



ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL



Sub: English Text

Class: 5

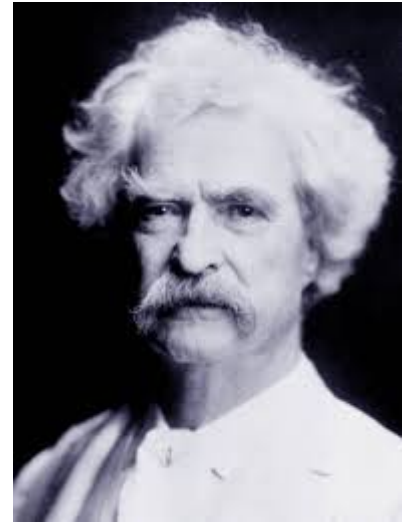
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Study Material

Chapter- Tom Sawyer – Poor Aunt Polly

About the Author : Mark Twain

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer, humorist, entrepreneur, publisher, and lecturer. He was lauded as the "greatest humorist [the United States] has produced", and William Faulkner called him "the father of American literature". His stories and novels are famous for their humor, vivid details, and memorable characters. His best-known works are *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both classics in American literature.



Summary :

On Saturday morning, the summer sun is out, and everything looks bright and beautiful—but all is not well in Tom's world. Tom carries a brush and a bucket of whitewash into the yard and glumly surveys the fence. It is long and high, and Aunt Polly has said that he has to whitewash the whole thing. His life feels "hollow, and existence but a burden." He spends a minute or two swabbing whitewash on the fence, and then, when he realizes how much he still has to do, he sits down in disgust.

Jim, comes out the gate with a bucket, clearly going to the pump for water. Normally Tom hates carrying water, but now he thinks Jim's job is much better than his own. He asks to trade, but Jim says that Polly threatened to whip him if he did. Tom dismisses this threat, saying that Aunt Polly "never licks anybody." He offers Jim a marble to sweeten the deal, and Jim—who is "only human"—hesitantly reaches out to take it. But Aunt Polly has guessed that something of this sort might happen. She leaps onto the scene and smacks Jim on the rear with her slipper. Jim grabs his bucket and flees toward the pump. Tom reluctantly returns to whitewashing.

As Tom works, he thinks sadly of all the wonderful games he is missing. He well knows that the other boys will soon come along and laugh at him for being stuck with work. He pulls all his treasures out of his pockets—"bits of toys, marbles, and trash"—but he has to admit that none are valuable enough to buy any help from his friends. Then, "at this dark and hopeless moment," he

has a wonderful idea. He picks up his brush and begins to work, this time giving the task his full attention.

Quite soon Ben Rogers appears, munching an apple and pretending to be a steamboat. Tom works steadily at his whitewashing. Ben beeps and whistles for a while, and then he stops to say how awful it must be to be stuck with a chore. Now Tom looks up, pretending he is only just noticing that Ben is there. Tom pretends to be wholly absorbed in his task. When Ben teases him about having to work, Tom contends that whitewashing is a privilege, and one that Aunt Polly would only trust to him. Ben begs Tom to let him try, which Tom does, but only after Ben agrees to hand over the rest of his apple to Tom.

Tom plays this trick on other boys for the rest of the day. He amasses all sorts of treasure—a dead rat on a string, marbles, a chalk fragment, and more—and gets the boys to do so much work for him that the fence has three coats by quitting time. He feels delighted, rich, and optimistic about the world.

A. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. How did Tom manage to get the work done by others?

Ans: Tom pretended that he really loved white-washing the fence and made it look like a difficult task, which other boys cannot do. He also told his friends that only he could do the work properly. So his friends, in order to prove themselves equally capable as Tom, started white-washing the fence and Tom managed to get the work done by others.

2. What was Tom profit by the end of the day?

Ans: By the end of the day, Tom had become a rich boy. He managed to collect twelve marbles a piece of blue- glass, a key, a piece of chalk, two tadpoles, six fire crackers, a kitten with only one eye, a brass door- knob, a dog- collar, a dead rat, etc.

3. 'He was outside practicing his whistling when he saw a new boy walking ahead of him'

a. Who is 'he' in the given extract?

Ans: In the given extract 'he' is being referred to Tom.

b. Describe the new boy?

Ans: The new boy whom Tom saw was well dressed. His cap was fine, his close- fitting blue coat was new and so were his trousers. He also wore a necktie.

c. What happened between them after this?

Ans: Right after this, both Tom and the new boy started staring at each other then both got into a brawl as to who can beat the other.

4. What punishment did Aunt Polly gave him?

Ans. Aunt Polly punished Tom by asking him to paint their wooden fence which was thirty yards long and nine feet high on a bright fresh Saturday morning while other boys were playing and enjoying themselves.

5. How was Tom feeling when he got the punishment?

Ans. Tom felt extremely sad when Aunt Polly punished him because while he had to toil and work hard the whole day. As Tom works, he thinks sadly of all the wonderful games he is missing. He well knows that the other boys will soon come along and laugh at him for being stuck with work.

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