

# The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

## Chapter Seven: Written in Blood

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

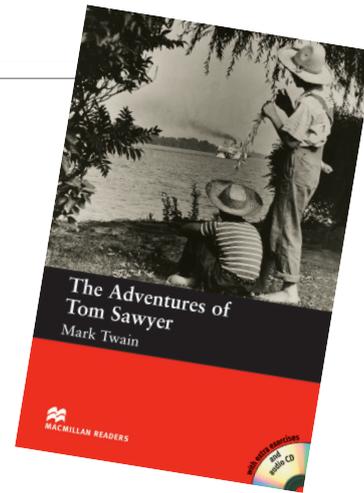
### Activity 1

- 1 Tell students you are going to play the whole of Chapter Seven to them and all you want them to do is listen.
- 2 Play the recording.
- 3 Put students in pairs and ask them to try and remember as much of the story as possible.
- 4 Ask them to write down everything they can remember.
- 5 Put the pairs into groups of four and ask them to compare their ideas of the story.
- 6 Continue in this pyramid grouping, so that the groups of four make groups of eight etc. Each time get students to compare their stories.
- 7 Finally, play the recording again and get them to listen and silently compare it to their version(s).

**Note:** This is a form of dictogloss. The idea behind a dictogloss is that it encourages students to pool their ideas and knowledge together and helps them discover things they hadn't noticed themselves. It is important to emphasize that you are not looking for a verbatim transcript, but simply a summary of the story.

### Extension: Chinese whispers

Arrange the students in a circle. Choose a sentence from the story and whisper it to the first student, who then whispers it to his or her neighbour. Continue to the end of the line to find out how the sentence comes out!



### Activity 2

- 1 Put students in pairs and ask one of them to be Huck and the other Tom.
- 2 Play the recording and ask them to concentrate on their character.
- 3 Next, ask the pairs to role-play the scene in Chapter Seven.
- 4 Tell students they don't need to use exactly the same words, it isn't about getting everything perfect, simply about acting out as much of the story as they can.
- 5 Monitor, but do not comment.
- 6 Ask if any pairs would like to act out the scene in front of the whole class.

### Extension: Movies

If you have a camcorder, record the role-plays and play them back as a whole class activity.

Chapter Seven: Written in Blood

Transcript

Tom and Huck were very frightened. They ran towards the town. Had Injun Joe seen them? Was he running after them?

Tom and Huck ran through the open door of an old barn. They both fell onto the floor.

'What will happen now?' asked Tom.

'Injun Joe murdered Doctor Robinson,' said Huck. 'The sheriff will catch him. Injun Joe will be sent to jail. Then he will be killed. He will be hanged.'

Tom thought for a minute. Then he said, 'We know about the murder. But nobody in the town knows. Who will tell the sheriff? You and me?'

'No, I won't tell him,' said Huck. 'I'm frightened of Injun Joe. Muff Potter must tell the sheriff.'

Tom thought for another minute. Then he said, 'Huck, Muff Potter didn't see the murder.'

'What?'

'Doctor Robinson hit Muff with a piece of wood. Muff fell on the ground,' said Tom. 'He didn't see anything.'

'Tom, we must not tell anybody,' replied Huck. 'The sheriff will look for Injun Joe. Then Injun Joe will look for us. He'll find us and he'll murder us. We must not tell anybody. Let's swear.'

'Yes,' said Tom. 'Let's hold hands and swear—'

'No,' said Huck. 'We're going to write our promise in blood!'

'Yes,' Tom said. 'Let's write in blood.'

He picked up a flat piece of wood. Then he took a pencil out of his pocket and wrote on the wood.

Tom had a knife. He cut his finger and some blood came out. He wrote 'TS' on the wood with his blood.

Then Huck cut his finger. Huck could not read or write but Tom helped him. Huck wrote 'HF' on the wood in blood.

The words on the wood were:

*Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer swear this -  
They won't tell anybody about the murder*

TS HF

'We have written our promise in blood,' said Tom. 'Now, we can't tell anybody. Let's go!'

The boys ran back to the town.

