

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Chapter Two: The Fence

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Level: Beginner - pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: Approximately 10 minutes per activity

Activity 1

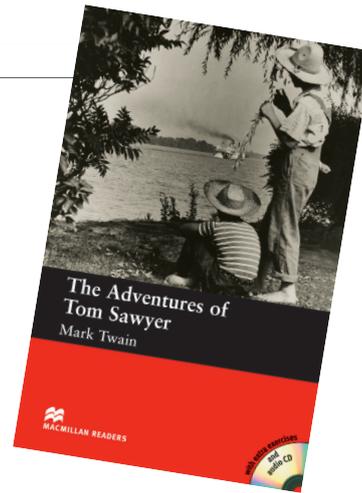
- 1 Play the last part of Chapter 1 again from, *Tom must behave better...*, until the end of the chapter where Aunt Polly says *Tomorrow, Tom will paint the fence.*
- 2 Ask students to predict/guess what will happen in Chapter 2. (They can do this by writing down their ideas and comparing them in pairs or small groups.)
- 3 Play the first part of Chapter 2 from, *It was a Sunday morning, to, Tom had a big bucket of paint and a brush with a long handle. He looked at the fence.*
- 4 Ask students to compare their predictions/guesses with what they heard.
- 5 Play the same piece again and ask students to predict what Tom might be thinking.
- 6 Again have them write down their ideas and/or compare their ideas with a partner.
- 7 Play the next piece of the recording until, *Tom started to paint.* Ask the students to predict what might happen next.
- 8 Repeat this process, stopping and asking students to predict or guess at the following points:

Ben said 'You have to work!' (What do you think Tom said?)

'... asked Ben. He was surprised.' (What do you think Tom said?)

'It's very difficult to paint a fence.' (How do you think Ben felt?)

'Tom thought for a minute.' (What do you think Tom said? What do you think Ben did?)



'Ben gave me his apple,' said Tom. 'Then he painted the fence.' (What do you think Billy did?)

'Aunt Polly was very surprised.' (What do you think Aunt Polly said?)

Note: This is an example of dual top-down, bottom-up processing.

Extension: Role-play

Repeat the role-play activity from Chapter 1. This time the roles are Ben and Tom.

Chapter Two: The Fence

Transcript

It was Saturday morning. There was no school today. But Tom had to work. He had to paint the fence. It was a long fence around the garden of Aunt Polly's house.

Tom had a big bucket of paint and a brush with a long handle. He looked at the fence.

'I want to go swimming. I want to go fishing. I want to play with my friends,' said Tom to himself. 'I don't want to paint the fence. My friends will all see me. They'll laugh at me.'

Tom started to paint.

After an hour, Tom was tired. He looked sadly at the big bucket of paint and the brush with the long handle. Then Tom had an idea. He smiled.

He started to paint the fence again.

Soon he saw one of his friends, Ben Rogers. Ben was walking towards him. He was making strange noises. Ben was a steamboat on the Mississippi River!

'Ting-a-ling!' he said. He was making the noise of the bell on the steamboat. 'Sssh! Sssh!' he said. He was making the noise of the steam in the engine of the steamboat.

Ben was holding a big red apple.

'I'm going swimming,' Ben said. 'You have to work!'

'I'm not working,' said Tom. 'This isn't work!'

'Do you like painting the fence?' asked Ben. He was surprised.

'Yes,' said Tom.

Tom started to paint again. Sometimes he stopped and looked at the fence. Then he painted again. There was a happy smile on his face.

'Ben watched him. 'Let me paint the fence,' he said.

'No,' said Tom. 'It's very difficult to paint a fence.'

Ben was not happy. Tom liked painting the fence. So Ben wanted to paint the fence.

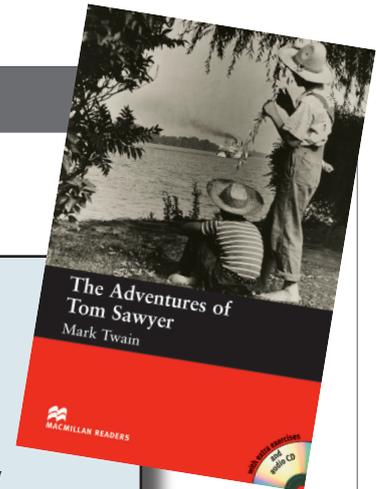
'Please let me paint it,' he said. 'I'll give you some of my apple.'

Tom thought for a minute. 'No,' he replied. And he smiled and started to paint again.

'I'll give you all of my apple,' said Ben.

Tom thought for another minute. 'All right,' he said.

So Tom sat down and started to eat Ben's apple. And Ben started to paint the fence.



Chapter Two: The Fence

Transcript

After an hour, Ben was tired. He gave the bucket of paint and the brush to Tom. Then he went away. He made the noises of a steamboat again. 'Ting-a-ling! Sssh! Sssh!'

Then Tom saw another friend, Billy Fisher. Billy was holding a kite.

'Ben was painting your fence,' said Billy. 'Let me paint your fence.'

'No,' replied Tom. 'Lots of boys want to paint my fence. But it's very difficult to paint a fence.'

'Oh,' said Billy.

'Ben gave me his apple,' said Tom. 'Then he painted the fence.'

'I'll give you my kite,' said Billy.

Tom thought for a minute. 'All right,' he said.

So Tom sat down. He was holding Billy's kite. And Billy started to paint the fence.

The morning passed. The fence was painted twice. Tom had a kite, a cat and a long piece of rope. He had a cake, twelve round stones and a metal door-handle. He was happy. He went to speak to Aunt Polly.

'The fence is painted,' he said. 'And there is no more paint.'

Aunt Polly was very surprised. 'You are a good boy, Tom,' she said.

