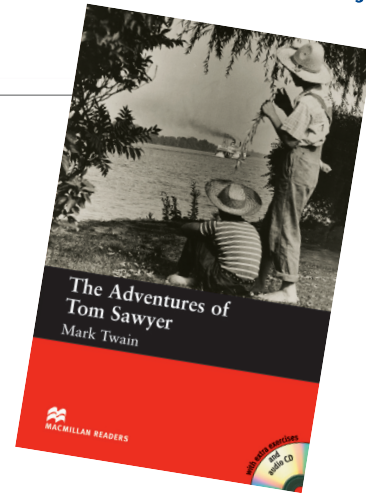


The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
by Mark Twain

Chapter Twelve: The Picnic at the Caves

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner - pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 10-20 minutes per activity



Activity 1

- 1 Tell students you will play the next chapter of the story. Their task is to listen and to make notes about the key events and what the characters do.
- 2 Play the recording and get students to make brief notes.
- 3 Put students in pairs and get them to compare their notes.
- 4 Play the recording again, if necessary.
- 5 Now tell students to imagine there is a third character in the cave with Tom and Becky – perhaps Huck.
- 6 Ask them to imagine what this third character would do and say.
- 7 Play the recording again and ask students to think and make brief notes about the third character.
- 8 Give students time to work the new character into the story.
- 9 Ask a few pairs to read out their new story.

Note: You might want to hand out the transcript for students to work with from point 7.

Extension: Role-play

Ask students to act out their 'new' story with the extra character.

Activity 2

Note: This activity is best used over chapters 12 & 13, but could be used with chapter 12 as long as students are asked what they think will happen in the following chapter.

- 1 On the board write the following and ask students to copy it down into their notebooks:

Characters:

Setting - Time:

Place:

Actions: -

-

-

Problem:

Outcome:

- 2 Tell students you'll play the recording twice. The first time they should just listen, then make notes after the recording has finished. The second time they can make notes while they listen.
- 3 Play the recording.
- 4 Give students time to make notes.
- 5 Put students in pairs and have them check together.
- 6 Play the recording again.
- 7 Ask a few volunteers to come and complete the chart on the board so that you can check as a class.

Extension: Storyboarding

Put students in a group and ask them to choose three or four clips or scenes from the story. Ask them to draw these scenes and make a 'storyboard'.

Chapter Twelve: The Picnic at the Caves

Transcript

It was Saturday. It was the day of Becky's picnic at McDougal's Caves. The children of St Petersburg were going to the picnic.

Huck was not going to the picnic. The mothers of St Petersburg did not ask Huck to go to the picnic.

Tom was very happy. He was going to Becky's birthday picnic. He was not thinking about Injun Joe.

At eleven o'clock, everybody got on an old steamboat. They carried baskets of food and they laughed and sang. They were going down the river on the steamboat. Then they were going to walk to the caves.

No adults went with the children. The older children were taking care of the younger children.

The steamboat travelled along the river. It stopped beside a beach three miles away from the town. Behind the beach, there was a steep hill and a big forest.

Everybody got off the boat. The children opened the baskets of food. They ate and ate! After lunch, they were quiet for a short time.

Then somebody asked a question. 'Who wants to go into the caves?'

'Me!'

'Me!'

'Me!'

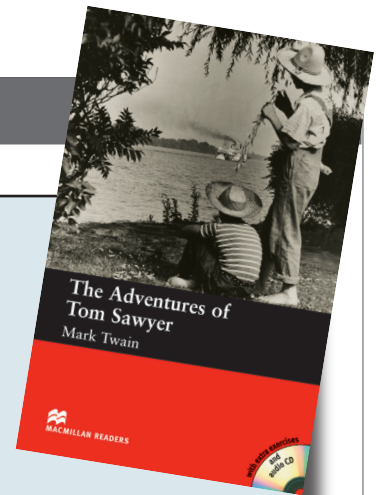
Everybody wanted to go into the caves.

They got candles and matches out of their baskets. Then they ran up the hill.

The entrance to McDougal's Caves was in the side of the hill. A long time ago, somebody had put a big wooden door in the entrance. One of the older boys opened the door and everybody went inside. Everybody was quiet. They looked at the sunshine and the green trees behind them. Then they looked at the darkness in front of them. McDougal's Caves were cold and dark and frightening!

Somebody lit a candle. There was light! But somebody else blew out the flame and it was dark again! A game started. People lit candles and other people blew them out. Everybody ran around. They laughed and they shouted.

Soon the game finished and the children walked further into the caves. They all carried bright candles and they walked in a long line. The main path was narrow, and there were narrower paths to the right and to the left. There were lots of paths in McDougal's Caves. Some paths went round in circles and came back to the main path. And other paths went further and further into the hill. Nobody knew about all the paths in the caves.



Chapter Twelve: The Picnic at the Caves

Transcript

'The steamboat bell will ring at seven o'clock,' shouted one of the older children. 'We have to go then. Everybody must come back to the entrance at seven o'clock.'

Tom and Becky left the other children. They took a basket of food and they took some candles. They went further into the caves together.

'Look, Becky,' said Tom. 'You can write your name on the wall. Use the smoke from your candle.'

They moved their candles. They wrote their names on a wall with the black smoke. Then they held their candles up high. They read other people's names on the rock walls.

They walked on and soon they came to a little waterfall. Water was falling from a hole in the rock.

'It's beautiful, Tom,' said Becky.

'Come on, Becky,' said Tom. 'There's a path behind the waterfall. It goes down and down. Let's go along it. Make a smoke mark on the wall. Then we can come back to the same place.'

Becky made a large smoke mark on the wall with her candle. The two children went behind the waterfall. They went down and down. Suddenly, they were in a very big cave.

They walked all round the cave. Then they walked along another path. Soon, they came to another big cave and another waterfall. The water fell into a small lake. Tom held his candle near the water. The rocks under the water were white.

'Oh, Tom,' said Becky. 'What a beautiful white lake!'

Then Tom heard a noise and he looked up at the roof. Bats! Hundreds of small, black bats! They had seen the light from the candles. They were squeaking. They were flapping their wings. The bats were starting to move!

'Come on! Quickly! Run!' Tom said. He grabbed Becky's hand. Then he pulled her along a narrow path.

Bats flew after them! Becky dropped her candle.

Tom and Becky ran and ran. At last they escaped from the bats. They stopped to rest next to a big, dark lake.

After a few minutes, Becky spoke. 'I can't hear any voices. Where are the other children?'

'I can't hear them,' said Tom.

'How long have we been here, Tom?' Becky asked. 'The steamboat bell is going to ring at seven o'clock. We must go back.'

Tom did not speak for a minute. Then he said, 'Becky, we are lost!'

