

Penguin



Readers

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The Adventures of

TOM SAWYER



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CHAPTER ONE
Meet Tom Sawyer

“Tom!”

No answer.

“TOM!”

No answer.

“Where is that boy? TOM!”

No answer.

The old woman looked for Tom everywhere in the house.

“Well, I’ll find you and I’ll— ”

She went to the open door and she looked into the garden. No Tom.

“TOM!” she shouted.

The woman was Tom's Aunt Polly. She heard something behind her. She turned quickly and she caught a small boy with her hand.

"There you are! Why were you in that closet? What did you do there?"

"Nothing," answered the boy.

"Nothing! Look at your hands. Look at your mouth. What is that?"

"I don't know."

"Well, *I* know. It's sugar. And you took it from the kitchen." Aunt Polly's hand was ready. "I'll hit you," she said.

"Oh! Aunt! Look behind you!" shouted Tom.

She turned, and the boy ran out of the house.

Aunt Polly started to laugh. "That boy!" she thought. "He always does something different to me, and I never learn. How *can* I learn? He makes



me angry. But then he makes me think, or he makes me laugh. Then I can't hit him. And he knows it. He's my **dead** sister's son and I love him. I'm his parent now and I want to be the best parent for him. But how can I? Parents must **punish** their children. Hitting a child makes him a good person. But hitting Tom makes my **heart** sad. I don't want to hit him. Oh, what can I do?"

Aunt Polly made a plan. "I'll make him work tomorrow," she thought. "He won't like that because all the other boys have a holiday on Saturdays."

Saturday came, and everyone was happy in the beautiful summer sun. But Tom had to work.

Aunt Polly gave him a **bucket** of white paint and a **brush**. Tom looked at the **fence** and he was not happy. The fence was high and very long. He put a little paint on the brush and then on the fence. Then he looked at his work. The white part was very small and the fence was very big. Tom sat down on the ground.

Jim walked past with a water bucket. Young Jim lived with Tom's family and he worked for them. Today he had to get the water. Tom did not like that job, but it was better than painting.

"Jim, I'll get the water for you. Will you paint the fence?"

"I can't," said Jim. "Your aunt told me. She said, 'Don't paint the fence for Tom.'"

"Don't be frightened of her, Jim. I'll get the water quickly and she'll never know."

"Oh, no. I can't. She'll hit me."

"Aunt Polly never hits anyone hard," said Tom. "She only hits you on the head and that's nothing. Jim, I'll give you this ball."

Jim began to think about it. He put the bucket on the ground, and he took the ball in his hand. But he could not keep the ball, because Aunt Polly came out of the house with a shoe in her hand. Jim quickly ran away with his bucket. Tom stood



up with his brush again and Aunt Polly walked home with a smile.

Ben Rogers came past and he saw Tom.