

EDCON PUBLISHING

Level 2

Mark Twain

Tom Sawyer



“Bring the Classics to Life”

TOM SAWYER

LEVEL 2

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EDCON

WORDS USED

Story 16

Story 17

Story 18

Story 19

Story 20

KEY WORDS

swim
tent
tonight
trip
week
wolf

move
outside
place
roof
seven
someone

almost
bought
brave
country
engine
fence

string
table
tease
telephone
voice
woke

stone
together
track
whistle
win
wrong

SPECIAL WORDS

dream
hug
plan
secret
thunder
tore

court
examination
lawyer
measles
revival
trial

bury
den
ghost
haunt
Spaniard
treasure

bat
cave
mile
rock
Tuesday
wander

blood
dollar
gang
gun
rich
robber

THE GREAT WHITE WASH

PREPARATION

Key Words

clean	(klēn)	without any dirt <i>When the boys went out, they were <u>clean</u>.</i> all the way, completely <i>The horse jumped <u>clean</u> over the stream.</i> clear, even, not ragged <i>He made a <u>clean</u> sweep and nothing was left behind.</i>
ear	(ir)	the part of the body with which one hears <i>With my <u>ears</u> I can tell when someone is walking behind me.</i>
end	(end)	where something stops <i>We read to the <u>end</u> of the story.</i>
fell	(fel)	to be tricked <i>The boys <u>fell</u> for Tom's game or scheme.</i> to come down from a high place <i>Jack <u>fell</u> out of the tree.</i>
inside	(in' sīd, in sīd')	to be in something or someplace <i>The nut is <u>inside</u> the shell.</i> secret <i>It was an <u>inside</u> story.</i>
loud	(loud)	noisy <i>The group of children were <u>loud</u>.</i> much sound <i>His voice was <u>loud</u> and clear.</i> with sound <i>She thought first and then said it out <u>loud</u>.</i>

THE GREAT WHITE WASH



Because he had played hookey, Aunt Polly said Tom had to white wash the 90 feet of nine foot high fence on Saturday. But Tom thought of a way to get every boy in town to trade something for a turn at painting the fence.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture carefully.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first paragraph of the story.
 5. Then, answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Aunt Polly called loudly because

- a. she wanted to find Tom.
- b. Tom's face was sticky with cake.
- c. Tom was eating cake.
- d. she wanted to hit Tom.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out how Tom got the boys to white wash for him.

THE GREAT WHITE WASH

“Tom! Tom!” Aunt Polly’s call was loud. A little noise made her look in the corner. There he was behind the door, his face sticky with cake, all the way to his ears.

As she started to hit him, Tom said, “My! Look behind you, Aunt Polly.”

As she did, Tom ran out and jumped clean over the fence.

Aunt Polly smiled to herself. “That boy! How many times he’s tricked me. I’m not hard enough on him. But when I remember he has no mother, I just can’t be.” Out loud she said, “He’ll play hookey from school today. I’ll just have to make him work on Saturday.”

At supper, Aunt Polly questioned, “Tom, was it warm in school?”

“Yes, Aunt Polly.”

“Didn’t you want to go swimming?”

“Well — not much.”

Aunt Polly put her hand on his head. Tom went on, “Us boys put water on our hair.”

“Let me see your shirt where I sewed it on you.” Tom showed her.

“Well, OK. It’s still sewed together at the neck. I thought for sure you had pulled out the thread to go swimming.”

Tom’s younger brother, Sid,

looked up, “I thought you sewed his shirt with white thread, but it’s black.”

“I did sew with white!”

As Tom ran out, he called at Sid, “I’ll get you for that!”

Saturday morning found Tom at the front fence with a pail of white wash. He stuck the brush in and painted. He looked down to the end of the 90 feet of nine foot fence. He looked at the tiny white part.

Tom thought of the things he would like to do on this fine spring day. And he thought of how the boys would make fun of him. He took out of his pocket everything he could trade. It was not much. Things looked dark.

Then a thought hit him. He went to work quietly, holding his thought inside his head. Along came Ben eating an apple and pretending he was a riverboat. Tom went right on white washing.

“Hello,” said Ben. “Looks like you are up a tree.”

No answer. Tom stepped back and looked proudly. Then he made another clean brush and looked again — like a painter of pictures.

“Hello,” Ben said in Tom’s ear. “So, you have to work!”

Suddenly, Tom turned

around, “Oh, Ben! I didn’t see you.”

“I’m going swimming,” said Ben. “Don’t you wish you didn’t have to work?”

“What’s work?” asked Tom. “Why, white washing is,” said Ben.

“Maybe and maybe not,” answered Tom. “Anyway, I like it. Not every day a boy gets to white wash a fence so nice and clean.”

Tom went on painting and looking proudly at his work.

After a while, Ben fell for Tom’s game. “Let me white wash a little, Tom.”

Tom almost gave him the brush. “No, Ben. I guess not. Not one boy in 1000 can do it just right for Aunt Polly.”

“Oh, please,” said Ben. “I’ll try hard. I’ll even give you my apple.”

Tom slowly handed over the brush, as if he didn’t want to. Inside he was dancing.

There was no end to the painters who came by and fell in. Tom’s trading pile got bigger and bigger. The fence was white washed three times over, top to ground.

Aunt Polly was so pleased, she gave Tom an apple. On his way out, he took a cookie.

THE GREAT WHITE WASH

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Preview answer:

- a. she wanted to find Tom.

Choose the best answer.

1. Aunt Polly did not want to be hard on Tom because he
 - a. had to work on Saturday.
 - b. tricked her.
 - c. played hookey from school.
 - d. had no mother.
2. Aunt Polly asked Tom about school because she
 - a. wanted Tom to eat his supper.
 - b. thought he went swimming and not to school.
 - c. wanted to know if it was warm in school.
 - d. had sewed Tom's shirt with white thread.
3. Tom was angry with Sid because Sid
 - a. sewed Tom's shirt with black thread.
 - b. told on Tom about the thread.
 - c. put water on Tom's hair.
 - d. would not go swimming with Tom.
4. Looking down to the end of the fence, Tom
 - a. still had a full pail of white wash.
 - b. had all Saturday morning to do his work.
 - c. had painted the tiny part very well.
 - d. had a lot of fence still to paint.
5. Tom was like a painter of pictures as he
 - a. worked quietly, holding his thought inside his head.
 - b. gave Ben the brush to white wash the fence.
 - c. stepped back and looked proudly at the white washed fence.
 - d. took out of his pocket everything he could trade.
6. Tom tricked Ben by showing that
 - a. he was a painter of pictures.
 - b. he had many things to trade in his pocket.
 - c. he liked to white wash the fence.
 - d. he did not want to go swimming with Ben.
7. Ben gave Tom an apple
 - a. to let him white wash the fence.
 - b. to let him go swimming with Tom.
 - c. to trade for a cookie.
 - d. to put on Tom's trading pile.
8. Tom's trading pile got higher and higher because
 - a. many painters fell into the trading pile.
 - b. many painters wanted to white wash the fence.
 - c. he wanted to please Aunt Polly.
 - d. he wanted to dance inside.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "A Fine Spring Day."
 - b. "Tom Tricks Everyone."
 - c. "A Fence is Painted."
 - d. "Tom Plays Hookey."
10. This story is mainly about how
 - a. Aunt Polly does not like Tom.
 - b. Saturday is a day to work.
 - c. Tom is a boy who just likes to have fun.
 - d. many boys like to play hookey from school.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

Bring the Classics to Life

Titles in this Series

Reading Level 1.0 – 2.0

White Fang
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm
Little Women
Swiss Family Robinson
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Rip Van Winkle
Heidi
Uncle Tom's Cabin
The Jungle Book
A Christmas Carol

Reading Level 2.0 – 3.0

Black Beauty
Tom Sawyer
The Call of the Wild
Treasure Island
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
The Prince and the Pauper
The Man Without a Country
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Silas Marner
Around the World in 80 Days

Reading Level 3.0 – 4.0

Robinson Crusoe
The Red Badge of Courage
Kidnapped
The Invisible Man
The Man in the Iron Mask
The War of the Worlds
Sea Wolf
Oliver Twist

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Frankenstein

Reading Level 4.0 – 5.0

Captains Courageous
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
The Time Machine
Gulliver's Travels
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
The Pathfinder
From the Earth To the Moon
David Copperfield
The Pioneers
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Reading Level 5.0 – 6.0

Metropolis
The Hound of the Baskervilles
Kim
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
A Journey to the Center of the Earth
Ivanhoe
Last of the Mohicans
Moby Dick
The Count of Monte Cristo
A Tale of Two Cities

