**THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER**

SATURDAY morning was come, and all the summer world was bright and fresh, and brimming with life. There was a song in every heart; and if the heart was young the music issued at the lips. There was cheer in every face and a spring in every step. The locust-trees were in bloom and the fragrance of the blossoms filled the air.

Tom appeared on the sidewalk with a bucket of whitewash and a long-handled brush. He surveyed the fence, and all gladness left him and a deep melancholy settled down upon his spirit. Thirty yards of board fence nine feet high. Life to him seemed hollow, and existence but a chore. Sighing, he dipped his brush and passed it along the topmost plank; repeated the operation; did it again; compared the insignificant whitewashed streak with the far-reaching continent of unwhitewashed fence, and sat down on a tree-box discouraged.

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Tom began to think of the fun he had planned for this day, and his sorrows multiplied. Soon the free boys would come tripping along on all sorts of delicious expeditions, and they would make a world of fun of him for having to work—the very thought of it burnt him like fire. He got out his worldly wealth and examined it—bits of toys, marbles, and trash; enough to buy an exchange of work, maybe, but not half enough to buy so much as half an hour of pure freedom.

He took up his brush and went tranquilly to work. Ben Rogers appeared in sight presently—the very boy, of all boys, whose ridicule he had been dreading. Ben’s walk was the hop-skip-and-jump—proof enough that his heart was light and his expectations high. He was eating an apple, and giving a long, melodious **whoop**, at intervals, followed by a deep-toned ding-dong-dong, ding-dong-dong, for he was pretending to be a steamboat. As he drew near, he slackened speed, took the middle of the street, leaned far over to starboard and rounded to ponderously and with laborious effort—for he was personating the Big Missouri, and considered himself to be drawing nine feet of water. He was boat and captain and engine-bells combined, so he had to imagine himself standing on his own hurricane-deck giving the orders and executing them.

Tom went on whitewashing—paid no attention to the steamboat. Ben stared a moment and then said: “Hi-Yi! You’re up a stump, ain’t you!”

No answer. Tom surveyed his last touch with the eye of an artist, then he gave his brush another gentle sweep and surveyed the result, as before. Ben ranged up alongside of him. Tom’s mouth watered for the apple, but he stuck to his work. Ben said:

“Hello, old chap, you got to work, hey?”

Tom wheeled suddenly and said:

“Why, it’s you, Ben! I warn’t noticing.”

“Say—I’m going in a-swimming, I am. Don’t you wish you could? But of course you’d **druther** work—wouldn’t you? Course you would!”

Tom contemplated the boy a bit, and said:

“What do you call work?”

“Why, ain’t *that* work?”

Tom resumed his whitewashing, and answered carelessly:

“Well, maybe it is, and maybe it ain’t. All I know, is, it suits Tom Sawyer.”

“Oh come, now, you don’t mean to let on that you *like* it?”

The brush continued to move.

“Like it? Well, I don’t see why I oughtn’t to like it. Does a boy get a chance to whitewash a fence every day?”

That put the thing in a new light. Ben stopped nibbling his apple. Tom swept his brush daintily back and forth—stepped back to note the effect—added a touch here and there—criticised the effect again—Ben watching every move and getting more and more interested, more and more absorbed. Presently he said:

“Say, Tom, let *me* whitewash a little.”

Tom considered, was about to consent; but he altered his mind:

“No—no—I reckon it wouldn’t hardly do, Ben. You see, Aunt Polly’s awful particular about this fence—right here on the street, you know—but if it was the back fence I wouldn’t mind and *she* wouldn’t. Yes, she’s awful particular about this fence; it’s got to be done very careful; I reckon there ain’t one boy in a thousand, maybe two thousand, that can do it the way it’s got to be done.”

“No—is that so? Oh come, now—lemme just try. Only just a little—I’d let you, if you was me, Tom.”

“Ben, I’d like to, honest injun; but Aunt Polly—well, Jim wanted to do it, but she wouldn’t let him; Sid wanted to do it, and she wouldn’t let Sid. Now don’t you see how I’m fixed? If you was to tackle this fence and anything was to happen to it—”

“Oh, shucks, I’ll be just as careful. Now lemme try. Say—I’ll give you the core of my apple.”

“Well, here—No, Ben, now don’t. I’m afeard—”

“I’ll give you all of it!”

Tom gave up the brush with reluctance in his face, but alacrity in his heart. And while the late steamer Big Missouri worked and sweated in the sun, the retired artist sat on a barrel in the shade close by, dangled his legs, munched his apple, and planned the slaughter of more innocents. There was no lack of material; boys happened along every little while; they came to jeer, but remained to whitewash. By the time Ben was fagged out, Tom had traded the next chance to Billy Fisher for a kite, in good repair; and when he played out, Johnny Miller bought in for a dead rat and a string to swing it with—and so on, and so on, hour after hour. And when the middle of the afternoon came, from being a poor poverty-stricken boy in the morning, Tom was literally rolling in wealth.

## MCQ Questions

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| **#** | **Type** | **Question** | **Results** |
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| 1 | Fact finding | Which statement best describes the type of day it was?   1. A steamy and humid day 2. **A warm and lovely day** 3. An unbearably warm and loud day 4. A spectacular and dry day |  |
| 2 | inference | What is the purpose of the first paragraph?   1. To show the reader how different that world is to ours 2. To highlight this is a fictional world 3. To draw attention to the fact this is set in the real world 4. **To set the mood for the reader** | “There was a song in every heart; and if the heart was young the music issued at the lips. There was cheer in every face and a spring in every step.”  Mood: happy |
| 3 | Understanding phrases | What does it mean when the text says, “if the heart was young the music issued at the lips”   1. The song was at the lips of young people 2. Young people have an issue with music 3. **Young people will sing out of happiness** 4. Young people enjoy singing |  |
| 4 | inference | Why did Tom’s mood change from happy to melancholy?   1. **The job he has to do on such a nice day is difficult** 2. Tom is lazy and does not enjoy working 3. Tom feels like he will be too hot working 4. The job is too difficult for just one person | “ He surveyed the fence, and all gladness left him and a deep melancholy settled down upon his spirit.” |
| 5 | inference | Why does the author describe the first painted plank as ‘insignificant’ line XX?   1. Because his job is pointless 2. Tom thinks the job is pointless 3. Tom thinks the plank will be dirty soon 4. **His progress is very slow** | “the far-reaching continent of unwhitewashed fence, ‘“ |
| 6 | Fact finding | Which statement best describes the fence?   * White and wooden * **Long and tall** * Hollow and battered * Broken and splintered | “Thirty yards of board fence nine feet high. “ |
| 7 | inference | What does “burnt him like fire” suggest Tom is feeling?   1. **Furious** 2. Solitary 3. Irritated 4. Injured |  |
| 8 | understanding | Which one of these statements is correct?   1. A pack of chewing gum was part of his worldy wealth 2. He has just enough wealth to exchange for half an hour of freedom 3. **Tom had already planned some events prior to painting** 4. The toys are worth more than the marble. | “Tom began to think of the fun he had planned for this day, and his sorrows multiplied.” |
| 9 | Fact finding | Why is Ben Rogers the worst possible boy to have walked by?   1. Ben is a big show-off who Tom is envious of 2. Ben is someone who despises Tom 3. Tom and Ben cannot get along for a minute 4. **Tom cannot stand Ben’s jokes** | “the very boy, of all boys, whose ridicule he had been dreading.’” |
| 10 | Fact finding | What is ‘Big Missouri’?   1. **A boat** 2. A state 3. A county 4. A nickname of a place | “, for he was pretending to be a steamboat.” |
| 11 | Fact finding | Which one of these things is Ben not mentioned as doing?   1. Making weird sounds 2. Pretending to be in water 3. Shouting out instructions 4. **Throwing down an anchor** |  |
| 12 | Phrases/techniques | What is odd about when Tom says, “Why, it’s you, Ben! I warn’t noticing.”   1. There are spelling mistakes 2. The author used a made-up word 3. Tom is pretending to be polite 4. **Tom is lying about not noticing him** |  |
| 13 | Phrases / techniques | What is the effect of author using the word ‘wheeled’ line XX?   1. It makes Tom sound like a tyre 2. **It makes Tom’s actions sound faster** 3. It makes Tom seem more like a vehicle 4. To help Tom seem more interested in Ben |  |
| 14 | inference | Re-read from line XX to line XX. What is Tom’s intentions with Ben?   1. To convince Ben that hard work is more important than playing 2. To try and ridicule Ben instead of being ridiculed 3. **To make Ben think that this job is more interesting than it really is** 4. To highlight how good painting is |  |
| 15 | Fact finding | Which statement below is not a lie Tom made?   1. That not many people can do this job 2. Jim wanted to do the job 3. She wouldn’t let Sid do the job 4. **Tom had practised painting the fence** |  |
| 16 | phrases | What does “planned the slaughter of more innocents” mean?   1. **Tom wanted to get more people to paint** 2. Tom was going to hurt more people Tom was now going to use the time to hunt animals 3. Tom was going to use this time to hurt innocent people |  |
| 17 | inference | How have things changed over the course of the day?   1. In the afternoon, the weather was much colder and duller than before 2. **Tom’s mood is more upbeat and he has gained more things** 3. Tom has learned the value of hard work and is satisfied 4. Tom is grateful for the experience and is relaxing after working so hard |  |
| 18 |  | How would you describe Tom’s character. Use PEE to help answer the question. (3 marks)  ***Model answer****: Tom is a crafty character because he made a plan to make Ben paint the fence for him. For example, he says “i reckon there aint one boy in a thousand” to make Ben to paint. This shows Tom is crafty because he and knows exactly how to trick people to do what he wants.* | Answers:  Sly, sneaky, clever, bold  Accept reasonable evidence |
| 19 |  | Look at when Tom gets Ben to paint the fence. Tom uses ‘manipulative’ [convincing] language and behaviour to get Ben to think painting is fun. Pick out two examples where Tom does this. Explain why it makes Ben think painting is good. (4 marks)  ***Model answer:***  *The first example is when Tom pretends not to notice Ben. This tricks Ben because it makes it appear that the work is really interesting that Tom did not even notice Ben arrive.*  Secondly, Tom even stands back to look carefully at his work. This makes the job seem like something to be proud of. Ben believes Tom has great care in the work and wants a similar feeling. | Accept any reasonable response.  Examples: tom pretending to be interested in the painting, pretending the job is just right for him, making a whitewashing sound like a rare job, pretending to critique his own work, making it sound like an exclusive job that nobody else can do |