



The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

by Mark Twain

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

Tom Sawyer—who lives with his brother Sid, cousin Mary, Aunt Polly, and the colored boy Jim—leads a mischievous life in ante-bellum St. Petersburg. On a summer Friday evening, Tom encounters an over-dressed boy, whom he tussles to the ground and chases home. Tom returns to his room through the window to avoid a scolding from his aunt about the state of his clothes.

Chapter 2

On Saturday morning, Tom fails to coax Jim into helping whitewash the fence. While Ben pretends he is piloting a steamboat, Tom goes on whitewashing as though he enjoys it. The ruse tricks Ben as well as Billy Fisher and Johnny Miller into helping.

Chapter 3

Aunt Polly is astonished at Tom's industry. He hurries to the public square to join the military companies he and Joe Harper command. He passes the home of Becky Thatcher, the blue-eyed blonde who replaces Amy Lawrence in his affections. He shows off for her; she tosses him a pansy. When Sid breaks the sugar bowl at supper, Aunt Polly punishes Tom. Between 9:30 and 10:00, Tom returns to the Thatcher home, where the maid drenches him with water.

Chapter 4

On Sunday morning, Mary coaches while Tom tries to memorize the Beatitudes. From 9:00-10:30, he attends Sunday school and morning worship at 11:00. Mr. Walters, the Sunday school superintendent, is exhorting the children to goodness when Judge Thatcher, from nearby Constantinople, arrives. Mr. Walters holds a Bible contest, which

Tom wins by trading goods for tickets earned for saying verses. The judge asks Tom the names of the first two disciples; Tom replies, "David and Goliath."

Chapter 5

At 10:15, people begin arriving for the morning sermon. While the Rev. Mr. Sprague begins speaking, Tom flips a pinch bug into the aisle, where it bites a poodle. The flight of the dog around the church amuses the congregation and lifts Tom's spirits.

Chapter 6

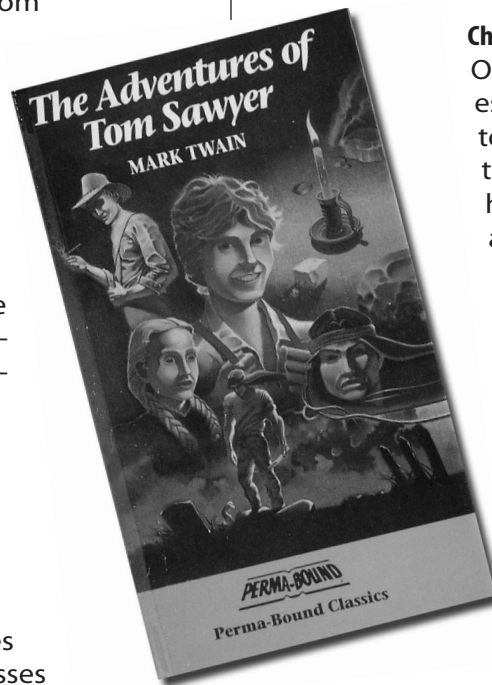
On Monday morning, Tom tries to escape school by moaning with a toothache. Aunt Polly ties a silk thread to the tooth and shoves a hot coal in his face. Tom pulls back and yanks out the tooth. On the way to school, Tom encounters Huck, who contends that spunk-water cures warts. Tom asks to join Huck at the graveyard that night to watch witches at a wart-removal ceremony. Huck trades a tick for Tom's tooth. At school, the teacher punishes Tom because he stopped to talk with Huck and arrived late to class. Tom draws pictures on his slate to impress Becky, then writes, "I love you."

Chapter 7

In class, Tom entertains Joe Harper by letting the tick walk the desk. The teacher whacks both boys. At noon, Tom meets Becky in the empty school and seals a marriage proposal with a kiss. She grows miffed that Tom once loved Amy. After a quarrel, Tom stalks away.

Chapter 8

Near 1:00, Tom reaches the Douglas mansion on Cardiff Hill and moons about. He resolves to run away the next morning to join pirates. Under a log, he digs into a cache lined with shingles and containing a marble. Joe joins him for a game of Robin Hood.



Chapter 9

At 11:00, Tom hears Huck's call and follows him for a half hour to the graveyard. The boys witness the grave-robbing activities of Muff Potter, Injun Joe, and Dr. Robinson. In the course of an argument, Dr. Robinson fells Potter with the headboard of a grave. Joe stabs the doctor and convinces Potter that he murdered the doctor. Potter, who is too drunk to know the difference, believes him.

Chapter 10

Tom and Huck race toward the tannery. In fear of Injun Joe, the boys vow to keep silent about the incident. Shortly after hearing a howling dog, they encounter Muff Potter asleep in the moonlight. Near dawn, Tom creeps into his bedroom window and oversleeps. After breakfast, Aunt Polly weeps over him; he begs forgiveness. At school, he and Joe are flogged for leaving school the day before. To add to his misery, Becky returns his gift of a brass and iron knob.

Chapter 11

At noon, the teacher excuses the students as the town reels from news of Dr. Robinson's murder. Tom finds Huck among the crowd at the graveyard. In view of Injun Joe, the sheriff arrests Muff Potter. The sign of fresh blood from the corpse as Injun Joe helps load it into the wagon disturbs Tom for a week. He regularly smuggles small gifts to Muff through the jail window. Villagers vow revenge against Muff.

Chapter 12

Becky Thatcher falls ill. Aunt Polly tries to cure Tom's depression with patent medicine, bathing, and sweating. After he doses the cat with medicine meant for him, Aunt Polly apologizes for the treatments. When Becky returns to school, she ignores Tom.

Chapter 13

Tom seeks diversion. At midnight, he joins Joe and Huck in a pirate expedition to Jackson's Island three miles from town. After eating stolen ham, they vow to stop stealing and fall asleep.

Chapter 14

Tom rouses his friends on Wednesday morning and reports that their raft has drifted away. After observing townspeople on a ferry dragging the river that morning, the boys hide in the woods to observe. At twilight, the boats withdraw. Late that night, Tom leaves his sleeping companions.

Chapter 15

Tom wades to the Illinois shore. Before 10:00 that night, he locates the ferry near the village. Tom sneaks aboard for the final crossing and enters his aunt's house. There, she and Serena Harper grieve for the boys, whose raft was found downriver. He kisses his aunt, then steals a skiff from the ferry and returns to his friends. He sleeps until noon.

Chapter 16

After dinner, the boys hunt turtle eggs. Joe proposes returning home. To raise spirits, Tom confesses what he heard in town. At midnight, a storm drenches their camp; on Saturday morning, they play Indians.

Chapter 17

Meanwhile, the town mourns the boys. Becky is sorry she tossed Tom's andiron knob away. On Sunday, Aunt Polly's family and the Harpers attend the funeral. The three boys march up the aisle. Although Aunt Polly is peeved at his eavesdropping on her grief, she welcomes him with love and forgiveness.

Chapter 18

To attend their own funerals, the boys had paddled to Missouri on a log at dusk and slept in the church gallery until the funeral at 11:00 Sunday. Tom amazes Aunt Polly by recounting her words to Serena Harper. Aunt Polly believes Tom is prophesying. On Monday, Tom begins to strut with the glory of his adventure. After Tom stirs Becky's jealousy by paying attention to Amy and ignoring Becky, she announces a picnic. At recess, she sits with Alfred Temple, the "St. Louis smarty." After Tom goes home at noon, Becky drops Alfred, who retaliates by pouring ink on Tom's spelling book.

Chapter 19

Aunt Polly learns from Serena Harper that Tom did not dream about the women's grief. After he departs for school, she finds the bark on which he had written a message about going pirating.

Chapter 20

Tom tries to make up with Becky on the way back to school, but she spurns him. He redeems himself by saying that he tore Mr. Dobbins' anatomy book. He takes the punishment which Becky deserves. She rewards him by calling him "noble."

Chapter 21

Dobbins grows more cruel as school comes to an end. At 8:00 in the evening, the children perform for their parents. Tom recites "Give me liberty or give me death." As Dobbins scrawls a map of the United States on the board, the boys lower a cat on a string, which claws the master's wig from his head.

Chapter 22

Before the Fourth of July, Tom joins the Cadets of Temperance so he can march in a red sash. Judge Frazer's funeral and a minstrel show relieve the summer boredom. It rains on the Fourth. The circus plays for three days, followed by the performances of a phrenologist and a mesmerizer. Becky returns to Constantinople, leaving Tom dejected and sad. He suffers measles for two weeks. When he recovers, he finds his friends have "got religion" during a revival and are no fun any more. He suffers a three-week relapse.

Chapter 23

Tom suffers pangs of conscience over the murder and forces Huck to swear a new oath of secrecy. Townspeople seem sure that the evidence will cinch the verdict against Muff Potter. When Tom is called as a surprise eyewitness on the third day of the trial, he admits having witnessed the killing on June 17. Injun Joe leaps through the courtroom window and escapes before Tom can finish his testimony.

Chapter 24

Tom's earlier concerns about being a witness give place to terror of Injun Joe's vengeance. A St. Louis detective fails to find Injun Joe.

Chapter 25

Tom and Huck dig for treasure at the haunted house on Still-House Branch, then move their search behind Cardiff Hill.

Chapter 26

At noon on Friday, Tom introduces Huck to a game of Robin Hood. Shortly after noon on Saturday, they continue their search for adventure in a haunted house when they encounter a supposedly deaf-mute Spaniard and his ragged companion discussing "those infernal boys." The boys realize that the Spaniard is Injun Joe, who has used a disguise so that he could gather information in

St. Petersburg without being recognized. The villains unearth a box of gold supposedly buried by Murrel's gang and discover digging tools with fresh earth on them. Suspecting the owner of the tools may be near, Injun Joe and the stranger move the box of gold plus \$650 in silver they brought with them toward "number two" hideout.

Chapter 27

Tom suffers more bad dreams. He and Huck locate keys and hurry to the alley outside No. 2, a locked room at Temperance Tavern.

Chapter 28

On Monday and two subsequent nights, no one appears at the tavern door. Shortly before midnight on Thursday, Tom opens the door and finds Injun Joe asleep on the floor. The boys flee down the alley. They agree to keep watch for further actions by the villains.

Chapter 29

On Friday, Becky returns to town, taking some of Tom's attention away from the tavern and Injun Joe. On Saturday around 11:00, Tom attends Becky's long-promised picnic, during which all the other guests visit McDougal's cave before returning home on the ferryboat. After 11:00, Huck hears two men—Injun Joe and his pal—leaving the tavern. When Huck realizes they intend to harm the Widow, he hurries to the home of the Welshman and raises an alarm. At the sound of firearms, Huck runs away.

Chapter 30

At dawn on Sunday, Huck visits the Welshman and learns that he chased the villains away and summoned constables and a posse to guard the riverbank. After breakfast, the Widow comes to express gratitude. At church, Mrs. Thatcher realizes that Becky is missing. That afternoon, Huck lies delirious with fever as townspeople search the cave. For three days, the search continues. Liquor is found at the tavern, which is closed.

Chapter 31

Meanwhile, Tom guides Becky through underground passages and shares a bit of cake. On Tuesday, he encounters Injun Joe's hand. Becky sinks into apathy; Tom kisses her and continues looking for an exit.

Chapter 32

After men in a skiff find Becky and Tom five miles downriver on Tuesday night, the two rest from Wednesday until Sunday. Tom visits Huck. Two weeks after the cave incident, Tom learns that the Judge has had the cave sheathed with iron. Tom reports that they have sealed up Injun Joe.

Chapter 33

Tom, the Judge, and men from town return to the cave to look for Injun Joe and find him dead of starvation near the door. After noon, Huck and Tom take a skiff downriver to the bluff and dig up Injun Joe's loot. They use Benny Taylor's wagon and take the box to the Widow's house, where a party is in progress.

Chapter 34

The boys learn that Sid divulged the boys' part in tracking the robbers. They surprise the Widow with the box containing \$12,000.

Chapter 35

The Widow and the Judge invest the money—half for Tom and half for Huck, whom the Widow adopts. The interest brings the boys a dollar and a quarter a week. Despite his newfound wealth and three weeks with the Widow, Huck is eager to enjoy his former life of freedom and adventure and finds a willing partner in Tom.

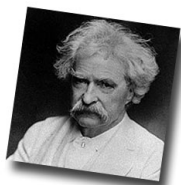
Timeline

- 1803** United States buys the Louisiana Territory from France.
- 1807** Robert Fulton demonstrates the steamboat *Clermont*.
- 1808** Importation of slaves into the United States is banned.
- 1819** Hannibal, Missouri, is founded.
- 1820** Missouri is admitted to the Union as a slave state.
- 1835** Halley's Comet appears; Samuel Clemens is born.
- 1837** Victoria becomes queen of Britain.
- 1842** Ether and chloroform are used as anesthetics.
- 1845** Irish potato crop fails, leading to widespread famine.
- 1846** The planet Neptune is discovered. The Smithsonian Institution is established in Washington, D.C.
- 1846-48** Mexican War

- 1850** Fugitive Slave Act imposes heavy penalties for aiding runaway slaves. Nathaniel Hawthorne publishes *The Scarlet Letter*.
- 1851** Herman Melville publishes *Moby Dick*.
- 1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- 1854** Antislavery groups help form the Republican Party. Walt Whitman publishes *Leaves of Grass*.
- 1859** Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species*. John Brown leads raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia.
- 1861-65** Civil War
- 1862** Homestead Act encourages settlement of the West.
- 1863** Abraham Lincoln issues the *Emancipation Proclamation*, freeing slaves in the Confederate states. Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.
- 1865** The Thirteenth Amendment formally abolishes slavery.
- 1866** Gregor Mendel publishes his discoveries on heredity. The Klu Klux Klan is organized.
- 1867** Dominion of Canada is created. Joseph Lister introduces sterilization and antiseptic procedures.
- 1876** *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is published. Battle of the Little Big Horn
- 1877** Reconstruction ends
- 1883** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is published.
- 1886** Geronimo surrenders.
- 1890** Battle of Wounded Knee marks end of the Indian Wars. Census Bureau announces official end of the frontier.
- 1895** Steven Crane publishes *The Red Badge of Courage*.
- 1896** In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, Supreme Court rules segregation is constitutional.
- 1898** Spanish American War
- 1899** United States takes control of the Philippines.
- 1901** Queen Victoria dies.
- 1903** Wilbur and Orville Wright make first powered heavier-than-air flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Upton Sinclair publishes *The Jungle*.
- 1904-14** The Panama Canal is built.
- 1910** Halley's Comet appears; Samuel Clemens dies.

Author Sketch

Mark Twain, one of America's most beloved authors, began life on November 30, 1835, as Samuel Langhorne Clemens near the Mississippi River in the backwoods community of Florida, Missouri. His father, John Marshall Clemens, a brilliant but short-tempered attorney, failed at his profession and turned to real estate schemes as a means of supporting his family. Twain's temperament reflects the influence of his witty, sweet-tempered mother, Jane Lampton Clemens, a Virginia belle. In 1839, the family moved to Hannibal. Because the death of Twain's father in 1847 ended Twain's education, he apprenticed in a printshop.



After working on his older brother Orion's newspaper, the *Hannibal Journal*, from 1853 to 1854, Twain practiced the printing trade in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and New York. At the beginning of his writing career, he published pseudonymous humorous sketches in Orion's papers. Because he had yearned to become a riverboat pilot since childhood, he learned complicated river maps and current charts to obtain a pilot's license. After only four years of piloting, he saw his career thwarted by the Civil War, which closed the river to business travel. Twain joined a band of Confederate volunteers, then abandoned them after two weeks and accompanied his brother to Nevada. After laboring in a Carson City quartz mine, Twain prospected for silver and gold, then began writing for the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise*. A year later, he adopted the pseudonym by which he is best known.

Relocated in San Francisco in 1864, Twain lectured and wrote humorous sketches with the aid of supporters Artemus Ward and Bret Harte. Twain's first major publication, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (1865), preceded a variety of travelogues, adventure stories, histories, and satires. He traveled to Hawaii in 1866 for the *Sacramento Union*. The next year, he wrote dispatches on the Holy Land for the San Francisco *Alta California*.

In 1870, Twain married Olivia Langdon, an Eastern aristocrat, and settled in Hartford, Connecticut. He abandoned journalism and turned to creative writing, beginning with *Roughing It* (1872), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1882), the autobiographical *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), and *The*

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1883), his masterpiece. He followed with *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) and a humorous mystery, *Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1894). Famous in Europe and America, he received notables at his Mississippi-style house, which he designed and built to resemble a riverboat.

The last years of Twain's life brought sadness and despair. In 1885, an ill-conceived investment in the Paige typesetter ruined him. He declared bankruptcy and began lecturing to pay his debts. He suffered the deaths of his wife and daughters Susy and Jean. As his health declined, he wrote skeptical works on religion and human perfectability. In 1906, he began dictating an autobiography to his secretary. Twain died in Redding, Connecticut, on April 21, 1910. He was mourned by people of all stations.

Critic's Corner

The success of Mark Twain's two most popular works, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, rests on his affectionate portrayal of boyish good times in nineteenth-century rural America before the Civil War. More valuable than the verisimilitude of dialect and setting or his skill in storytelling, the episodic adventure stories delineate the values of the Mississippi River culture through the eyes of youth. Set in Twain's childhood backyard, the novels offer Tom and Huck an escape from Victorian standards. Twain salts the text with incidental humor at the expense of ministers, do-gooders, teachers, temperance leaders, and the workings of law.

One of world literature's most appealing boys, Tom is guileless, despite his deceptions of Aunt Polly and drubbings of the insidious Sid. An unassuming Southern boy drawn from three of Twain's friends, Tom is brought up in an innocuous town and longs for entertainment to breach summer boredom. His adventures take him into the imaginary world of witches, Robin Hood, and pirates, through McDougal's Cave, and along the river where real brigands led by the notorious John A. Murrell rob locals and store their swag in a beehive of limestone caves. Tom's casual acquaintance with superstition, loyalty, grown-up love, and justice energizes the rollicking episodes that lead him to monetary reward. In the end, he earns the admiration of the town of St. Petersburg, drolly named after the keeper of the gates of heaven.

Other Works by Mark Twain

"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," 1865
Innocents Abroad, 1869
Roughing It, 1872
The Gilded Age, 1873
Ah Sin, the Heathen Chinese (with Bret Harte), 1876
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, 1876
A Tramp Abroad, 1880
The Prince and the Pauper, 1882
Life on the Mississippi, 1883
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, 1889
Pudd'nhead Wilson, 1894
Tom Sawyer Abroad, 1894
Joan of Arc, 1896
Tom Sawyer, Detective, 1896
Following the Equator, 1897
"The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg," 1898
The Mysterious Stranger, 1916
The Autobiography of Mark Twain, 1924
"Letters from the Earth," 1963

Related Reading

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*
Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
Sid Fleischman, *Jim Ugly*
Paula Fox, *Slave Dancer*
Robin Graham, *The Dove*
Robert Heinlein, *Have Spacesuit, Will Travel*
Irene Hunt, *No Promises in the Wind*
Jack London, "To Build a Fire"
Gary Paulsen, *Nightjohn* and *Hatchet*
J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

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General Objectives

1. To follow the pattern of exploits in an episodic novel
2. To discuss the theme of boredom
3. To explore opportunities for adventure
4. To evaluate the protagonist as hero
5. To explain the author's style of presentation
6. To isolate the elements of humor
7. To determine why Twain's novel is an American masterpiece
8. To discuss the author's view of thieves and murderers
9. To define justice
10. To explain the story's historical and social background

Specific Objectives

1. To explain how a character like Tom becomes a part of American culture
2. To examine the theme of victimization as it applies to Mr. Dobbins, Alfred Temple, Sid, Muff Potter, and Injun Joe
3. To discuss evidence of community concern for Tom's welfare
4. To note emotional differences in Tom and Becky
5. To account for prejudice against Huck
6. To determine how Tom saves Becky from McDougal's Cave
7. To enumerate Tom's lies and the purpose of each
8. To describe Injun Joe as thief and murderer
9. To discuss Tom's methods of coping with boredom
10. To note places in the text where the author patches together events without adequate motivation

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Mark Twain's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

Bildungsroman: literally a "formation novel," which describes the coming-of-age of an untried or naive youth. Tom's immaturity is the source of Twain's humor. The boy's inability to sit still in church and school or to obey Aunt Polly's house rules puts him in continual opposition. His escape to a boy's milieu evens the odds against him, as demonstrated by the classic fence-painting chapter. Tom grows in character and responsibility, yet never loses his scampishness. Even though he is rich at the story's end, he has not yet had his fill of adventure.

Humor: a gentle, affirmative emphasis on human nature, foibles, and idiosyncrasies. Twain lightens his text with a generous outpouring of comic scenes, such as the pinch bug attacking the poodle dog, Mr. Dobbins' gilded pate, the cat reacting to Tom's medicine, and Aunt Polly's exasperation on learning that Tom saw her grieving for him. The use of humor to lighten adult problems with a wayward boy rid the story of lasting harm or grudges. Tom's taste for adventure assures the reader that

he has not finished growing up or causing mayhem in Aunt Polly's life.

Irony: an implied discrepancy between what is said or done and what is meant. Judge Thatcher's sealing of McDougal's Cave effectively saves Becky, Tom, and other children from harm on the waterfront while inadvertently ridding the community of a wanted felon. The morbid picture of Injun Joe starving to death at the iron door creates multiple images: of his heartless cruelty turned back against him, of his stash of money that is valueless to save him, and of his symbolic position as a Native American walled off from white society.

Cross-Curricular Sources

For more information about Mark Twain, prejudice, morality, bullying, survivalism, the Mississippi River, John A. Murrell's gang, Tom and Huck in art and music, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Acting on Your Values, Rosen Publishing Group
Characters in Crisis, Center for Humanities
Life on the Mississippi, Center for Humanities
Prejudice in Literature, Center for Humanities

The Importance of Setting

In addition to a graveyard, alley, tavern, and courtroom, the milieu of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is set in part on American literature's most famous frontier, the fabled Mississippi River. It is significant to the story that criminal behavior occurs on the shores, where Murrell's gang roamed and where Injun Joe and his unsavory partner skulk about in disguise, hide their loot, and plot to slit the nostrils of the Widow Douglas. The river is also the source of Tom's escape from boredom. By carrying stores of food to Jackson's Island and stealing a skiff as transportation, he and his pals elude the stiff-necked rules of home, school, and church. Outside society, they live the outlaw code, enjoy each other's company, strip naked, play, fantasize, and rest up before returning to St. Petersburg. Access to and from the island is possible by skiff, ferry, and a log, which they take downriver to the Missouri shore before returning to spend the night in the church gallery so they can view their own funeral on Sunday morning.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Mark Twain

In contrast to the freedom of fishing, cooking over a fire, and playing Indian, the boys return to daily strictures in St. Petersburg. Once more out of sorts at the rules governing their behaviors, Tom and Huck appease their urge for adventure by scouting the haunted house near Cardiff Hill and, once more, involving themselves in adventure. The separation of the two boys into two climes—Huck recovering from fever at the Widow’s house and Tom immured with Becky in McDougal’s Cave—resolves when Injun Joe is found dead behind the iron door.

In the final scene, Twain hangs on to his concept of adventure by way of altered setting. After Tom and Huck reclaim the treasure and reunite with locals at the Widow’s house, the story concludes in a safe spot, the home of a kindly woman who wishes only the best for the boys. Huck, who is unable to acclimate to gentility, once more sleeps in

hogsheads. Tom commiserates with him by reviving their mental landscapes of piracy and challenge far from the settled life of St. Petersburg.

Themes and Motifs

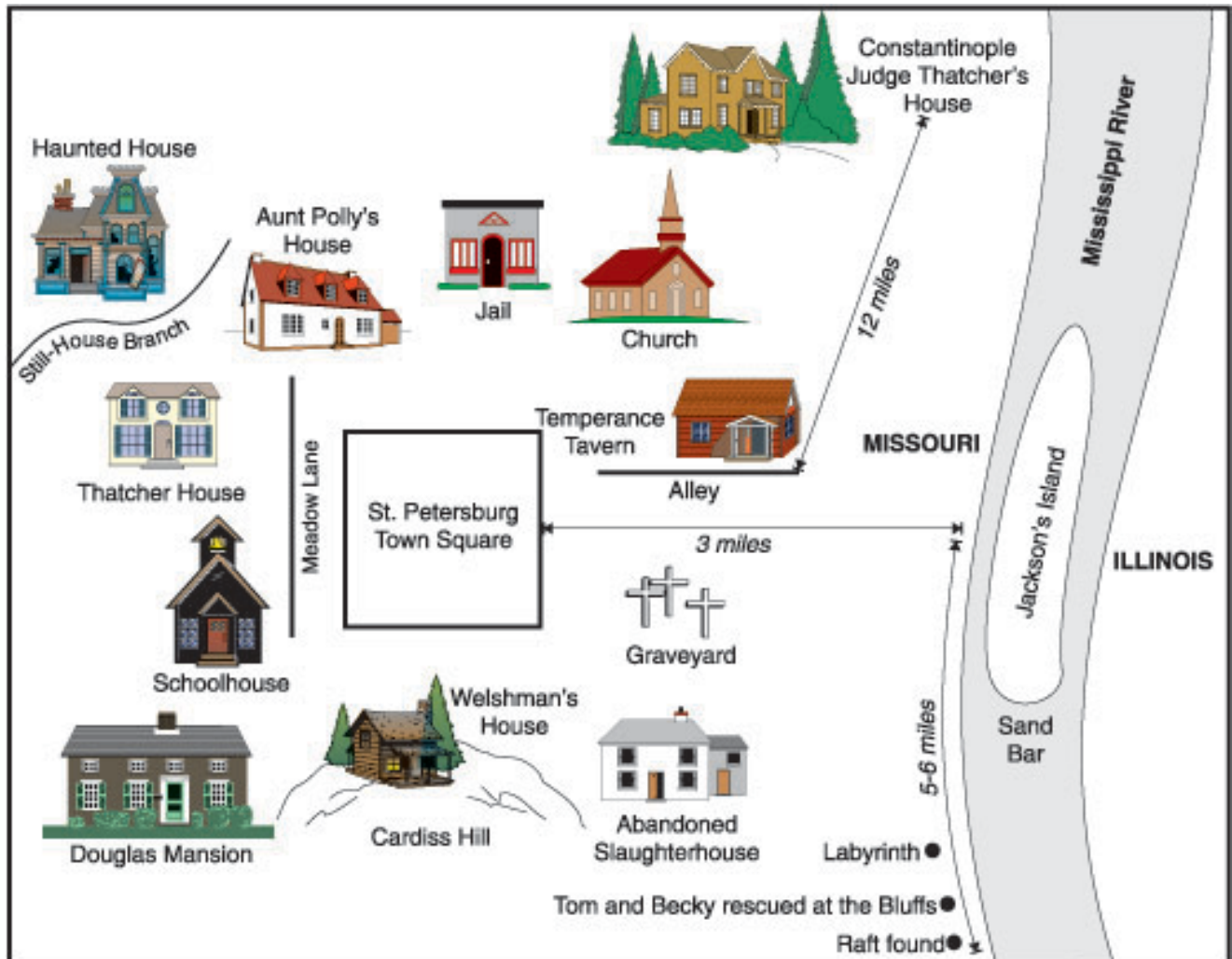
A study of the central issues and situations in Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* should include these aspects:

Themes

- boredom
- superstition
- violence
- running away
- guilt
- danger
- rescue
- justice
- heroism

Motifs

- coping with rules at home and at school
- learning about girls
- fearing for the victim of a crime
- taking responsibility for justice
- empathizing with a felon
- management of sudden wealth



Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers note the context from which the item is taken.

1. "Holler 'nuff!" and the pounding went on. (Chap. 1, p. 8)
(In the language of little boys, "holler 'nuff" means that the victim has fallen and a champion declared by the admission of the loser himself. Tom, never one to miss an opportunity, exacerbates the new boy's defeat with a few choice remarks: "Now that'll learn you. Better look out who you're fooling with next time." The boy's mother chases Tom away from the gate by calling him a "bad, vicious, vulgar child." Not to be beaten, Tom vows to continue his vendetta and "lay for that boy.")
2. Mary gave him a brand-new "barlow" knife, worth twelve and a half cents; and the convulsion of delight that swept his system shook him to his foundations. (Chap. 4, p. 23-24)
(Tom delights in a large jackknife or pocket knife with a single, thick folding blade. The knife carries the name of its inventor, Russell Barlow, an eighteenth-century cutlery maker. It is an adaptable tool for whittling, carving, slicing, gouging, or cutting.)
3. There were very few there who knew what tête meant, but the poem was very satisfactory, nevertheless. (Chap. 21, p. 142)
(Twain satirizes the small-town notables who pretend to delight in culture. At the "Examination" day festivities, when a "slim, melancholy girl" reads "A Missouri Maiden's Farewell to Alabama," she quotes the French word for head. The listeners, despite their ignorance of foreign languages, nod their appreciation of her effort.)
4. Tom joined the new order of Cadets of Temperance, being attracted by the showy character of their "regalia." (Chap. 22, p. 162)
(Twain liberally satirizes the public campaign against alcohol by depicting the enlistment of children, who comprehend only the outward finery they wear for marches and temperance revivals. In communities assailed by zealots, adults underwent condemnation, humiliation, and manipulation to give up alcohol and "take the pledge" to abstain for life from strong drink. A moment of melodrama called for former tipplers to sign a pledge to remain sober.)

5. She added hot baths, sitz baths, shower baths, and plunges. The boy remained as dismal as a hearse. She began to assist the water with a slim oatmeal diet and blister plasters. (Chap. 12, p. 83)
(Tom is impassive to Aunt Polly's attempts to cure him of depression. From simple soaking in the tub, she adds a sitz bath, a therapeutic wash of the lower body in mineral water, medicated liquid, or plain water. The application of a blister plaster calls for a hot, moist compress or dressing coated with salve, medication, or a peppery concoction placed over an ailing organ, such as stomach, lungs, or liver. The dressing was thought to raise the body temperature to kill fever, relieve pain, increase circulation, or loosen and expel inflammation or phlegm.)
6. After breakfast they went whooping and prancing out on the bar, and chased each other round and round, shedding clothes as they went, until they were naked, and then continued the frolic far away up the shoal water of the bar, against the stiff current, which latter tripped their legs from under them from time to time and greatly increased the fun. (Chap. 16, p. 107)
(With a light touch, Twain creates symbolism in the escape of the boys from Southern fundamentalism to the freedom and innocence of Eden. Like newly created beings, they enjoy nature without the strictures of small-town church prudery. He implies that buffetings from the current, like minor setbacks, increase their fun by adding to the challenge.)
7. They were prouder and happier in their new acquirement than they would have been in the scalping and skimming of the Six Nations. (Chap. 16, p. 116)
(Twain refers to the Iroquois League or Five Nations, a confederacy envisioned by Deganawida and the prophet Hiawatha. The league began with the Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onandaga, and Seneca in the early seventeenth century. A century later in 1722, the Tuscarora became the sixth tribe to unite as a means of keeping peace and protecting life, freedom, and property from encroaching white settlers. The representative inter-tribal government influenced the U. S. adoption of representative democracy.)
8. This shortly brought them to a bewitching spring, whose basin was encrusted with a frostwork of glittering crystals; it was in the midst of a cavern whose walls were supported by many fantastic pillars which had been formed by the joining of great stalactites and stalagmites together, the result of the cease-

less water-drip of centuries. (Chap. 31, p. 199)
(The perpetual drip of water through lime deposits results in pendant icicles, or stalactites, and the complimentary elongated cones on the floor of the cave, or stalagmites. Eventually, the evaporation of water causes enough buildup to form solid pillars where icicles and cones grow together.)

9. That drop was falling when the Pyramids were new; when Troy fell; when the foundations of Rome were laid; when Christ was crucified; when Conqueror created the British Empire; when Columbus sailed; when the massacre at Lexington was “news.” It is falling now; it will still be falling when all these things shall have sunk down the afternoon of history and the twilight of tradition and been swallowed up in the thick night of oblivion. Has everything a purpose and a mission? Did this drop fall patiently during five thousand years to be ready for this flitting human insect’s need? And has it another important object to accomplish ten thousand years to come? No matter.) (Chap. 33, p. 211)

(On the edge of didacticism, Twain adds a brief sermon on significance by noting that the lime caves were eons in development and that human events make no inroads on nature. As though calling on wisdom to interpret events, Twain implies that human concerns are of minor consequence in the greater scheme of Earth’s history.)

10. When Becky told her father, in strict confidence, how Tom had taken her whipping at school, the judge was visibly moved; and when she pleaded grace for the mighty lie which Tom had told in order to shift that whipping from her shoulders to his own, the judge said with a fine outburst that it was a noble, a generous, a magnanimous lie—a lie that was worthy to hold up its head and march down through history breast to breast with George Washington’s lauded Truth about the hatchet! (Chap. 35, pp. 225-226)

(In his delight with Tom after the children are rescued, Judge Thatcher is even more impressed with the boy when Becky explains Tom’s lie that resulted in his taking a whipping meant for Becky. The Judge compares the lie to George Washington’s admission that he cut down the cherry tree with his hatchet, an American fable that dates to the writings of Virginia parson Mason Locke Weems, author of The Life of Washington, with Curious Anecdotes, Equally Honourable to Himself and Exemplary to His Young Countrymen (1800).)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the novel.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. What is Tom’s relationship to his family?
(While living in the town of St. Petersburg, Missouri, with Aunt Polly, his half-brother Sid Sawyer, and cousin Mary, Tom manages to stir up trouble almost daily. Tom, the eternal rascal, and Sid, the goody-goody, are natural adversaries. In contrast to Tom, Sid learns his Bible lessons easily, enjoys Sunday school, and leads a saintlier, but less exciting life than his older brother. Sid enjoys eavesdropping and snitching on his half-brother, particularly when Tom receives punishment for his mischief, as occurs after Sid breaks the sugar bowl and Aunt Polly punishes the wrong boy.)

Tom has a less adversarial relationship with the women of the house. In scenes involving Mary, he has an easier time eliciting sympathy and assistance. Mary helps him clean up and dress properly for church and coaches him through a recitation of the Beatitudes. Her gift of a barlow knife suits his boyish fancy. With Aunt Polly, Tom is usually outfoxed, particularly when their tussle involves treatment of depression. His manipulations work only short term, as with feeding medicine to Peter the cat and revealing the “dream” about Aunt Polly’s grief and the closed door. In most day-to-day dealings with Aunt Polly, Tom is less likely to fool her for long because she is less gullible than Mary.)

2. How does education elevate Tom?
(Although Tom cares little about learning and dislikes Mr. Dobbins, he obviously profits from education. At the summer examination exercise before parents, he recites Patrick Henry’s famous call for liberty. The event is not without difficulty: “[He] stepped forward with conceited confidence and soared into the unquenchable and indestructible ‘Give me liberty or give me death’ speech, with fine fury and frantic gesticulation, and broke down in the middle of it. A ghastly stage fright seized him, his legs quaked under him and he was like to choke . . . Tom struggled a while and then retired, utterly defeated. There was a weak attempt at applause, but it died early.”

On a more promising occasion, Tom impresses Huck with his knowledge of Robin Hood lore and with his ability to write a note: “Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer swears they will keep mum about this and they wish they may Drop down dead in their tracks if they ever tell and Rot.” To glorify the moment, Twain

has Tom display his knowledge of “verdigrise,” which is “p’ison.” In contrast to Huck’s illiteracy, Tom is able to sign his initials in blood and show Huck “how to make an H and an F.” In contrast, Huck’s lore, such as how to cure warts and how to confront witches and devils, is the result of superstition and inadequate adult supervision.)

3. What events illustrate the simplicity of life in St. Petersburg?

(During the summer, Tom is bored by town activities. After the school term ends, Tom joins the Cadets of Temperance and admires himself in a red sash without understanding the significance of anti-liquor campaigns. To relieve tedium, he monitors Judge Frazer’s condition, which threatens to improve. When the judge at last dies, Tom briefly enjoys the hubbub of a funeral, then looks to a minstrel show to relieve summer boredom. Summer’s annual high point, the Fourth of July, is marred by rain. The circus plays for three days, followed by the performances of a phrenologist and a mesmerizer, the types of itinerant quacks who bilk small-town Southerners.)

Tom’s constant search for entertainment resumes when he recovers from measles. After a revival has hit town, he finds his friends have “got religion” and are distributing tracts, studying the Bible, sermonizing, and disdaining his raffish behaviors. Almost in self-defense, he suffers a three-week relapse. The climax of summer is Muff Potter’s trial, which assaults Tom with renewed pangs of conscience over the murder. To assure non-involvement, he forces Huck to swear a new oath of secrecy. Townspeople seem sure that the evidence will cinch the verdict against Muff Potter. When Tom is called as a surprise eyewitness on the third day of the trial, he admits having witnessed the killing on June 17. Injun Joe leaps through the courtroom window and escapes before Tom can finish his testimony. From that moment on, summer in St. Petersburg retains a keen edge of excitement, including a ferry ride to a picnic, scouting McDougal’s Cave, the rescue of Tom and Becky, Injun Joe’s death, and the recovery of the treasure. Unlike the typical fare in St. Petersburg, this summer has much to offer.)

4. How does Twain illustrate the natural intelligence of Tom and Huck?

(Despite their lack of enthusiasm for formal learning, both Huck and Tom possess a natural skill in extricating themselves from complicated situations. In numerous instances, Huck and Tom are skilled at thinking up ruses and convoluted lies to cover their trails, for example, signaling with a meow and slipping out of a bedroom window. The boys join Joe in inventing methods of entertaining themselves at Jackson’s Island and a way to escape to the Missouri shore on a floating log, even though their raft has floated away.

During the parting of Tom and Huck during the cave incident, Huck acts on his own in shadowing Injun Joe and his accomplice and in summoning Mr. Jones and his sons of Cardiff Hill to save the Widow Douglas from disfigurement. On his own, Tom manages to keep Becky from perishing in the cave by using his kite line as an anchor to her location and searching a natural opening into daylight. When Tom and Huck return to their partnership, their sensible method of locating the treasure enriches them beyond their dreams. In Huck’s final assessment of the genteel life, “I won’t be rich, and I won’t live in them cussed smothery houses. I like the woods, and the river, and hogsheads, and I’ll stick to ‘em, too.” In a rush of boyish fantasy, they turn their imaginations to pirates, robbers, and the freedom that only they can claim.)

5. How does Twain use coincidence to link the two boys in their final adventure?

(The connection between Dr. Robinson’s murder, Injun Joe’s threat to the Widow Douglas, and Tom’s visit to McDougal’s Cave is necessary to tie up the loose ends of Twain’s thrilling plot. By placing Injun Joe in the graveyard, courtroom, alley, Temperance Tavern, and haunted house, Twain keeps the action moving toward resolving the original quandary, which involves the boys as witnesses to Dr. Robinson’s murder. The incidental killing of Injun Joe by an iron door over the cave entrance ends the burden of guilt that Tom and Huck bear. No longer concerned with stalkers and endangerment to the Widow, they are free to return to the cave, dig up the treasure, and end the plot that began with their midnight stroll in the graveyard in search of a cure for warts.)

7. How does Twain salt his text with folklore?

(Twain enlarges his boyhood adventure story with evidence of local folklore. In Chapter 6, Tom and Huck move naturally into a conversation about superstition, which gives Huck the upper hand:

“Say—what is dead cats good for, Huck?”

“Good for? Cure warts with.”

Their discussion concerning wart removal covers a wide range of supposed cures. Huck first asserts that dead cats can cure warts; Tom, on the other hand, puts his faith in spunk-water, which requires the repetition of

“Barley-corn, barley-corn, Injun-meal shorts, Spunk water, spunk water, swaller these warts.”

The rest of the ritual involves walking away with eleven quick steps, eyes shut, and then three turns and a walk home in silence.

Huck then proposes a method requiring half a bean containing blood from the wart. The bloodied half bean is buried at a crossroads in the dark of the moon. Tom adds the bit of doggerel that intensifies the process. "Down bean; off wart; come no more to bother me!" Huck's final word on the matter is the ritual that requires the dead cat. The sufferer must enter a grave yard with his cat corpse after a wicked person has been buried. As an invisible devil carries off the evil man, the person with warts must heave the cat after them and say, "Devil follow corpse, cat follow devil, warts follow cat, I'm done with ye!")

8. What facts from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* lead directly into *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*? (At the end of the first novel, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn are heroes and rich men for recovering \$12,000 that Injun Joe and his accomplice hid in McDougal's Cave. Huck, a motherless waif and town pariah, has earned the love of the Widow Douglas, a foster parent who intends to provide a home and suitable upbringing for him. In the final chapter, he holds out for three weeks before fleeing the Douglas mansion. Locals fear he has drowned.

It is Tom who knows where to look for Huck: "Early the third morning Tom Sawyer wisely went poking among some old empty hogsheads down behind the abandoned slaughterhouse, and in one of them he found the refugee." Huck's restlessness is obviously the cause of his flight, for he turns up "unkempt, uncombed, and clad in the same old ruin of rags that had made him picturesque in the days when he was free and happy."

Such freedom from restrictions becomes the impetus to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. At the beginning, again, Huck has tired of the widow's civilizing and her sister's piety. He remarks, "It was rough living in the house all the time, considering how dismal regular and decent the widow was in all her ways." He despises prim manners and new clothes, which cause him to "sweat and sweat, and feel all cramped up." Like Tom in his adventure story, Huck must relieve his boredom and a pervasive distaste for gentility by concocting adventures.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. Why is *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* considered a masterwork of boyhood? (Twain's ransacking of his childhood in Hannibal, Missouri, produces a vivid memoir of his own adventures along the Mississippi River, on Jackson's Island, and among boys of similar background and yearnings. The intense detail of experience, superstition, dialect, and folklife offers a rare glimpse into frontier America. In the ante-bellum South along the river, Twain, like his fictional heroes, absorbed good and bad, salubrious and harmful, without endangering his life or marring his character.

By creating impulsive romantics like Huck and Tom, he extends his memories into fiction and creates adventures appropriate to the time and place. For readers, the stories are a classic fabric woven of childish scrapes, adult issues, and the pervasive attitudes and concerns of the frontier.)

10. Why does Mark Twain deserve to be called the true fountainhead of American literature? (By remaining true to his memories of the Mississippi Valley, Twain depicts the speech patterns, habits, beliefs, superstitions, and rural lifestyle of nineteenth-century Missouri by reflecting the social milieu of the Hannibal he grew up in. Twain deserves his place among world authors for breaking free from the conventions of European literature to establish a forthright national fiction. His witty putdown of the snooty St. Louis boy, fundamentalism, temperance drives, mesmerism and phrenology, and racial prejudice stocks the novel with light humor and a modicum of realism concerning the borderline status of a half-breed and the town's lack of compassion for his victim, Muff Potter.

While Twain makes no attempt to conceal greed, corruption, petty thievery, murder, drunkenness, or harsh educational methods, he juxtaposes an equally decent set of thrifty, hardworking, kindhearted, and likeable characters like Aunt Polly, the Thatchers, and Serena Harper, who restore the reader's admiration for early American parents. Anchored in the real underworld are three confederates who rob a grave and two outlaws who intend to mutilate the face of the Widow Douglas. In the end, Huck and Tom rise in local estimation for their skillful detective work and for summoning the Welshman and his sons at the crucial moment. The boys' reward is the investment of \$12,000 for their future and the elevation of Huck from urchin to foster son of the town's most prosperous citizen.)

Questions 11-13 (Creative Level)

11. Explain in a short speech why Samuel Clemens chose an appropriate pseudonym for himself and his career.
12. Make a bulletin board display depicting the dangers of rafting to Jackson's Island, perusing a haunted house, or investigating McDougal's Cave.
13. Lead a panel discussion of Hal Holbrook's portrayal of Mark Twain.

Across the Curriculum

History and Current Events

1. Characterize the era of high crime along the Mississippi River when flatboat and steamer traffic enriched merchants carrying freight to Vicksburg and New Orleans and drew thieves, murderers, gamblers, grifters, quacks, and prostitutes.
2. Re-create by time line, webbing, flow chart, mural, or web site the era of colonization that ran Native Americans off their lands along the Mississippi River.

Science and Health

1. Compose a lecture on delirium, measles, or starvation. Comment on the prevention, symptoms, and treatment of each.
2. List the dangers of vengeance, coercion, and fear of retribution, which disrupt Tom's sleep.
3. Outline in a paragraph the effects of boredom on Tom and his schoolmates.
4. Explain to a small group what survival techniques Tom employs to rescue Becky from McDougal's Cave, particularly sharing cake, lifting her spirits, and using a kite line to locate possible exits.
5. Compose a two-minute radio spot on helping a child remove a loose tooth.

Geography

1. Create a mural or web site that introduces these settings: Missouri and Illinois shores, Jackson's Island, bluffs, caves, Still-House Branch, St. Petersburg's town square, the tannery, hogsheads at an abandoned slaughterhouse, an alley behind Temperance Tavern, Constantinople, and Cardiff Hill.
2. Compose a paragraph contrasting life in town with camping on Jackson's Island.

Art

1. Using desk-top publishing or other artistic media, design a road sign indicating the way to St. Petersburg or Constantinople, a handbill advertising a reward for Injun Joe or the Spaniard, a letterhead from Dr. Robinson or

Judge Thatcher, a placard or banner welcoming Tom and Becky, a poster offering rides to the ferry or announcing the arrival of the circus, pamphlets on measles or dragging for drowning victims, business cards for a mesmerist or phrenologist, an announcement or television news item about a Bible contest or John A. Murrell's gang, a news article on grave-robbing or Muff Potter's arraignment, or a brochure for foster parents.

2. Lead a panel discussion of scenes of natural beauty, especially a storm over Jackson's Island, eating fresh fish, playing Robin Hood, or digging for turtle eggs. List the aspects of freedom that Tom and Huck treasure.

Cinema

View several films and television series set in Twain's milieu, including *The Big River*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, *Life on the Mississippi*, and cinema versions of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Discuss with a small group the memorable background details that became a focus of the author's settings and characters.

Law

1. Organize a panel to discuss Judge Thatcher's role in starving Injun Joe to death and the grave robbers' crime in digging up Hoss Williams' grave.
2. Launch an Internet web site inviting readers to explain the importance of a disinterested third party to invest Tom and Huck's treasure and parcel out the interest.

Economics

1. Determine the best and safest ways to invest \$12,000 today on behalf of two minors.
2. Suggest methods by which the city of St. Petersburg can rid itself of alcohol and public drunkenness without closing the Temperance Tavern.

Social Studies

1. Write a brief address explaining Tom's need for a more engaging form of education. Cite the skills, qualities, and values that schools should teach him, for example, money management and logic.

2. List ways that boys like Tom, Huck, and Ben could learn more about history without turning it into high romance. Suggest books, films, and art works about history, piracy, Indian warfare, and expeditions that give an honest picture of Mississippi River history.
3. Explain why the Mississippi River caves were a likely spot for bandit hideouts.
4. Create a scenario depicting the daily life of a half-breed like Injun Joe living in St. Petersburg.

Psychology

1. Make contrasting chalkboard definitions of bullying, coercion, guilt, lying, intimidation, and deception. Explain how the terms define crucial events in the novel, particularly at the graveyard and the haunted house.
2. Summarize Tom's methods of dealing with situations beyond his control, for example, whipping a sissy, luring volunteer fence painters, retaliating against Sid for tattling, or eluding Aunt Polly.
3. Determine what factors force Tom into conflict with Sid and Aunt Polly. Name events that prove that he really loves his aunt.
4. Compose a short speech in which you account for the boys' urge to attend their own funeral. Suggest ways of explaining to them how seriously they have grieved their family and friends.
5. Account for Twain's picture of girls like Mary and Becky as too sweet and feminine for adventure, such as playing pirates and Indians, running naked across a sandbar, hunting for treasure, or scouting McDougal's Cave.

Mathematics and Computers

1. Using desktop publishing, compose an annotated time line of Twain's life, the Civil War, and the opening of the West. Divide events under the three headings, noting when river trade ended and when Twain fled the Confederate military.

2. Using a scale of miles, estimate the distance that Huck and Tom travel in pursuit of Injun Joe and the treasure.

Music

1. Work with a group to list music and river sounds to accompany an outdoor staging or tableau of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Consider bird calls, rain, thunder, Old Hundred, "Buffalo Gals," circus music, ferryboat whistles, and popular nineteenth-century tunes to be whistled or hummed.

Language and Speech

1. Compose individual posters explaining the significance of these terms: hogshead, mesmerism, phrenology, temperance, revival, Old Hundred, Doré Bible, stalagmite, stalactite, sweetmeats, ell, half-breed, starboard, lab-board, Six Nations, and bully taw.
2. Account for Samuel Clemens' choice of a pen name that indicates safe water. Why does the sound and meaning suit him personally and professionally?

Literature

1. Read aloud from nonfiction, novels, plays, and stories about adventure and survival.
2. Using examples from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, define the style and purpose of an episode. Differentiate between plot, vignette, digression, and individual scenes that have little impact on the action, for example, the end-of-school recitations and the pinch bug attacking the poodle dog.
3. Draw a character web representing the interconnectedness between Tom, Sid, Aunt Polly, Huck, the Widow, Jim, Becky, Joe Harper, Mary, Serena Harper, Injun Joe, Mr. Jones, Dr. Robinson, Muff Potter, Hoss Williams, Alfred Temple, Mr. Dobbins, Judge Thatcher, Ben Rogers, the sheriff, Mrs. Thatcher, and other townspeople.

Student Involvement Activities

1. Organize a panel discussion of childhood friendships. Characterize Tom's experiences with Huck, Joe, and Becky. Note how his inability to impress Becky leads him to silly, obnoxious behaviors and risk-taking.
2. Launch a discussion group to determine why Tom would have more difficulty skipping school, stealing boats, running away from home, dewigging Mr. Dobbins, and attending his own funeral in current society.
3. List questions to ask at an interrogation of Huck and Tom concerning how they planned their trek to Jackson's Island, where they stayed, what they ate, and how they kept dry during the storm.
4. Using desktop publishing, compose a web site on the themes and symbols that intrigue readers, especially the river, superstition, grave robbing, testifying on behalf of Muff Potter, cave exploration, and locating treasure.
5. Explain with a collage, shadow pictures, or mobile how the Mississippi River forms an integral part of St. Petersburg life. Include dependence on ferries and fear of criminals who escape by water.
6. Dramatize a meeting between Huck and Mr. Jones. Express Huck's gratitude that Injun Joe did not harm the Widow.
7. Create a list of images from the novel that appeal to the five senses, such as "The boys cried out to each other, but the roaring wind and the booming thunderblasts drowned their voices utterly."
8. Improvise a scene in which Tom and Becky return home from the cave. Add details about the families' joy in their safety and the children's need for food and rest.
9. Discuss the effects of boredom on Tom. Explain why an imaginative, active boy disrupts classes and worship services and devalues school and church lessons.

10. Draw a cause-and-effect diagram illustrating the emotional changes that take place in Tom. Comment on threats to his light-heartedness after witnessing murder, grave robbing, and death by starvation.

Alternate Assessment

1. List examples of teamwork, fear, dishonesty, loyalty, admiration for freedom, ingenuity, and guilt in Tom, Huck, and Joe.
2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate cruelty and prejudice.
3. Compose a scene in which the widow welcomes Huck to his new home.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Aunt Polly's suspicion, Becky's double-dealing, Tom's trickery, Huck's bad reputation, Injun Joe's vengefulness, Muff Potter's drunkenness, Sid's tattling, and Joe's willingness to steal.
5. Account for Tom's failure to keep watch at No. 2.

Vocabulary

Complete these quotations below with pairs of words from the list that follows:

decanter, dilapidated	quarry, nimble	plausible, reserve
insincerity, banishment	din, thronged	unavailing, jeering
garret, haunches	communing, intervals	facility, sublimity
straightway, stealthy	abstain, profanity	hospitality, bait
counterfeit, effusive	distinction, saturated	fragment, expire

1. There was a _____ above, pierced with a scuttle over his head and down through this scuttle came a cat, suspended around the _____ by a string.
2. He promised to _____ from smoking, chewing, and _____ as long as he remained a member.
3. When he emerged at the _____ he felt secure, and so he picked up his _____ heels and flew.
4. He showed Huck the _____ of candlewick perched on a lump of clay against the wall, and described how he and Becky had watched the flame struggle and _____.
5. He had besides the things before mentioned, twelve marbles, part of a jew's-harp, a piece of blue bottle glass to look through, a spool cannon, a key that wouldn't unlock anything, a fragment of chalk, a glass stopper of a _____, a tin soldier, a couple of tadpoles, six firecrackers, a kitten with only one eye, a brass doorknob, a dog collar—but no dog—the handle of a knife, four pieces of orange peel, and a _____ old window sash.
6. He made a _____ excuse; but his real reason had been the fear that not even the secret would keep them with him any very great length of time, and so he had meant to hold it in _____ as a last seduction.
7. Tin pans and horns were added to the _____, the population massed itself and moved toward the river, met the children coming in an open carriage drawn by shouting citizens, _____ around it, joined its homeward march, and swept magnificently up the main street roaring huzzah after huzzah!
8. He sprung his secret about Huck's share in the adventure in the finest dramatic manner he was master of, but the surprise it occasioned was largely _____ and not as clamorous and _____ as it might have been under happier circumstances.
9. Huckleberry was filled with admiration of Tom's _____ in writing, and the _____ of his language.
10. There was another _____ silence, broken at _____ by muffled sobs, and then the minister spread his hands abroad and prayed.
11. The Widow Douglas's splendid _____ was a tempting _____.
12. Then he bent over and kissed the faded lips, and _____ made his _____ exit, latching the door behind him.
13. Mary took him in hand, and when she was done with him he was a man and a brother, without _____ of color, and his _____ hair was neatly brushed, and its short curls wrought into a dainty and symmetrical general effect.
14. He sat down by her and put his arms around her; she buried her face in his bosom, she clung to him, she poured out her terrors, her _____ regrets, and the far echoes turned them all to _____ laughter.
15. The glaring _____ of these sermons was not sufficient to compass the _____ of the fashion from the schools, and it is not sufficient today; it never will be sufficient while the world stands, perhaps.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match each quotation with the name of the speaker. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| A. Tom | F. Huck | K. Injun Joe |
| B. Muff Potter | G. attorney | L. Mr. Dobbins |
| C. Judge Thatcher | H. Joe | M. Mary |
| D. Sid | I. Mr. Jones | N. Dr. Robinson |
| E. Aunt Polly | J. Becky | O. Widow |

- _____ 1. Well, now, if I didn't think you sewed his collar with white thread, but it's black.
- _____ 2. Then I'll stay with Susy Harper.
- _____ 3. Poor boy, I reckon he's lied about it—but it's a blessed, blessed lie, there's such a comfort come from it.
- _____ 4. It may be a good while before I get the right chance at that job; accidents might happen; 'tain't in such a very good place; we'll just regularly bury it—and bury it deep.
- _____ 5. I don't care for anybody but you.
- _____ 6. I'd no business to drink tonight.
- _____ 7. I want to go home. It's so lonesome.
- _____ 8. You mustn't be so bad. Water won't hurt you.
- _____ 9. It was that very night I follered Injun Joe to the widder's.
- _____ 10. You required your pay in advance and I've paid you.
- _____ 11. Now, no doubt you know the names of all the twelve disciples.
- _____ 12. Thomas Sawyer, this is the most astounding confession I have ever listened to.
- _____ 13. Speak out, my boy—don't be diffident. The truth is always respectable.
- _____ 14. Out with it and nobody here'll ever tell, lad.
- _____ 15. I went to sleep reading in bed and slept straight through all that noise.

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

Complete each statement below with terms from the novel.

- 1. _____ is amazed at the speed with which Tom _____ the fence.
- 2. With a _____, Aunt Polly causes Tom to yank out his own _____ at the end of a string.
- 3. Inside the _____ of the cave, the searchers find _____ starved to death.
- 4. By tricking a drunk, _____ convinces _____ that he killed Dr. Robinson.
- 5. In the alley, Huck and Tom keep watch outside door No. _____ of the _____.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

Briefly explain the importance of each of the following items.

1. wagon
2. pinch bug
3. brass andiron knob
4. sugar bowl
5. skiff
6. grave headboard
7. pansy
8. Doré bible
9. turtle eggs
10. \$12,000

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Contrast the behavior of three or four children in St. Petersburg.
2. Describe scenes in which Tom ridicules or humiliates others.
3. Explain how Injun Joe is accidentally walled up in the cave.
4. Express Twain's idea of boyhood freedom.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Settings (30 points)

Identify a setting that fits each of the following descriptions. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| _____ 1. Tom and his friends sleep until time for the funeral. | A. graveyard |
| _____ 2. Tom exercises a tick. | B. fence |
| _____ 3. Tom kisses Mary. | C. raft |
| _____ 4. The boys float on a log. | D. Douglas mansion |
| _____ 5. Tom encounters Mary, who snubs him. | E. Constantinople |
| _____ 6. Injun Joe falls through decaying wood. | F. church gallery |
| _____ 7. Tom encounters Injun Joe's hand. | G. haunted house |
| _____ 8. Injun Joe uses a headboard as a weapon. | H. Missouri Shore |
| _____ 9. Tom pretends to enjoy his work. | I. alley |
| _____ 10. Huck finds help for the Widow. | J. labyrinth |
| _____ 11. Huck watches at No. 2. | K. public square |
| _____ 12. Tom reaches his hand toward Muff Potter. | L. Meadow Lane |
| _____ 13. Local people conclude three boys have drowned. | M. Welshman's house |
| _____ 14. Tom anticipates ice cream. | N. jail |
| _____ 15. Becky spends part of the summer. | O. school |

Part II: Identification (30 points)

Place an X by each statement that is true of Tom.

- _____ 1. recites "Give me liberty or give me death."
- _____ 2. spills ink on a spelling book.
- _____ 3. names the first two disciples.
- _____ 4. admits tearing a page of the anatomy book.
- _____ 5. sleeps in a hogshead.
- _____ 6. tosses a pansy to his love.
- _____ 7. visits Huck at the Widow Douglas' house.
- _____ 8. eats breakfast with Mr. Jones and his sons.
- _____ 9. doubts the worth of spunk-water to cure warts.
- _____ 10. leaps through the courtroom window.
- _____ 11. confesses a false dream to Aunt Polly.
- _____ 12. admires Joe's red sash at the parade.
- _____ 13. shares cake with Becky.
- _____ 14. steals a skiff from the ferry.
- _____ 15. it too ill with fever to enjoy the Fourth of July.

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

Fill in a name to complete each statement below.

1. Tom and _____ realize that the _____ is really Injun Joe in disguise
2. Three weeks after the _____ adopts Huck, he confides to _____ that he is itching for adventure.
3. In exasperation at fickle girls, _____ gives up on _____, who once more loves Tom.
4. Mr. _____ shows off for _____, who visits the Sunday school.
5. _____ collapses in fear that the children are lost in the cave; _____ wrings her hands.

Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. List and describe scenes in which Tom must lie or deceive his aunt.
2. Describe the scene in which Injun Joe and his accomplice agree to harm the Widow Douglas.
3. Explain why Huck admires Tom.
4. Account for Tom's boredom.
5. Summarize evidence that Tom means no harm to his family.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

1. garret, scuttle
2. abstain, profanity
3. quarry, nimble
4. fragment, expire
5. decanter, dilapidated
6. plausible, reserve
7. din, thronged
8. counterfeit, effusive
9. facility, sublimity
10. communing, intervals
11. hospitality, bait
12. straightway, stealthy
13. distinction, saturated
14. unavailing, jeering
15. insincerity, banishment

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. B | 11. C |
| 2. J | 7. H | 12. L |
| 3. E | 8. M | 13. G |
| 4. K | 9. F | 14. I |
| 5. A | 10. N | 15. O |

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

1. Aunt Polly, whitewashed
2. hot coal, tooth
3. iron door, Injun Joe
4. Injun Joe, Muff Potter
5. 2, Temperance Tavern

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

Answers will vary.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Setting Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. G | 11. I |
| 2. O | 7. N | 12. N |
| 3. J | 8. A | 13. C |
| 4. H | 9. B | 14. D |
| 5. L | 10. M | 15. E |

Part II: Identification (30 points)

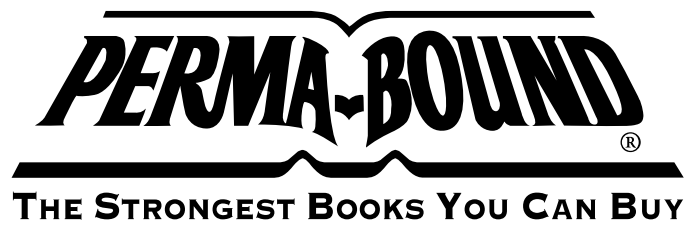
- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. X | 6. | 11. X |
| 2. | 7. X | 12. |
| 3. | 8. | 13. X |
| 4. X | 9. X | 14. X |
| 5. | 10. | 15. |

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

1. Huck, Spaniard
2. Widow, Tom
3. Alfred Temple, Becky
4. Sprague, Judge
5. Mrs. Thatcher, Aunt Polly

Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Answers will vary.



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