

Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer



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Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Illustrated by **Fabio Delvò**
Text adaptation and activities by
Gina D. B. Clemen

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Content editor: Maria Grazia Donati
Editor: Chiara Versino
Design: Sara Fabbri, Silvia Bassi
Page Layout: Annalisa Possenti
Picture research: Alice Graziotin

Art Director: Nadia Maestri

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info@blackcat-cideb.com
blackcat-cideb.com



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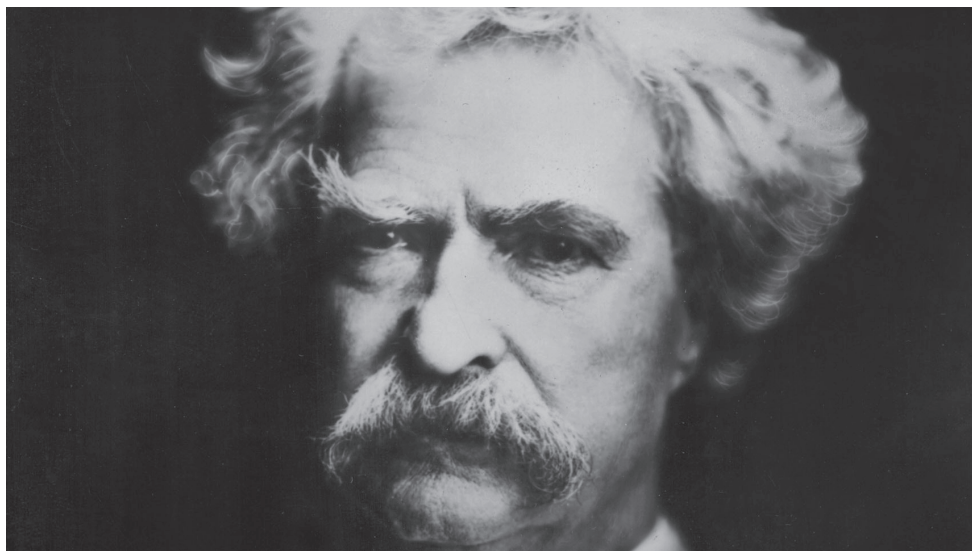
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Mark Twain

Mark Twain is often called the father of American literature. He changed the American way of writing with his simple, funny language. Everyone could understand and enjoy his stories, and his books became popular everywhere.



track 02

Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born in Florida, Missouri, on November 30, 1835. In 1839 he and his family went to live in Hannibal, Missouri, a small town on the Mississippi River. Young Samuel grew up there, and as a boy he had many adventures on the river with his friends.

He began working as a steamboat ¹ pilot on the Mississippi River in 1857, and he liked his job. In 1861 he went to the West and he traveled to Nevada and then to California. He went to Virginia City, Nevada, to look for gold and silver, but he didn't find much. So he decided to work as a journalist for the *Territorial Enterprise*. Today you can visit the Mark Twain Museum in Virginia City and see his old desk and other interesting things.

1. steamboat :



In San Francisco, California, he began working as a journalist for *The Morning Call*. Here he changed his name to Mark Twain. When he worked as a steamboat pilot the term “Mark Twain” meant “safe water ahead”. In 1865 he wrote the short story “The Celebrated



Desk and painting at the Mark Twain Museum, Virginia City, Nevada.

Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”, and it was a great success. He became a famous writer and he traveled to different places in the world.

In 1870 he married Olivia “Livy” Langdon and they had three daughters and a son. The family lived in Hartford, Connecticut. Here Mark Twain wrote his three famous books: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).

His other great books are *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881), *The Innocents Abroad* (1869), *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* (1889), and many short stories. His wonderful books are translated into more than 70 languages!

Mark Twain died on April 21, 1910 at the age of seventy-four.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

1. People everywhere liked his simple, funny language.
2. Mark Twain’s real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
3. He was born in Hannibal, Missouri.
4. He worked on a farm near the Mississippi River.
5. In San Francisco he worked as a journalist.
6. His first short story was published in 1865.
7. Mark Twain and his family lived in Nevada.

T F

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BEFORE YOU READ

1. Match the words with the correct picture.

cross • frying pan • cave • brush • bark • jail • fence • kite •
rifle • graveyard • ghost • rat • beetle • treasure •
haunted house • pirate • coins • hang • candle • bat • witch



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

BEFORE YOU READ



13



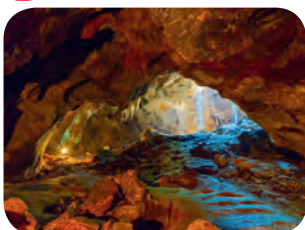
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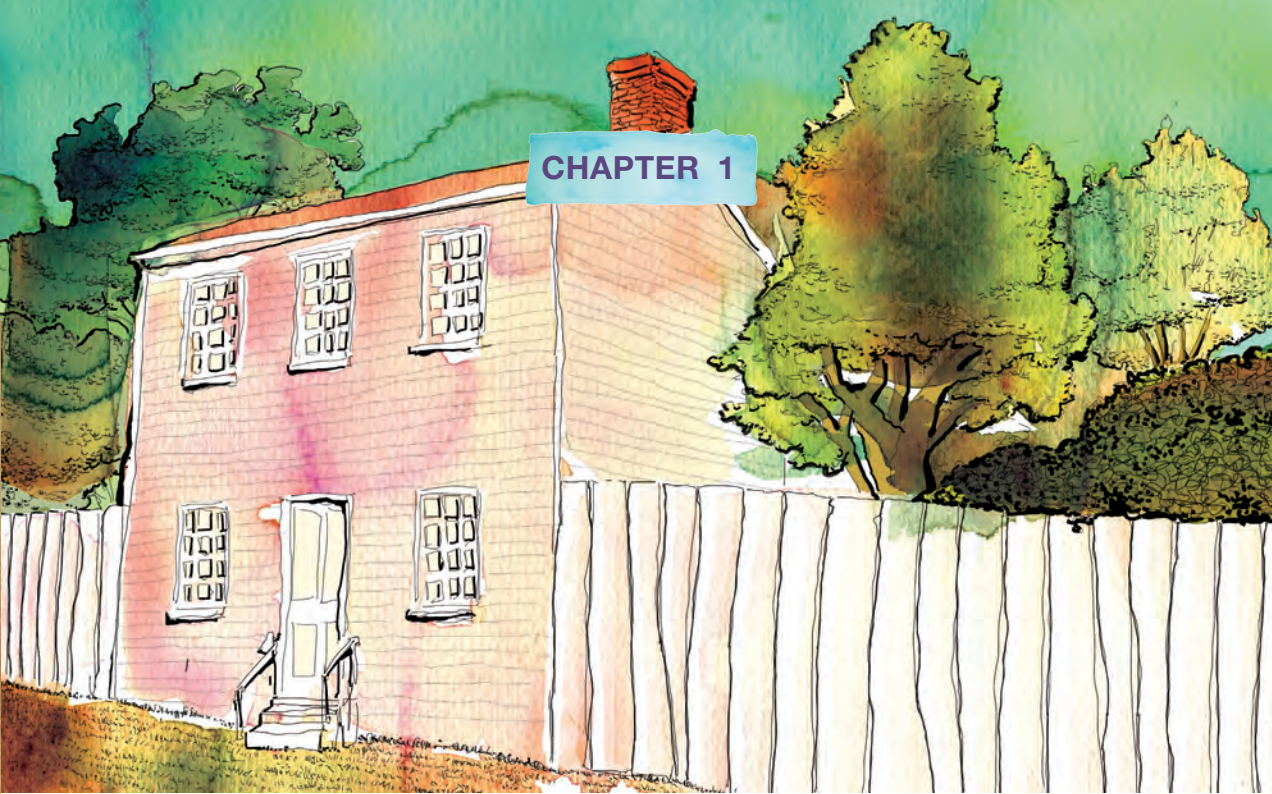
2. Match the words with the correct meaning. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ☐ tricks | a to make a hole in the ground |
| 2. ☐ meow | b a long passage under the ground |
| 3. ☐ robber | c a person who advises people on legal problems |
| 4. ☐ to dig | d the sound a cat makes |
| 5. ☐ proud | e you know who the person is when you see him/her |
| 6. ☐ to drown | f to speak very softly |
| 7. ☐ lawyer | g to die in the water |
| 8. ☐ tunnel | h little games, jokes |
| 9. ☐ to recognize | i a person who steals things from other people |
| 10. ☐ to whisper | j satisfied and happy |

THE CHARACTERS



From left to right, first row: **Becky Thatcher, Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn.**
Second row: **Aunt Polly, Muff Potter, Injun Joe.**



Tom and the fence

“T

om! Tom!”

There was no answer.

“Where is that boy? Tom!” cried Aunt Polly, who was a kind woman with white hair and glasses. She was tall and thin, but she had big hands. She looked under the bed but she only found the old cat.

“Tom!” she cried again. She went to the kitchen and opened the door to the garden and looked around.

Suddenly she heard a noise behind her. A small boy ran past her and she stopped him with her big hand.

“Tom! What are you doing?” she asked.

“Nothing, Aunt Polly,” said Tom.

“Nothing?” said Aunt Polly. “Look at your hands and your mouth. You were eating jam! How many times did I tell you: *don’t eat the jam!*”

“Oh, Aunt Polly... look behind you!” said Tom excitedly.



track 03

Aunt Polly turned around and Tom quickly ran away. She was surprised and then she laughed softly.

"Tom always plays tricks on me and I never learn," said Aunt Polly to herself. "I love him, but it's not easy to look after him. He's my sister's child – she's dead. Now I have to teach him to be a good boy." She went back to the kitchen and thought about Tom.

"Tomorrow's Saturday and there's no school," she thought. "Tom must work tomorrow. He hates work and loves to play. But he must learn to work, and I have the right thing for him to do. He can paint the fence!"

Tom lived in the town of St Petersburg with his Aunt Polly and his brother Sid. During the long summer evenings there weren't a lot of fun things to do. Tom liked walking around town. One evening he met a big boy who was a stranger. Tom looked at him because he didn't see new people often. The boy had new, expensive clothes.

"Who is this boy?" Tom thought. "He's got new shoes, a blue jacket, a white shirt, a brown hat and a blue tie, ... but it's not Sunday. He probably comes from a big city. My clothes are really old and ugly, and I don't have any shoes."

They looked at each other – Tom didn't like him.

Tom finally said, "I can beat you!" ¹

The big boy laughed and said, "Why don't you try?"

There was a moment of silence.

"What's your name?" asked Tom.

"I'm not going to tell you," answered the big boy.

"Oh, really," said Tom nervously.

"I think you're afraid of me," said the big boy. "I'm bigger and stronger than you."

"I'm not afraid of you," said Tom. "I'm not afraid of anyone!"

There was another moment of silence. The two boys looked at each other angrily.

Suddenly Tom pushed the boy and the boy pushed Tom. Soon they were fighting on the ground. Tom hit him and pulled his hair. Then the

1. **beat you** : win in a fight.



big boy hit Tom on the nose but this didn't stop him. Soon the big boy started crying and said, "Stop! Stop!"

Tom got up from the ground and said, "Well, I said I could beat you, didn't I?" The big boy's nice clothes were dirty and he got up slowly and walked away.

When Tom got home Aunt Polly said, "Tom, you're late! And look at your clothes – they're terribly dirty! You'll never learn. Now go to bed! Tomorrow's Saturday..."

Everyone was happy on Saturday morning, but not Tom. He sat in front of a high fence and looked at it sadly. It was nine feet ² high and ninety feet ³ long.

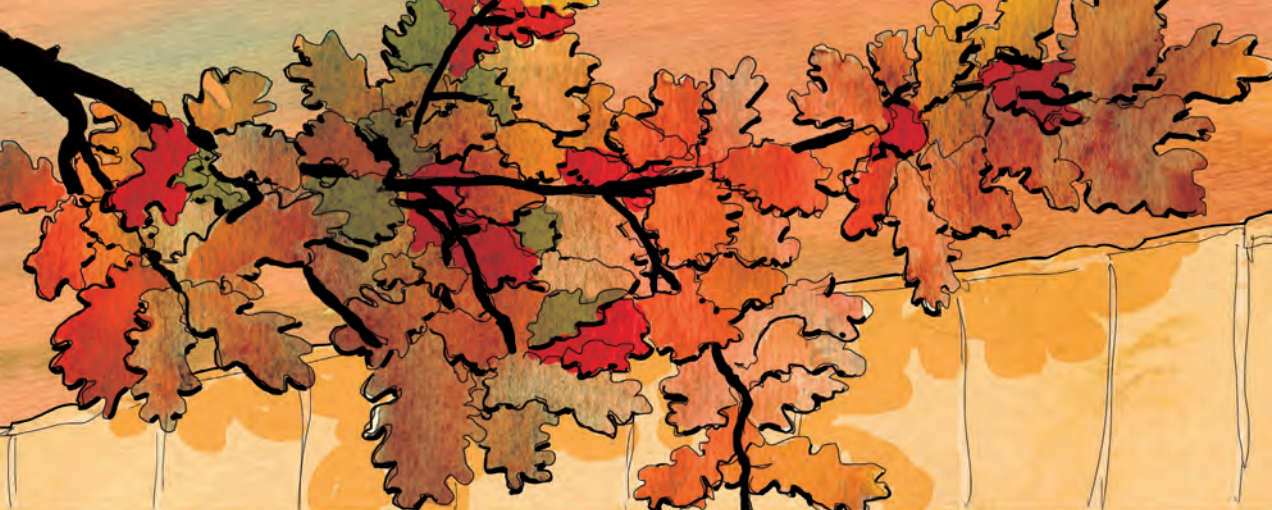
"This is terrible," thought Tom, sitting under a big tree. "It's a beautiful Saturday morning and I must paint the fence. My friends are going swimming and fishing, and I'm sitting here in front of this fence. They're all going to laugh at me."

He got up slowly and went to get the brush and the paint. He put the long brush in the white paint and started painting. After a few minutes he stopped and looked at his work. Then he continued painting and he was very unhappy.

Suddenly he had a great idea. His friend Ben Rogers was walking down the street and he was eating a big red apple. He saw Tom and said, "It's Saturday and you're working for your Aunt Polly."

2. **nine feet** : about 3 meters.

3. **ninety feet** : about 28 meters.



Tom continued to paint and didn't say a word.

"Tom, I'm going swimming in the river, but you can't come with me," said Ben Rogers. "You're working."

"Do you call this work?" said Tom, who continued to paint.

"You're painting your aunt's fence," said Ben, "of course it's work."

"Well, maybe it's work but maybe it isn't," said Tom. "I like it! I can go swimming every day, but I can't paint a fence every day."

Ben was surprised and he watched Tom. He painted slowly and carefully, and he often smiled. He stopped and moved back from the fence. He looked at his work and was happy. Ben wanted to paint, too.

"Listen Tom, let me paint a little," said Ben. "I want to try."

Tom looked at Ben and said, "I'm really sorry, Ben, but Aunt Polly wants me to do it. You know, I'm very good at painting. My brother Sid wanted to do it, but he's not good at painting."

"Oh, Tom, let me try, please!" said Ben. "I'll be careful."

"No, Ben, this is an important job," said Tom. "Only I can do it".

"Here, you can have some of my apple..." said Ben.

"No, no!" said Tom, who continued to paint slowly and carefully.

"Well, then take *all* of my apple!" said Ben excitedly.

Tom was happy but he didn't smile. "Alright, Ben, you can paint for a short time."

Tom gave Ben the long brush and he sat down under the big tree and ate the apple.

That morning Tom's other friends came by.

Billy Fisher saw him painting and laughed at him.



CHAPTER 1

"I'm going fishing, but you can't come with me because you're working." Then Billy Fisher watched Tom paint and suddenly he wanted to try, too.

"Tom, let me paint the fence," said Billy Fisher. "I'll give you my new kite!"

So Billy Fisher started to paint the fence and Tom sat down and looked at his new kite. Then Johnny Miller came along and wanted to paint the fence, too. He gave Tom a big dead rat. His other friends came by and wanted to paint the fence. They gave him a cat with one eye, an old knife, an old blue bottle, a key and some other things. Tom's friends painted the big fence while Tom sat under the big tree. He looked at all the interesting things his friends gave him and thought, "When something is difficult to get, everyone wants it."

When the fence was painted he went back home and said, "The work's done, Aunt Polly. Can I go out and play with my friends?"

"I want to see the fence first," said Aunt Polly. She went out and looked at the beautiful white fence and smiled at Tom, "You did a very good job. Here, take this big red apple and go and play!"



THINK!

Read the sentence below taken from this chapter.

"It's a beautiful Saturday morning and I must paint the fence. My friends are going swimming and fishing, and I'm sitting in front of this fence."

Tom doesn't want to paint the fence and he makes his friends believe that painting the fence is fun.

Circle the words below that describe Tom.

lazy • honest • clever • kind • smart •
funny • friendly • stupid • intelligent

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT • page 56

MAPPING VALUES AND FEELINGS • page 78