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# The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

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*Tom and his friends*

‘Tom! Tom! Where are you?’

No answer.

‘Where is that boy? When I find him, I’m going to . . .’

Aunt Polly looked under the bed. Then she opened the door and looked out into the garden.

‘Tom!’

She heard something behind her. A small boy ran past, but Aunt Polly put out her hand and stopped him.

‘Ah, there you are! And what’s that in your pocket?’

‘Nothing, Aunt Polly.’



*Aunt Polly put out her hand and stopped him.*

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

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‘Nothing! It’s an apple! I can see it. Now listen, Tom. Those apples are not for you, and I—’

‘Oh, Aunt Polly! Quick – look behind you!’

So Aunt Polly looked, and Tom was out of the house in a second. She laughed quietly. ‘I never learn. I love that Tom, my dead sister’s child, but he isn’t an easy boy for an old lady. Well, it’s Saturday tomorrow and there’s no school, but it isn’t going to be a holiday for Tom. Oh no! He’s going to *work* tomorrow!’



Saturday was a beautiful day. It was summer and the sun was hot and there were flowers in all the gardens. It was a day for everybody to be happy.



*Tom was the unhappiest boy in the village.*

## *Tom and his friends*

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Tom came out of his house with a brush and a big pot of white paint in his hand. He looked at the fence; it was three metres high and thirty metres long. He put his brush in the paint and painted some of the fence. He did it again. Then he stopped and looked at the fence, put down his brush and sat down. There were hours of work in front of him and he was the unhappiest boy in the village.

After ten minutes Tom had an idea, a wonderful idea. He took up the brush again and began work. He saw his friend Joe Harper in the street, but he didn't look at him. Joe had an apple in his hand. He came up to Tom and looked at the fence.

*'I am sorry, Tom.'*

Tom said nothing. The paint brush moved up and down.

*'Working for your aunt?'* said Joe. *'I'm going down to the river. I'm sorry you can't come with me.'*

Tom put down his brush. *'You call this work?'* he said.

*'Painting a fence?'* said Joe. *'Of course it's work!'*

*'Perhaps it is and perhaps it isn't. But I like it,'* said



*'I am sorry, Tom,'* said Joe.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

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Tom. 'I can go to the river any day. I can't paint a fence very often.'

Joe watched Tom for about five minutes. Tom painted very slowly and carefully. He often stopped, moved back from the fence and looked at his work with a smile. Joe began to get very interested, and said:

'Tom, can I paint a little?'

Tom thought for a second. 'I'm sorry, Joe. You see, my aunt wants me to do it because I'm good at painting. My brother Sid wanted to paint, too, but she said no.'

'Oh, please, Tom, just a little. I'm good at painting, too. Hey, do you want some of my apple?'

'No, Joe, I can't—'

'OK, you can have *all* my apple!'

Tom gave Joe the brush. He did not smile, but for the



*Tom was the richest boy in St Petersburg.*

## *Tom and his friends*

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first time that day he was a very happy boy. He sat down and ate Joe's apple.

More friends came to laugh at Tom, but soon they all wanted to paint, too. By the afternoon Tom had three balls, an old knife, a cat with one eye, an old blue bottle, and a lot of other exciting things. He was the richest boy in St Petersburg, and the fence – all thirty metres of it – was a beautiful white. He went back to the house.

'Aunt Polly! Can I go and play now?'

Aunt Polly came out of the house to look. When she saw the beautiful white fence, she was very pleased. She took Tom into the house and gave him an apple.

'Well, you can go and play. But don't come home late.'  
Tom quickly took a second apple and ran off.



# The Adventures of Tom Sawyer



Tom Sawyer does not like school. He does not like work, and he never wants to get out of bed in the morning. But he likes swimming and fishing, and having adventures with his friends. And he has a lot of adventures. One night, he and his friend Huck Finn go to the graveyard to look for ghosts.

They don't see any ghosts that night. They see something worse than a ghost – much, much worse . . .

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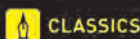
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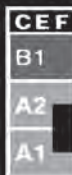
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