

Mark Twain
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Meet Tom Sawyer, a boy with a good heart who's always in trouble with everyone: at home, in school and in church. With his best friends, Joe, Ben and Huckleberry, Tom lives an exciting life outside. But he begins to grow up when pretty Becky Thatcher comes to town, and when something terrible happens in this quiet town near the Mississippi.

In this reader you will find:

- Information about Mark Twain's life
- Sections focusing on Schools in Tom Sawyer's Day and the Mississippi River
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A2 Key style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Friendship | Adventure

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STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1	Movers
● STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/Key
STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

Classic - American English

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ISBN 978-88-536-3215-9



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ISBN 978-88-536-3215-9

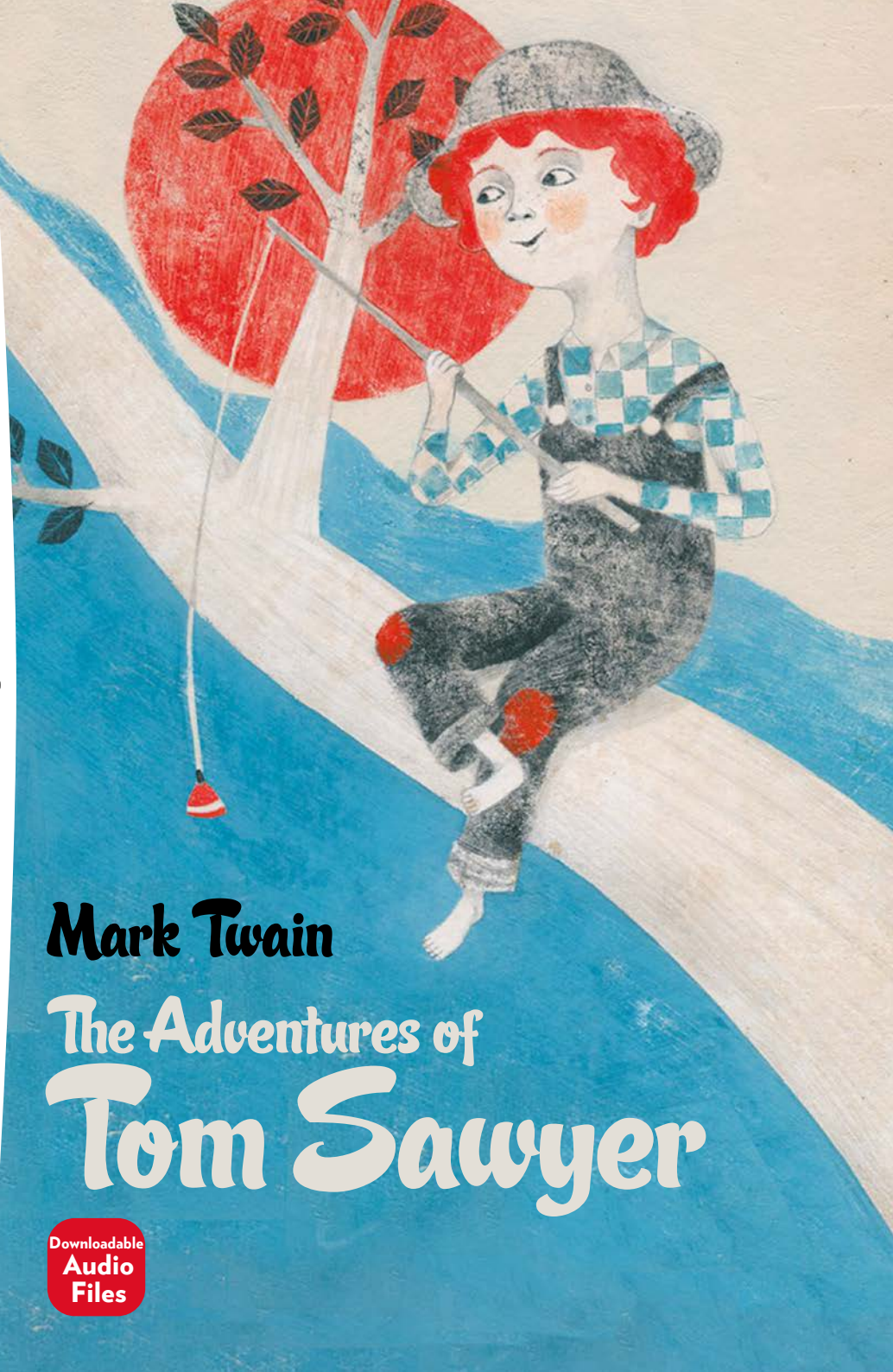
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A2
Mark Twain
The adventures of Tom Sawyer

Teen Readers



Stage 2 A2

Classic - American English



Mark Twain
**The Adventures of
Tom Sawyer**

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Book brief

- 1** *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is an 1876 novel by American writer, Mark Twain.
- 2** Known as a masterpiece of American literature, it was Twain's best-selling novel during his lifetime.
- 3** Set in the 1840s, Twain used many of his memories as a boy living in Hannibal, Missouri to describe the fictional town of St. Petersburg and many of the adventures in the story.
- 4** The story is about a young boy, Tom Sawyer, growing up along the Mississippi River.
- 5** Tom has lots of adventures, often with his friend Huckleberry Finn.

Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

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Main Characters

Aunt Polly

Tom's aunt.



Tom Sawyer

Tom's mother and father are dead. He lives with his aunt.



Becky Thatcher

Tom likes Becky a lot.



An illustration from a children's book. In the upper right, Injun Joe, a man with a dark face, a wide-brimmed hat, and a mustache, is peeking out from behind a large blue tree trunk. He has a mischievous, slightly sinister expression. In the lower left, two young boys, Huck and Finn, are looking up at him. They are both wearing red and white checkered shirts. Finn, on the left, has his hand near his face in a surprised or scared gesture. Huck, on the right, is looking up at Injun Joe with a curious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Huckleberry (Huck)
Finn**

*A poor boy in the town.
He's a friend of Tom.*

Injun Joe

*A very bad man.
People are scared
of him.*

**Joe
Harper**

*Tom's best
friend.*

Before you read

Reading A2 Key

- 1 Complete the text about Mark Twain, the author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, with one word in each space.

Mark Twain, the author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, was born in 1835. He was actually born (1) _____ 30th November. He was from Missouri, USA and (2) _____ real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. First of all, he worked as a printer. Then, he worked as a pilot on boats on the Mississippi (3) _____ 1857 (4) _____ 1861. He met a (5) _____ of interesting people of all ages when he (6) _____ working on the river. Clemens wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in 1876, under the name Mark Twain. The Mississippi is very important to Tom's story.

Vocabulary

- 2 Match the places from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* to their definitions. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 forest | a like Australia, Jamaica and Madagascar |
| 2 island | b Fred Flintstone lives in one |
| 3 cave | c a place where you find lots of trees |
| 4 river | d smaller than a mountain. You can walk up one |
| 5 town | e like the Mississippi and the Amazon |
| 6 hill | f smaller than a city, but larger than a village |

Writing

- 3 Have you ever visited a cave? Write about it.

Speaking and Writing

- 4 Mark Twain doesn't say, but Tom Sawyer is probably a young teenager. What's the best time in your life to do these things? Discuss with a partner and give reasons for your answers.

learn a language learn to swim get married stop working
take driving lessons get a job travel to other countries
learn to fly have children leave home

When you're a baby

a child

a teenager/in your teens

in your twenties

in your thirties

in your fifties

in your nineties

21st
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Skills



Writing

- 5 In Chapter 1, Tom's Aunt Polly gets angry with him many times. For example, he doesn't go to school, but goes swimming in the river instead. What should parents or teachers do when children do bad things like the ones below? Write your answers.

Bad behaviors

- 1 Missing school _____
- 2 Being rude to an adult _____
- 3 Not doing homework _____
- 4 Using a phone in class _____
- 5 Cheating in a test
(copying/using notes) _____
- 6 Playing a trick on a teacher _____
- 7 Being late for school _____
- 8 Tearing a book _____

- extra chores
- detention (stay longer at school)
- extra homework
- stand outside the classroom
- other

Chapter 1

Good Days and Bad Days

▶ 2 “Tom!”

No answer.

“Tom!”

No answer.

“Where *is* that boy? You, Tom!”

No answer.

The old lady¹ took off her glasses. She looked around the room. She looked under the bed, but she only found the cat. Then she heard a noise behind her. She turned around and opened the cupboard door. There was Tom. “Here you are! What are you doing in there, Tom? What’s that around your mouth, boy?”

“I don’t know, Aunt Polly.”

“Well *I* do. It’s jam, isn’t it? You naughty² boy! What am I going to do with you? Where’s my stick³?”

“Look behind you, Aunt!” said Tom, quickly.

She looked behind her. Tom ran out of the door and jumped over the fence⁴. He was free.

Tom’s aunt laughed. “He’s done that to me a

Aunt Polly finds Tom in the cupboard eating jam. Tom tells her to look behind her and he runs away before she can get her stick to hit him.

¹ **lady** woman

² **naughty** when a child does something wrong, we say he/she is naughty

³ **stick** 

⁴ **fence** like a wall, a fence is often made of wood (picture page 15)

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thousand times. I still haven't learnt! Grrr! I'll have him¹ when he comes home! He's my poor dead sister's boy. I want to make him a good boy. I feel bad if I hit him and bad if I don't. But I have to punish² him. So, what can I do with him? I can make him work. He can work for me on Saturday."

It was a hot afternoon. Tom didn't want to go back to school. So, he decided to go swimming in the river. When he got home, Aunt Polly was waiting for him. "Was it very hot in school this afternoon, Tom?" she said.

"Yes, Aunt. It was very hot."

"But you didn't go to school. You went swimming in the river!" said Sid, Tom's brother. "Look, your shirt's wet."

"Why did you do that, Sid? Now, I'll get into trouble³! I'll have you for that, Sid!" said Tom. Then, before Aunt Polly could catch him, he ran out of the house.

Aunt Polly was now sure about Tom's punishment. "No free time for Tom on Saturday. He can work for me."

Aunt Polly wants to teach Tom to be a good boy. Tom doesn't go to school. Instead, he goes swimming in the river and his brother says this in front of Aunt Polly. Aunt Polly decides to punish Tom by making him work for her on Saturday.

¹ **have someone** (here) say you will do something bad to someone

² **to punish** (noun = punishment) if you do something wrong, sometimes the teacher punishes you

³ **get into trouble** have problems because you do something wrong

Mark Twain

Tom was free again. He went to find his friends. On his way down the street, he met a stranger¹. The boy was a little bit taller than Tom. The boy was wearing city clothes. He was wearing shoes, but it wasn't Sunday. The boy looked at Tom. Tom's clothes were old. Tom wasn't wearing any shoes. The boy didn't like Tom. Tom didn't like the boy.

"What's your name?" said Tom.

"I'm not telling you," the stranger answered.

"Then I'll fight² you!" said Tom.

"And I'll fight you too, but I'll win!"

Then the stranger jumped on Tom and they started fighting. Soon, Tom was sitting on the boy. "Say 'enough' and tell me your name!" said Tom.

"No!"

"Say 'enough' and tell me your name!" said Tom, again.

"All right! My name's Alfred Temple. Now enough!" said the boy.

Tom stood up. Alfred, the stranger, escaped³ down the street.

Tom got home quite late that night. He quietly climbed through the window. He didn't want to get into more trouble. But Aunt Polly was waiting

Tom meets a stranger wearing nice clothes and shoes, not like Tom at all. They start to fight. Tom wins and the boy says his name is Alfred Temple, then he runs away.

¹ **stranger** someone you don't know

² **fight** when two people fight, they hit each other

³ **escape** to get away and to be free

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for him. “Tom! Look at your clothes! What did you do to them? They’re all dirty. You’ve torn¹ your shirt! And look at your face! What *am* I going to do with you? Well, you can paint my fence on Saturday. *That’s* what you can do!”

• • •

Saturday arrived. It was a beautiful day. Tom went out into the garden. He had a bucket² of white paint and a brush. He looked at the fence. It was very long. He didn’t want to work. He wanted to go swimming. He wanted to have fun with his friends. He put his brush into the paint and started work. “I hope my friends don’t see me,” he thought. “They’ll laugh at me.”

Then, Tom had an idea. And it was a *wonderful* idea.

Tom’s friend, Ben Rogers, came along the road. Tom pretended³ not to see him. Tom continued⁴ painting. Then, Ben saw Tom. “Hey!” he said. “What are you doing? Why are you working on a *Saturday*? Don’t you want to come swimming?”

“*Work*? Oh, this isn’t *work*,” said Tom. “I’ve never painted a fence before. I like it. It’s not *work*, it’s *fun*.”

Aunt Polly sees Tom’s dirty, torn clothes. She’s angry with him and says he has to paint her fence on Saturday as a punishment.

Tom wants to go swimming, not paint the fence. Then he has an idea. He tells his friend Ben that painting the fence is fun.

¹ **tear** (tore/torn) pull clothes or paper into pieces

² **bucket** 

³ **pretend** act in a way which isn’t true

⁴ **continue** not stop

Mark Twain

Ben watched Tom. Tom looked very happy. Ben thought for a moment, then he said, “Can I paint a bit of fence, Tom? Please? I’ll give you half of my apple.”

Tom continued to paint. Then Ben said, “I’ll give you *all* of my apple!”

Tom agreed. He gave Ben the brush and the bucket of paint. Ben started painting. Tom sat under a tree and ate his apple. A little while later¹, some more of Tom’s friends came along the road. All of them wanted to paint the fence. At the end of the morning, Tom had a lot of treasure²: four wonderful marbles³, some blue glass, a part of a knife, a key, a fish hook⁴ and half a piece of the teacher’s chalk⁵. He was rich!

Tom went to find Aunt Polly. “Can I go and have fun now, Aunt?”

“What do you mean? You have to finish painting the fence before you can go.”

“But I’ve finished, Aunt. Can I go and have fun?”

“Finished? But that’s impossible. Show me.”

Aunt Polly went outside. She saw the fence. It was beautiful. She couldn’t believe it. “Well yes, Tom. That’s a good job. You can go and play now.”

¹ **a little while later** not long after

² **treasure** 

³ **marble** a coloured glass ball. You can play games with marbles

⁴ **fish hook** 

⁵ **chalk** teachers often use chalk to write with. It’s white

All Tom’s friends want to try painting the fence because he says it’s fun and they all give Tom something. So in the end he has a lot of treasure and Aunt Polly thinks he did a good job so he can go and play.

➤ Tom sits and eats his friend’s apple while Ben paints the fence.



Mark Twain

Tom has his usual Saturday fight with his friends. Then as he's going home, he sees a pretty girl. He walks up and down showing off as much as he can. In the end the girl throws him a flower and Tom is really happy.

Tom ran out into the street. He was free!

It was time for the usual Saturday fight. Tom was the leader of his gang¹. Tom's best friend, Joe Harper, was the leader in another gang. It was time to fight.

The fight was wonderful. At the end, the two leaders counted all the dead. They counted all the prisoners². "What a good fight! What a good day! See you all next Saturday!" everyone said.

Everyone went home. Tom was smiling. On the way home, he walked past Jeff Thatcher's house. There was a new girl in the garden. She was pretty. In fact³, Tom thought she was *very* pretty. She was an angel⁴. She was even prettier than Amy Lawrence. Tom forgot all about Amy Lawrence.

Tom pretended not to see this angel. He walked up and down in front of her garden. He walked like a man. He acted like a man. He wanted this beautiful girl to see him. He showed off⁵ as much as he could. After a while, she threw a flower. Then she ran inside her house. The flower was for Tom. He looked around. No-one saw him. He picked up the flower and put it in his pocket. It was wonderful. He walked home. He was smiling from ear to ear. Who was she? Who was this angel?

¹ **gang** (here) a group of friends

² **prisoner** a person who isn't free

³ **in fact** actually

⁴ **angel** (here) a very beautiful person

⁵ **show off** act so that people will look at you

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

When he got home, Sid was in the garden. Tom picked up a stone¹. He threw it at Sid. Yes!

“Ouch!” said Sid. “Why did you do that?”

“You always want me to be in trouble. It’s not fair²!” said Tom.

At dinner time, Sid dropped³ a plate on the floor. “Tom did that!” said Sid.

Aunt Polly picked up her stick. She hit Tom.

“Hey, Aunt Polly. That’s not fair! Don’t hit *me*! It was *Sid*, not *me*!”

Aunt Polly looked surprised. Then she said, “Well, you probably did something bad today, anyway. You’re always getting into trouble.”

Tom went outside. He was angry and miserable⁴. It wasn’t fair. He went to find his angel. Outside her house, he threw some stones at a window. After a while, someone opened it. Tom looked up, but he wasn’t quick enough. Someone threw a bucket of water. It went all over him.

“What a horrible day. It really isn’t fair. Life isn’t fair,” thought Tom.

He went home, took off his wet clothes and went to bed. ■

Tom throws a stone at Sid because Sid always gets him into trouble. That evening Sid drops a plate but says it’s Tom who did it and Aunt Polly hits Tom. Then Tom goes to see the pretty girl but someone throws a bucket of water at him. Tom thinks life isn’t fair at all.

¹ **stone** 

² **fair** (here) right

³ **drop** (dropped) let something fall

⁴ **miserable** very sad

Think

What do you think of Tom? Would you like him as a friend?

Reading Comprehension

1 Are these sentences about Chapter 1 true (T) or false (F)?

Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tom lives with his aunt and his sister. | ☐ | ☒ |
| 1 Tom loves swimming. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Tom's punishment is to paint the fence. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Tom paints the fence while his friends watch. | ☒ | ☒ |
| 4 The new girl in town is called Amy Lawrence. | ☒ | ☐ |
| 5 Tom gets into trouble because of Sid. | ☒ | ☐ |
| 6 Aunt Polly punishes Sid for dropping a plate. | ☐ | ☐ |

Pair Work

2 Look at these statements about Tom's treasure with a partner.

Try and find the correct answers together.

- Tom has 2 times 5 pieces of chalk = ____ pieces of chalk.
- Tom has 2 times as many pieces of blue glass as he has marbles = ____ pieces of blue glass.
- Tom has 8 fewer marbles than apples = ____ marbles.
- Tom has $\frac{1}{2}$ as many fish hooks as he has marbles = ____ fish hooks.
- Tom has 8 more apples than pieces of chalk = ____ apples.
- How many things did Tom get from his friends? ____

21st
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Skills



Reading A2 Key

- 3 Read the sentences about swimming. Choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space.

- Tom went swimming yesterday.
A went **B** go **C** goes
- 1 Tom _____ swimming on hot days.
A wants **B** likes **C** plays
- 2 The river is _____ the town.
A near **B** far **C** back
- 3 There isn't _____ swimming pool in the town.
A a **B** the **C** some
- 4 Amy _____ like swimming in the river.
A don't **B** never **C** doesn't
- 5 They all have races to find the _____ swimmer.
A fast **B** fastest **C** fasting

Before-reading Activity

Prediction

- 4 Think about Tom's character. What do you think he does in Chapter 2? Choose the best option. Then read Chapter 2 and check your answers.

- 1 ☐ **A** Tom is interested in a lesson.
☐ **B** Tom is bored by a lesson.
- 2 ☐ **A** Tom sits next to his angel at school.
☐ **B** Tom sits next to the teacher at school.
- 3 ☐ **A** Tom meets one of his friends at 11.30 pm.
☐ **B** Tom meets one of his friends at 10.00 am.
- 4 ☐ **A** Tom dreams about his angel.
☐ **B** Tom dreams about a dead body.