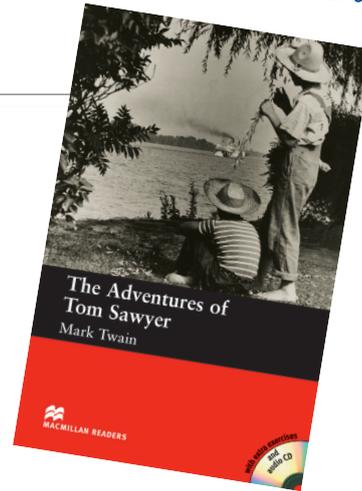


The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Chapter Ten: A Funeral and a Trial

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner - pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 20-30 minutes per activity



Activity 1

- 1 On the board write up the title of the chapter – *A Funeral and a Trial*. Check your students know what the two things are.
- 2 Ask students if they can remember what happened at the end of Chapter nine.
- 3 Either play the very end of Chapter nine from, 'I won't go,' said Tom... or remind students that Tom said he had had an idea.
- 4 Ask students to write down what they think Tom's idea was.
- 5 Play the first part of Chapter ten up until, 'This was the best day of his life!' and have students check if their idea was correct.

Extension: Inferring

Ask students what they think people thought when they saw Tom, Joe and Huck walking down the church aisle. Elicit a list of adjectives to describe the people's feelings and write it up on the board.

Activity 2

- 1 Put students in groups of five to eight.
- 2 Explain that you will play a scene and you want them to listen carefully.
- 3 Play the recording from, 'The next morning, Muff Potter's trial started.' to the end. Ask the students to concentrate on the events.
- 4 Then, ask each group to work together and act out the scene. They should decide who is Tom, the lawyer

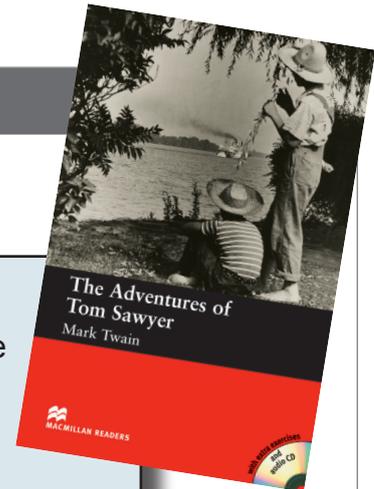
and the three witnesses. If they want, they can also have the judge, Muff Potter and Injun Joe (these last three characters don't say anything).

- 5 Tell students they don't need to use exactly the same words, it isn't about getting everything perfect, but about acting out as much of the story as they can.
- 6 Monitor, but do not comment. Play the recording up to two more times if the students want you to, but remind them they don't have to use the exact words.
- 7 Ask if any groups would like to act out the scene in front of the whole class.

Extension: Film directors

Ask students to nominate one member of their group to be a film director. Their job is to direct the other 'actors' using the adjectives elicited in the inferring activity. So, for example, when the director asks an actor to be more surprised, he or she should repeat the line in a more surprised style. This should result in some fun over-acting!

Transcript



It was very quiet in St Petersburg. The church was full of people. They were waiting quietly. Some people were crying. Everybody was wearing black clothes. They had come to the church for a funeral. It was the funeral of the three drowned boys – Tom, Joe and Huck.

Aunt Polly arrived at the church with Mr and Mrs Harper.

The funeral started. The minister stood at the front of the church. The people stood up and they sang a hymn. Then the people sat down and the minister talked about the boys. Tom, Joe and Huck were good boys. They were clean and tidy. They behaved well. They helped their families and their schoolfriends.

The people of St Petersburg remembered these good, helpful boys. Soon, everybody was crying. The minister was crying too!

Suddenly, there was a noise. The minister looked towards the back of the church. He was very surprised. His mouth opened. He could not speak. People stood up. They turned round.

The three dead boys walked along the aisle. Tom was first. Joe followed him. Huck was last. They had come to their own funeral! This was Tom's 'wonderful idea'.

Aunt Polly grabbed Tom, and the Harpers grabbed Joe. They kissed them and held them. Everybody in the church was talking. Huck wanted to run away. But Tom grabbed Huck.

'Aunt Polly, Huck's here too!' Tom said.

'Yes, dear!' said Aunt Polly. 'I'm very happy to see Huck.' And she grabbed Huck and kissed him.

Huck was not happy. He did not like people kissing him. But Tom was very happy. This was the best day of his life!

The next morning, Muff Potter's trial started. Tom and Huck

Chapter Ten: A Funeral and a Trial

Transcript

waited outside the courtroom all day. And on the second day of the trial, they waited again. People came out of the courtroom and they talked to each other. Huck and Tom listened. The boys were very worried. Everybody said the same things –

The trial was going to end on the third day.

Judge Thatcher believed Injun Joe's story.

Muff Potter was guilty of murder.

Muff Potter was going to be hanged!

After the second day of the trial, Tom came home very late. Aunt Polly was in bed. Tom climbed into the house through a window. He was very excited and he could not sleep. Where had he been?

On the third day, Tom and Huck sat inside the courtroom. It was full of people. Injun Joe looked at Muff Potter. Muff Potter was very frightened. Injun Joe was quiet.

Judge Thatcher arrived. Each witness came to the front of the courtroom.

'I was near the river. I saw Muff Potter,' said the first witness. 'He was washing his hands. There was blood on his hands. He saw me and he ran away.'

'I have no questions to ask,' said Muff's lawyer.

'I found the knife in the graveyard,' said the second witness. 'The knife was near the doctor's body.'

'I have no questions to ask,' said Muff's lawyer.

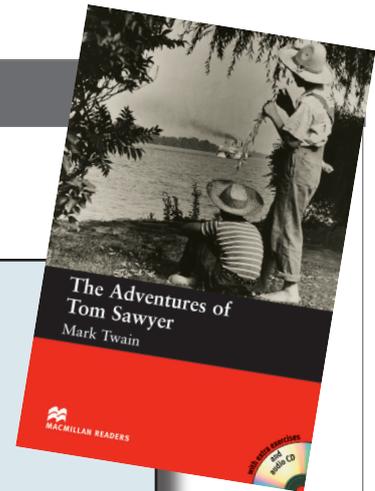
'The knife belongs to Muff Potter,' said the third witness.

'I have no questions to ask,' said Muff's lawyer.

The people of St Petersburg were angry. The lawyer was not asking any questions. Did he want Muff Potter to die?

Then Muff's lawyer stood up and spoke to the judge.

'Judge Thatcher,' he said. 'At the beginning of the trial, you asked Mr Potter to tell the truth. He pleaded Guilty. Guilty of murder. He was drunk at the time of the murder. He cannot



Transcript

remember the murder. But he pleaded Guilty.'

'Now – he does not plead Guilty,' said the lawyer.
'He pleads Not Guilty. There is another witness
– Tom Sawyer.'

Everybody in the courtroom was surprised.
Every-body looked at Tom. He walked to the front of
the courtroom.

'Tom Sawyer, where were you at midnight on the
seventeenth of June?' asked Muff's lawyer.

Tom was very frightened. Injun Joe was looking at him.
'I was in the graveyard,' said Tom quietly.
'Speak louder, please, Tom,' said the lawyer. 'Don't be
frightened.'

'I was in the graveyard,' said Tom loudly.

Injun Joe smiled. It was a terrible smile.

'Were you near Hoss Williams' grave?' asked the lawyer.

'Yes, sir,' replied Tom.

'Were you hiding?' asked the lawyer.

'Yes, sir. I was hiding behind a tree,' said Tom.

'Was anybody with you?'

'Yes, sir. I was with—'

'Don't tell me his name, Tom,' said the lawyer. 'I will talk to
your friend soon. Did you have anything with you?'

'Yes, sir. A cat, sir. A dead cat,' Tom replied.

Some people laughed. But Injun Joe did not laugh.

The lawyer spoke to Judge Thatcher. 'Tom was in the
graveyard,' he said. 'We can show the body of this cat to the
court.'

The lawyer spoke to Tom again. 'Now, Tom,' he said. 'What
did you see in the graveyard? Tell everybody.'

Tom started to talk. It was very quiet in the court-room.
Everybody was listening to Tom's story.

At last, he said, '—and the doctor hit Muff Potter with the
piece of wood. Muff fell down. Then Injun Joe pushed the
knife into the doctor's—'

Suddenly, Injun Joe jumped up. He ran to a window. Some
men tried to stop him. CRASH! Injun Joe broke the glass. He
jumped out of the window and he ran away.

