

# TOM SAWYER

1st and 2nd of ESO





**BEFORE GOING TO THE THEATRE**

**1. THE STORY**

Tom Sawyer is a kid who doesn't like school and who prefers to enjoy playing on the banks of the river. His aunt Polly is very worried because he always gets in trouble. But Tom is a rebellious and adventurous child with a big heart.

He spends his days with his best friend, Huckleberry Finn. The two friends like to fish, sleep, eat and play at being pirates.

One day, they find a mysterious treasure in a cemetery. They decide to hide it in a cave, but a very dangerous murderer will follow them.

Discuss the following questions with the whole class:

Do you know who Tom Sawyer is? Have you ever seen a film or read a book about him?



Is he naughty or is he responsible?



Do you think he has any friends? What are they like?



Do you think Tom listens to his Aunt Polly or prefers going on adventures?

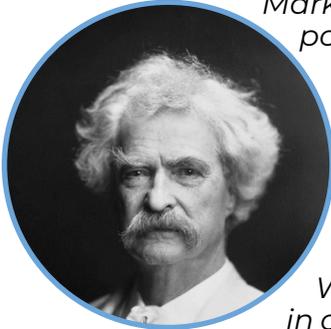


Have you ever disobeyed your parents or grandparents to do something wrong? How did it end?





## 2. THE AUTHOR



*Mark Twain, pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, was a very popular comedian and writer from the United States.*

*He was born in 1835 in Florida, a small village in Missouri. His memories of his hometown were the source of inspiration for his novels. When he was 12 years old, his father died and he was forced to work to help his family. He started working as an apprentice in printing and became a typographer.*

*With his brother, he undertook adventures to get money, working in other jobs: he was a pilot of a steamboat, a soldier in the American Civil War, a wood merchant and a silver miner (without much luck).*

*In 1862, in the state of Nevada, where his brother was appointed secretary of the government, Twain began working as a journalist. The following year he began to sign the works with the pseudonym Mark Twain, which on the Mississippi means two fathoms deep (minimum necessary for good navigation).*

*Unexpectedly, in 1865 he gained great popularity with one of his stories. In 1870 he married Olivia Langdon, with whom he fell in love after writing her a letter every day for a year. The following years he wrote his most famous works: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).*

*He travelled with his wife around the world giving lectures and finally they settled in New York. From this moment on, Twain suffered a series of personal misfortunes (the invalidity of his wife and the death of two of his children). Finally, Mark Twain died in 1910 in New York.*

*Twain was recognized worldwide during the last years of his life, for the quality and quantity of his literary production. At his death, he was known for more than 500 works, many unpublished, widely read since then by young people and adults.*

Discuss with your class:

- a) Do you think Mark Twain had an easy life?
- b) He started working when he was 12 years old. Does this happen nowadays?
- c) Do you know other famous writers? Have you read any of their works?



### 3. THE MAIN CHARACTERS

**Tom Sawyer** is a young boy who lives near the Mississippi River. He is easy-going, peaceful and a bit naughty. He always skips school classes and goes to play. His biggest dream is to be a pirate in search of great treasures. He is an orphan who has been raised by his aunt Polly.

**Huckleberry Finn**, like Tom, is a boy who does not like going to school. He prefers to relax and whistle. He has pimples on his face, but he is convinced that he will be a millionaire and that no one will care. Huck is clumsy and not as clever as Tom, but he's determined and brave.



Can you spot all the adjectives in the descriptions? Do you know the meaning?

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#### 4. ADVENTURES AND FRIENDSHIP

Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer are best friends. They play after school and go on adventures together.

Who are your best friends?

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Draw and describe them using adjectives (funny, big, lazy, clever, etc.).

Do you like adventures? Explain your last adventure with a friend.

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## 5. VOCABULARY

### a) Opposites: Fill in the blanks

The opposites of all these words appear in the play. Can you guess what they are?

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Boring    | Interesting   |
| 2. Failure   | _ _ c _ e _ s |
| 3. Somebody  | _ _ _ o _ _   |
| 4. Exit      | _ _ t _ _     |
| 5. Slow down | _ u _ _ y _ p |
| 6. Early     | _ _ _ e       |
| 7. Finish    | _ t _ _ t     |
| 8. Old       | _ e _         |
| 9. False     | _ _ _ e       |

### b) In this show, Joe commits a crime. Can you match these crimes with the descriptions?

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>1.</b> to pick-pocket | <b>a.</b> to make an illegal copy of something (e.g. money) |
| <b>2.</b> to murder      | <b>b.</b> to steal from a bank or shop                      |
| <b>3.</b> to forge       | <b>c.</b> to kill someone                                   |
| <b>4.</b> to rob         | <b>d.</b> to take control of an aeroplane illegally         |
| <b>5.</b> to mug         | <b>e.</b> to steal with aggression in the street            |
| <b>6.</b> to kidnap      | <b>f.</b> to keep someone in exchange for money             |
| <b>7.</b> to hijack      | <b>g.</b> to steal from a house                             |
| <b>8.</b> to burgle      | <b>h.</b> to steal from someone without them knowing        |



c) Read and practice this vocabulary from the play.

|          |          |            |           |          |        |           |
|----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Brush    | Spider   | Punishment | Moustache | Pimple   | Anchor | Graveyard |
| Corpse   | River    | Funeral    | Casket    | Skull    | Boat   | Paddle    |
| To steal | To panic | Fault      | Portrait  | To snore | Fence  | Candle    |

## 6. TREASURE HUNT

Draw the right path on the map of the next page following these instructions:

1. You are on the pirate boat with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.
2. Travel to the north (N on the compass).
3. OH NO! An octopus attacked you. Turn left, to the west, and you will see a lighthouse. Land there.
4. Go to the eastern forest to find the hidden shovel.
5. Once you are there, head to the south by the coast until you find a volcano.
6. Go inside the volcano to check if the treasure is there.
7. RUN, RUN! It's about to erupt! Go to the southwest, you'll find an oasis there. Are you thirsty? Stop here to drink after the long run.
8. You are facing the south. Turn left, you'll see three caves.
9. Explore them one by one. Is the treasure there? Hmm... the last place is the giant Skull Rock...
  - But it's so dangerous.
  - Who cares? Let's go!
10. Walk towards Skull Rock.
  - Ahhh! Is that a corpse?
  - No, WAIT! It's the TREASURE!

**11. Congratulations! You found it!**





## 7. GRAMMAR

Write one question for each of the answers:

a) Polly is Tom's aunt.

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a) The fence is white.

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a) Tom and Huck don't go to school.

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a) Huck has a pimple on his face.

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a) Tom and Huck hide the treasure in a cave.

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a) They got to the island by ship.

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a) Aunt Polly is scared because she thinks Tom is dead.

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a) Tom and Huck come back to the village at night.

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Now, let's match the verb with the correct word:

**a) Do/Make**

a job  
your homework  
a drawing  
a cake  
a bet  
dinner  
a promise  
the washing-up  
the bed

**b) Rent Hire**

a flat  
a car  
a bicycle  
a coach  
an apartment  
a suit

**c) Hear/Listen to**

gossip  
music  
footsteps  
a noise  
the radio  
the telephone  
a problem

**d) See Watch**

a play  
television  
a sunset  
a friend  
a ghost  
a film



### 8. LISTENING

**Listen to track 1 and answer the following questions:**

- Why is Tom Sawyer punished?

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- What animal did he throw at his teacher?

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- Aunt Polly says she doesn't want Tom to be out at night. Why?

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- What does Tom Sawyer do to improve the portrait of Aunt Polly?

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- What does Tom promise to give Huck in exchange for painting the fence?

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- Why does Huck want to be rich?

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### 9. SPEAKING

**Huckleberry Finn is embarrassed by a pimple on his face. He tries to get rid of it. Discuss with your class about physical complexes and self-acceptance.**



### 10. WRITING

Write a composition about the things you would take to a desert island and explain why.

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**AFTER GOING TO THE THEATRE**

Hello again! Did you enjoy the show? Let's see if you remember the plot:

**a) How many characters appear in the play? How many actors play them?**

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**b) Who do you think was the funniest character and why?**

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**c) How are they dressed?**

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**d) What is your favourite scene? Why?**

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**e) Write a review of the play. Remember to include comments about the acting, costumes, set, sound and lighting. (100 words)**

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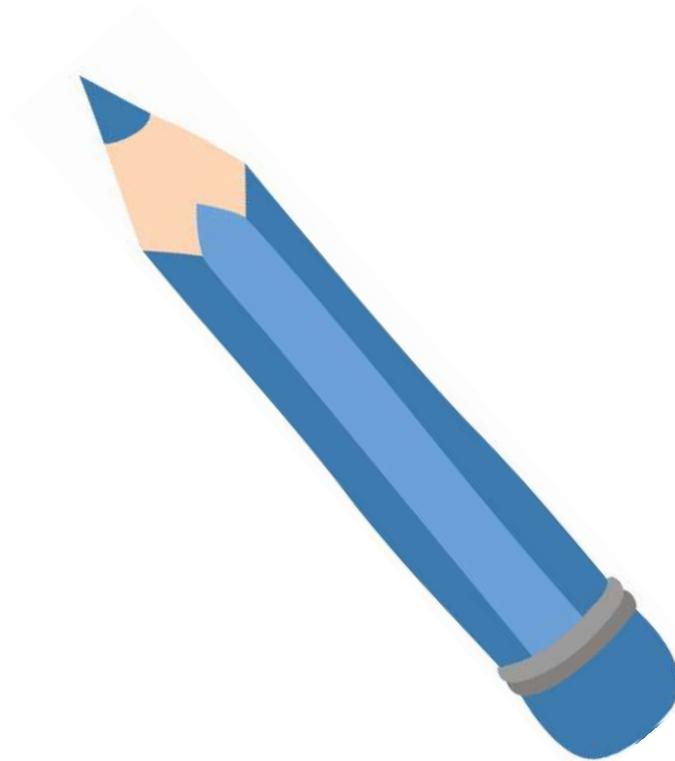
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Order the scenes from 1 to 10 and share your answer with your classmates.

- The town thinks Tom and Huck are dead.
- Tom convinces Huck to go to the cemetery.
- Both friends escape to the river.
- Tom goes back to the cave but the gold is gone.
- They row for hours and find a cave.
- Tom tries to report the crime but Aunt Polly doesn't believe him.
- Huck and Tom hide the treasure and go to the village.
- Tom is painting a white fence.
- Tom and Huck escape from the cave but they sacrifice the treasure. Friendship is more important than gold.
- Tom and Huck find a corpse.



Now, rewrite the story in past simple using the order that you have chosen:

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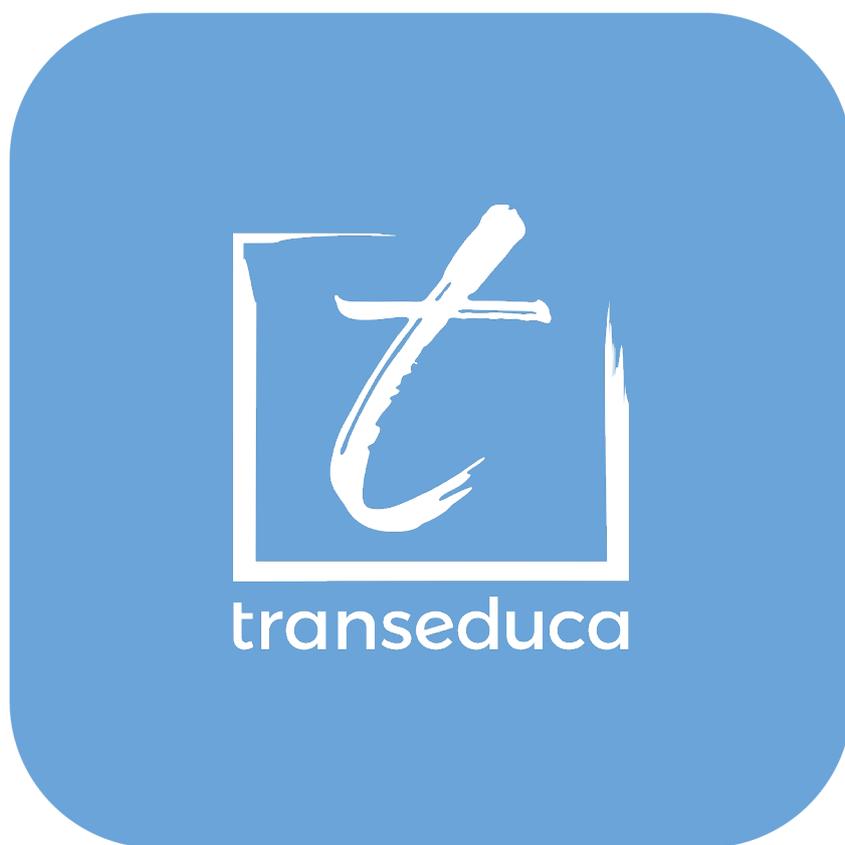
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**SPEAKING: GUESS WHO**

Work in pairs. Think of one of the characters from the play. Let your partner guess the name of the character by asking you questions. Do not give him or her any clues. Answer yes or no. Once your partner has guessed your character, change roles.





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