier was _____ in leading his men to victory.
 - The promises made by the politician sounded good, but were actually full of _____.
 - With a withering look of _____ the fighter faced his opponent.
 - After a tearful argument with her mother, the child _____ went to her room.
 - The _____ boy climbed to the very top of the tall oak tree.
 - Enjoying his work, the magician performed with _____.
 - In one _____ moment, the applicant realized he would not get the job.
 - The _____ of the teacher made a permanent impression on all of his students.

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Chapters 1-3 (cont.)

11. Stranded with a flat tire, the woman gave _____ glances to all who passed by.
12. According to Mark Twain, work is something a person is _____ to do, while play is that which a person is not _____ to do.

Questions:

1. According to the Preface, why does the author want adults as well as children to read this book?
2. What evidence proves that Tom visited the swimming hole? Who points out this evidence to Aunt Polly?
3. How does Tom entertain himself after supper?
4. How does Tom get out of whitewashing the fence?
5. How does Tom acquire his new-found wealth? Name some articles in his new collection of treasures.
6. What is the author's definition of "work" and "play"?
7. How does Tom get his revenge on Sid?
8. How does Tom show his "love" for the new girl he sees? How does she return his attentions?
9. What causes Tom to sink into a depressed state of mind? How does Tom's imagination emphasize his sorrow?
10. Why do you think Tom "shows off" so much? Is Twain criticizing this side of Tom's personality? Explain your answer.

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Chapters 4-8

Vocabulary: Use a dictionary to learn the definition of each underlined word. Then circle each of the synonyms that appear to the right of these words. Finally, use each numbered word in an original sentence.

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|------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. <u>disconcerted</u> | disconnected | confused | exiled | sad |
| 2. <u>éclat</u> | acclaim | statehood | ease | confusion |
| 3. <u>mien</u> | mean | thought | work | appearance |
| 4. <u>effusion</u> | effort | a gushing flow | calmness | care |
| 5. <u>facetious</u> | witty | expensive | thoughtless | factual |
| 6. <u>pariah</u> | outcast | priest | hero | model |
| 7. <u>zephyr</u> | noise | heat | light wind | storm cloud |
| 8. <u>cogitating</u> | squirming | playing | talking | meditating |

Questions:

1. Why is Tom presented with a Bible?
2. What "great man" visits the Sunday school? Why is he especially important to Tom?
3. How does Twain satirize the "young clerks" in church?
4. How does Tom's pinch-bug liven up the church service?
5. Why do all the boys in town envy Huck Finn?
6. What three methods to cure warts are discussed by Tom and Huck?
7. Why does Tom purposely invite punishment for his tardiness to school?
8. Do you believe in any superstitions? If so, what are they? How does Twain make fun of superstition in this section?
9. What is a ritual? What rituals are you familiar with? How does Tom's wooing of Becky employ certain rituals typical of any male-female flirtation?

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Chapters 9-17

Vocabulary: Use a dictionary to aid you in finding answers to the following questions.

1. In what situation would you expect to hear a lugubrious wail?

2. How might a miscreant be treated by the law?

3. For what reasons might people wish to meet clandestinely?

4. Why would its owner be upset about a purloined dog?

5. Who would be listening to a soliloquized statement?

Questions:

1. What do Tom and Huck witness in the graveyard?

2. What oath do Tom and Huck take regarding the scene they have witnessed?

3. What differences between Tom and Huck are exposed in this chapter?

4. What does Aunt Polly do to Tom that is worse than a whipping?

5. What do Tom and Huck expect will happen to Injun Joe as he relates his version of the murder? What is their explanation when nothing happens?

6. Who is accused of the murder? Why does Tom have a guilty conscience about this?

7. What unusual behavior of Tom's does Sid notice following the discovery of the murder?

8. How does Twain use Aunt Polly to satirize some of the medical practices of the day?

9. How does Peter, the cat, teach Aunt Polly a lesson?

10. Why does Tom resolve to run away? Why does Joe Harper join him?

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Chapters 9-17 (cont.)

11. Why does Twain call the young "pirates" Tom and Joe "curiously inconsistent"?
12. What is the purpose of the booming noise the boys hear and the ferry they see on the river?
13. As their adventure goes on, what emotion begins to take hold of the "pirates"?
14. What is Aunt Polly's assessment of Tom now that he is "dead"? How does Tom overhear her conversation with Mrs. Harper?
15. Why do Joe and Tom have to go off and hunt for Joe's "lost knife"?
16. What act of nature tests the boys' ability to survive?
17. According to Tom, what is "the proudest moment in his life"?

Chapters 18-21

Vocabulary: Use the context of these sentences from the novel to determine the meaning of the underlined words. Check your definitions with the dictionary.

1. Twice she put out her hand to take the garment again, and twice she refrained.
2. Becky roused up from her lethargy of distress and showed good interest in the proceedings.
3. Most of the pupils glanced up languidly, but there were two among them that watched his movements with intent eyes.
4. The[children in]school stared in perplexity at this incredible folly.
5. And how the light did blaze abroad from the master's bald pate-- for the sign painter's boy had gilded it.

Word	Your Definition	Dictionary Definition
refrained		
lethargy		
languidly		
perplexity		
pate		

Questions:

1. How does Tom shock Aunt Polly into giving him a special apple she had been "saving for him"?
2. Human nature is again displayed to the fullest in the scenes concerning Tom and Becky. List some of the emotions felt and displayed by these two characters in Chapter 18.
3. Why does Aunt Polly say she could forgive Tom for "a million sins"?
4. Tom's impulsive nature is shown twice in Chapter 20. How does Twain use both of these incidents to further the romance between Tom and Becky?

Chapters 18-21 (cont.)

5. What examples of humor are evident in Chapter 21 as Twain relates samples from Examination Day?
6. How do the boys take revenge on Mr. Dobbins?

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Chapters 22-29

Vocabulary: Match the words on the left with the appropriate definitions on the right. Then use the words in an original paragraph.

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|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. stolid | a. infinitely wise |
| 2. omniscient | b. acquired |
| 3. auspices | c. impassive; not easily excited |
| 4. palpable | d. wearing down; friction |
| 5. attrition | e. patronage |
| 6. procured | f. easily seen; obvious |

Questions:

1. What two events get Tom's summer vacation off to a terrible start?
2. How does Twain build suspense at the trial?
3. What earlier event in the story provides the hint that Tom has matured enough to tell the truth in court, despite his fear of Injun Joe?
4. Why does Twain save the revelation of Tom's visit to the lawyer until after Tom's court appearance?
5. Why does Twain have a detective from St. Louis fail to uncover Injun Joe?
6. What are some of the places Tom feels are appropriate for a treasure hunt?
7. What do Tom and Huck each plan to do with their shares of the treasure?
8. How has the boyish spirit of adventure overcome fear in Chapter 25?
9. Why do Tom and Huck change their plans concerning the haunted house? What do they do instead?
10. When they go to the haunted house on Saturday, what do they overhear?
11. What idea does Tom come up with regarding Injun Joe's "Number 2" hiding place?
12. Again, Twain shows his skill at building suspense. How does he add suspense to the action in Chapter 28?
13. What does Huck reveal about the treatment of blacks in the early 19th century?

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14. What do Tom and Becky plan to do after the picnic?
15. What does Huck overhear as he follows Injun Joe?
16. What contrasts between Tom and Huck are developed in this section of the book? Which boy assumes leadership in most situations? Which boy's outlook is more practical and realistic? Is this consistent with these characters as they have been presented so far?

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Chapters 30-35

Vocabulary: Use the context of each sentence to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Check your responses in a dictionary.

1. As thick clouds formed over the lake, a boding uneasiness was felt by the people in the sailboat.
boding means _____
2. The lucid instructions on the kit made the model easy to assemble.
lucid means _____
3. It was easy to lose one's direction in the sinuous passageways of the cave.
sinuous means _____
4. The two children divided the sandwich in half and each one ate his moiety.
a moiety is a _____
5. The abandoned puppy was a forlorn figure sitting out in the rain.
forlorn means _____
6. The conversation at the party was so insipid that one guest fell asleep.
insipid means _____

Questions:

1. How does the Welshman discover the true identity of the "deaf and dumb" Spaniard?
2. When do Aunt Polly and Mrs. Thatcher discover that their children are missing?
3. How does Twain keep Huck out of the action while Tom and Becky are missing in the cave?
4. What is discovered at Temperance Tavern? What was Huck afraid had been discovered?
5. List several ways in which Tom acts maturely and responsibly during his and Becky's crisis in the cave.
6. At this point in the story, how does Twain manage to merge the love and murder stories into one?
7. What signals the return of Tom and Becky?

Chapters 30-35 (cont.)

8. What does Judge Thatcher do to prevent anyone else from getting lost in the cave?
9. What is Injun Joe's fate?
10. Where do Tom and Huck find the treasure?
11. How is Tom more prepared this time for cave exploring?
12. How does Sid again show his mean nature in Chapter 34?
13. What real surprise does Tom Sawyer spring?
14. How does Huck respond to his civilized life with the Widow Douglas?
15. How does Tom entice Huck back to civilization?

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End of Book Test

Part I - Vocabulary: Match each word with the letter of its correct definition.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ effusion | a. outcast |
| 2. _____ lugubrious | b. twisting |
| 3. _____ alacrity | c. secretly |
| 4. _____ languidly | d. patronage |
| 5. _____ derision | e. mournful |
| 6. _____ sinuous | f. cheerful eagerness |
| 7. _____ attrition | g. lazily |
| 8. _____ pariah | h. gushing flow |
| 9. _____ auspices | i. scorn |
| 10. _____ clandestinely | j. wearing down |

Part II - Briefly answer the following questions:

1. What was the purpose of Tom and Huck's visit to the graveyard on the night of the murder?
2. How does Tom incur Becky's anger and tears?
3. How is Huck regarded by all the boys in town?
4. What is Tom's proudest moment?
5. How do Tom and Becky escape from the cave?

Part III - Fill in the blanks:

1. Mrs. Thatcher thought that Becky was staying overnight at _____ house after the picnic.
2. The man murdered in the graveyard was _____.
3. The man originally blamed for that murder is _____.
4. Injun Joe's revenge was planned against _____.
5. Injun Joe first uncovers buried treasure in the _____.

Part IV - Choose ONE of the following _____