

TOM SAWYER

Mark Twain
LEVEL 2



WORDS USED

Story 11

Story 12

Story 13

Story 14

Story 15

KEY WORDS

clean
ear
end
fell
inside
loud

anything
blew
both
cannot
goose
lake

shop
shovel
silver
six
tiny
winter

bridge
Christmas
clothes
corn
friendly
large

bang
bread
corner
cover
everything
I'm

SPECIAL WORDS

brush
hookey
sew
shirt
thread
trade

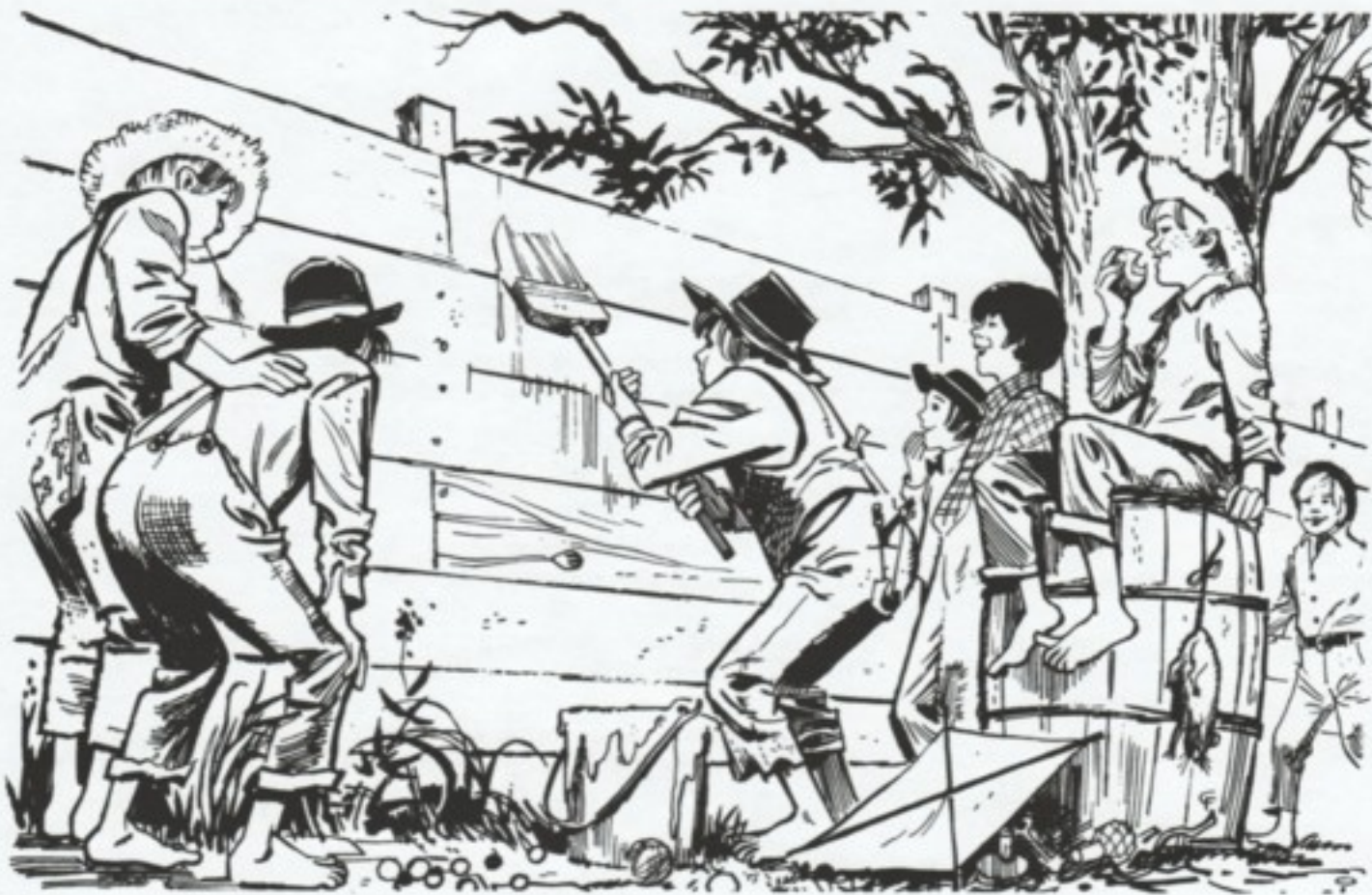
army
Bible
bug
church
knife
learn

dead
devil
engaged
grave
kiss
wart

jail
killing
liquor
pirate
shed

drown
funeral
hour
Pain Killer
raft
sick

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 river boat. 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.