

Chapter 1 The Fence

Tom Sawyer lived with his aunt because his mother and father were dead. Tom didn't like going to school, and he didn't like working. He liked playing and having adventures. One Friday, he didn't go to school—he went to the river.

Aunt Polly was angry. “You’re a bad boy!” she said. “Tomorrow you can’t play with your friends because you didn’t go to school today. Tomorrow you’re going to work for me. You can paint the fence.”

Saturday morning, Tom was not happy, but he started to paint the fence. His friend Jim was in the street.

Tom asked him, “Do you want to paint?”

Jim said, “No, I can’t. I’m going to get water.”

Then Ben came to Tom’s house. He watched Tom and said, “I’m going to swim today. You can’t swim because you’re working.”

Tom said, “This isn’t work. I like painting.”

“Can I paint, too?” Ben asked.

“No, you can’t,” Tom answered. “Aunt Polly asked me because I’m a very good painter.”

Ben said, “I’m a good painter, too. Please, can I paint? I have some fruit. Do you want it?”

OK,” Tom said. “Give me the fruit. Then you can paint.”

Ben started to paint the fence. Later, many boys came to Tom’s house. They watched Ben, and they wanted to paint, too.

Tom said, “Give me some food and you can paint.”