

A Wayne Scott • *LifeHouse Theater-On-The-Air* Production

The Misadventures of Tom Sawyer

An Original Adaptation by
K. J. Schwartzkopf

Based on the Classic 1876 Novel by Samuel Clemens

Curriculum Guide

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LIFE OF SAMUEL CLEMENS A.K.A. "MARK TWAIN"

- 1835 - Samuel Langhorne Clemens is born in Florida, Missouri.
- 1839 - The Clemens family moves to Hannibal, Missouri.
- 1851 - At the age of 15, Samuel leaves school and goes to work as a printer in Hannibal.
- 1857 - Clemens begins a successful two-year apprenticeship to become a licensed river pilot.
- 1858 - Clemens' youngest brother Henry is killed tragically at the age of 20 in an explosion on the steamboat Pennsylvania.
- 1861 - The Civil War breaks out, ending Clemens' steamboat career.
- 1862 - Clemens travels west to Nevada.
- 1863 - Clemens adopts his pen name "Mark Twain."
- 1864 - Clemens travels to northern California, settling in San Francisco.
- 1865 - The short story "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog" appears in the New York Saturday Press.
- 1866 - Clemens gives his first public lecture, which is very well received.
- 1869 - Clemens' first book, *The Innocents Abroad*, is published under his pen name Mark Twain and becomes a bestseller.
- 1870 - Clemens marries Olivia Langdon, and their son Langdon is born later that year.
- 1872 - Clemens moves his family to Hartford, Connecticut. The couple's daughter Susy is born, but their son Langdon dies of diphtheria.
- 1873 - Clemens publishes the satiric novel *The Gilded Age*.
- 1874 - Daughter Clara is born.
- 1876 - *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is published.
- 1880 - The couple's fourth and final child, a daughter named Jean, is born.
- 1883 - Clemens publishes *Life on the Mississippi*, his memoir of his years as a steamboat pilot.
- 1884 - Clemens founds his own publishing company.
- 1885 - Clemens publishes both his greatest fiction and non-fiction works: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and a biography of President Ulysses S. Grant.
- 1889 - Clemens publishes *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.
- 1891 - Clemens moves his family from Hartford to Europe
- 1896 - 1909 - Clemens's two daughters, Susy & Jean, and his wife Livy die.
- 1910 - On April 10, Samuel Clemens dies at the age of 74.

THE MISADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER
CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is Mark Twain's real name?

2. In what city and state does *The Misadventures of Tom Sawyer* take place?

3. Name one of the reasons for the special church service on Saturday.

4. How many memory verses did each gold ticket represent?

5. What special painting technique was Tom using on Aunt Polly's fence?

6. What did Tom give to Becky as an engagement present?

7. Why were Tom and Huck in the cemetery?

8. Whose funeral was Tom, Huck, and Jim caught spying on?

9. When Tom and Becky were lost in the mines, what did Tom do to make sure he didn't get separated from Becky?

10. How were the Spaniard and Injun Joe related?

11. What did Aunt Polly suggest they do with the treasure?

THE MISADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER
CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is Mark Twain's real name?
A: Samuel Clemens.
2. In what city and state does *The Misadventures of Tom Sawyer* take place?
A: Hannibal, Missouri.
3. Name one of the reasons for the special church service on Saturday.
A: To introduce the new circuit judge, and to present the Memory Verse Bibles.
4. How many memory verses did each gold ticket represent?
A: 200.
5. What special painting technique was Tom using on Aunt Polly's fence?
A: Whitewashing.
6. What did Tom give to Becky as an engagement present?
A: A glass doorknob.
7. Why were Tom and Huck in the cemetery?
A: To cast a spell to get rid of their warts.
8. Whose funeral was Tom, Huck, and Jim caught spying on?
A: Their own funeral.
9. When Tom and Becky were lost in the mines, what did Tom do to make sure he didn't get separated from Becky?
A: He tied twine around his waist, and had Becky hold the other end.
10. How were the Spaniard and Injun Joe related?
A: They were the same person.
11. What did Aunt Polly suggest they do with the treasure?
A: Buy new shoes and send Tom to military school.

INTERESTING FACTS

- The name Mark Twain comes from a nautical term used by riverboat pilots on the Mississippi. “Mark Twain” indicated a water depth of 12 feet, the minimum for riverboats to navigate safely.
- Clemens wrote under several pseudonyms before settling on Mark Twain. He also wrote as Sergeant Fathom, Rambler, Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass and W. Epaminondas Adrastus Blab. Some of his earliest writings are simply credited to Josh.
- Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* is considered to be one of the first science fiction books ever published.

QUOTES BY MARK TWAIN

- *Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.*
- *Let us so live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry*
- *When in doubt tell the truth.*

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the key themes in *The Misadventures of Tom Sawyer*? Refer to the theme verses Proverbs 3:1-3 and 6: 16-22.
2. Tom had the reputation for telling wild stories. How do you think this influenced people’s ability to trust Tom? What kind of a reputation do you have?

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