Hall 1

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English 1

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*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Summary*

Let us say you met a young boy, around the age of 12. He is mischievous, proud, curious, and a bit of a show off. However, deep down, he is honestly a good kid. What would be your opinion of a boy like that? Well, whatever your opinion of this boy is would be the same opinion that you would have of a boy named Tom Sawyer. Tom Sawyer’s life is very similar to every boy’s life in St. Petersburg during the mid 1800s. Playing, fighting, and searching for new adventures. One advantage Tom had over the other boys was that he was good at tricking people. One noticeable time of this fact is when Tom had to whitewash his Aunt Polly’s—he lived with her—fence as punishment for playing hooky from home to go swimming. As he was whitewashing the fence, he saw a boy named Ben Rogers, and tricked him into think that whitewashing the fence was fun, and by a boy’s curiosity had him want to paint the fence. He then handed him the brush and watched him go to work as he ate the apple on which Ben agreed to trade with him so he could whitewash the fence. Later, a ton of other boys came to paint the fence, each giving Tom something so they could paint the fence. Tricky indeed.

After his Aunt Polly saw his “work”, she let him leave. As Tom was out, he saw this girl that he fell in love with the moment he saw her. To get her to notice him, he starts showing off by doing stunts and whatnot, but to no avail. She went inside of her house, but threw a flower behind her when she did. Not wanting anyone to think he wanted the flower, he picked up a piece of straw, balanced it on his nose, while he walked over the flower and grasped it with his toes and kept it.

Later that week, when Tom is on his way to school, he meets up with Huckleberry Finn, the son of the town’s drunkard, and trades him his tooth, which he lost earlier, for a pinch-bug, which caused quite havoc in his church. At the same time, they agree to meet later at the graveyard so they can see how a dead cat can get rid of warts.

When Tom gets to school, he finally gets a chance to meet the girl of his dreams, her name being Becky Thatcher. He got a chance to sit with her because he purposely got into trouble so he could sit on the girl’s side of the room. He gets her interest by drawing pictures, and she likes them. He offers to teach her to draw and she accepts. He apparently starts to do the same thing. No, he is writing. In big letters, he writes the three words that can build up, but at the same time destroy a relationship. “I LOVE YOU”. At first, Becky appalled, but she starts to blush within herself. After school, when he is supposed to teach Becky how to draw, he asks her, “Want to get engaged?” After Tom tells her that all they have to do is to promise to never love anyone else and kiss, she agrees. After they kiss, Becky feels good, but then Tom tells her that he was previously engaged, she feels deeply hurt, saying, ‘You still love her!’ and things of that sort. After many failed attempts of trying to comfort her, explain that he does not love the other girl, and even leaving a gift, Tom runs away, confused.

Once Tom is away from the school and alone, he decides on what his career is going to be. He is going to be a pirate, make everybody that treated him bad feel bad. He imagined people saying, “It’s Tom Sawyer the Pirate!—the Black Avenger of the Spanish Main!” later, while Tom is wondering why the marble he buried did not attracted his many other marbles that he has lost, he hears a trumpet sound and knows that this means war… pretend war. He finds out that the trumpet blower is his good friend Joe Harper, and they play Robin Hood, and then head home afterward.

Later at night, Tom snuck out of the house to meet Huck so they could see how a dead cat can cure warts. They head to the graveyard and when they get there, they start to hear voices and in fear, they hide. They then see where the voices are coming from. Muff Potter, a drunkard, the young Dr. Robinson, and the murderer Injun Joe! The three men, only a few feet away from Tom and Huck’s hiding spot, start to dig up a grave! Once they reached the coffin, “they pried off the lid with their shovels, got out the body and dumped it rudely on the ground.” Next thing you know, Injun Joe was threatening the doctor about him mistreating him, and the doctor hit him to the ground, but Muff got involved and the doctor and Muff started to fight. Then the doctor got free, picked up the coffin lid, and hit Muff with it, knocking him out. Instantly after that, Injun Joe stabbed the doctor in the chest with the knife the Muff dropped, killing the doctor! The boys then run away out of fear. Since they have run away, they have no knowledge of what happened afterwards. During the whole murder incident, Muff was drunk, so he had no idea of what really happened. When he woke up, his knife was in his hand, because of Injun Joe who had also taken the body, so he thought he murdered Dr. Robinson. So he begged with great remorse to Injun not to tell and he *said* he would not tell. Back to Tom and Huck they ran, looking back frequently fearing that somebody might be following them. They finally stopped running once they were at a shed, all out of breath. They both realized the result of the murder, hanging. They agreed that they had to swear to “keep mum” by writing down a letter and then writing down their initials in blood. Then, they heard and saw a howling dog, which means death, pointing in the direction of Muff Potter!

Later Tom got home, and he was not aware that Sid was awake for an hour and knew he was gone. When Tom woke up, Sid had already told their Aunt about Tom having left. When Tom came downstairs, his aunt pulled him aside and wept over him, feeling scared and sad that he left and saying that she wasn’t going to try any more with him. Tom begged for forgiveness, but did not get any and his heart broke, going to cry to himself. He was too depressed to feel revengeful toward Sid. He headed to school and once he got there, took his punishment for playing hooky from school the day before. Then once he got to his seat, he saw something that was the feather to break the camel’s back. Becky put the gridiron door handle he gave to her on his desk.

At noon that day, the whole town was talking about the murder of Dr. Robinson. They found the gory knife next to Robinson, and identified it as belonging to Muff Potter. An awful, unaccountable fascination drew Tom to the situation. Huck met up with Tom and their eyes met. People were talking everywhere saying things like, “Poor fellow!” “Poor young fellow!” regarding Dr. Robinson. They also said things like, “This ought to be a lesson to grave robbers!” ‘Muff Potter will hang for this if they catch him!’ They have no idea about what really happened. When they found Muff Potter, he said he did not do it. However, when somebody yelled from the crowed asking who accused Muff Potter, he looked up and saw Injun Joe, exclaiming, “Oh, Injun Joe, you promised you’d never—” I mean, what can you expect of Injun Joe. Later, potter just gave up, and said, ‘Tell them Joe—there is not a use any more.’ Then, Injun went on to tell a huge, boldface lie. Tom and Huck both thought about breaking their oath and telling but they did not want to risk anything with Injun Joe. For about a week, this subject caused Tom to have sleepless nights. One day Sid started talking about all of his tossing and turning and his talking in his sleep. However, his aunt dismissed the idea when she said the murder was weighing heavily on his mind and that she was the same way, even at times having nightmares that she committed the murder. Mary said she experienced the same things. Tom left the situation as soon as he could without drawing suspicion. After that incident, Tom complained about having a toothache for a week and tied up his jaws every night so he would not speak. He never knew that Sid would stay up and take off the bandage from his jaw so he could hear what Tom was talking about, and then slipped the bandage back into its place. Tom’s distress of mind wore off with time and the toothache became irksome and he ended it. Sid might of learned something from what Tom was saying. If he did, he kept it to himself. During this troublesome time, every day or two, Tom went to the jail window and brought as many things he could get a hold of to comfort the “murderer”. Doing this greatly helped to ease Tom’s conscience. People wanted to rip apart Injun Joe for body snatching but they were so afraid of him that they did not take any action.

Although Tom was worried about the fact of the murder, something came in his head that pushed that aside. Becky stopped coming to school because she got sick. Because of this, Tom’s whole being was completely miserable. His aunt, being infatuated with patent medicine, tried giving Tom the water treatment to cure him. She had hi out at daylight every morning, had him stand up in the woodshed and dumped cold water all over him. Then she scrubbed him with a towel like a file, and dried him; then she rolled him up in a wet sheet and put him under blankets until he sweated his soul clean. But he grew more and more downhearted and weak and gloomy. She tried many more treatments, but they all failed. Then she heard of Painkiller and order a bunch of it all at once. She tasted it and was delighted. “It was simply fire in a liquid form.” She gave some to Tom and she was pleased with the result, for he had a wild and hearty reaction. Tom did not like the Painkiller, so he came up with a plan to make his aunt think that he liked the Painkiller. So he kept asking his aunt for Painkiller. He asked for it so much that his aunt got annoyed by him always asking that she told him that he can help himself to it. Then he put Painkiller in a teaspoon a dosed a crack in the floor with it. One day, while he was getting ready to pour the Painkiller into the crack, his aunt’s cat came and eyed the Painkiller. Tom told the cat, “Don’t ask for it unless you want it, Peter.”

Peter showed that he wanted it.

To make sure Tom said, “You better make sure.”

Peter was sure.

Then Tom said, “Now you’ve asked for it, and I’ll give it to you, because there ain’t anything mean about *me;* but if you find you don’t like it, you mustn’t blame anybody but your own self.”

Peter was agreeable.