

This is a story about little American boy, Tom Sawyer. It is from a book called “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” written by Mark Twain.

Tom, a *naughty* boy, lived with his Aunt Polly.

Tom Sawyer lay in the cool grass and looked at blue sky. He looked at the white clouds and at green mountains.

It was Sunday. There was no school and no work. He felt lazy and sleepy.

“It’s holiday!” thought Tom, happily. Then he rolled over and went to sleep on the grass.

“Tom! Tom!” It was his Aunt Polly’s voice.

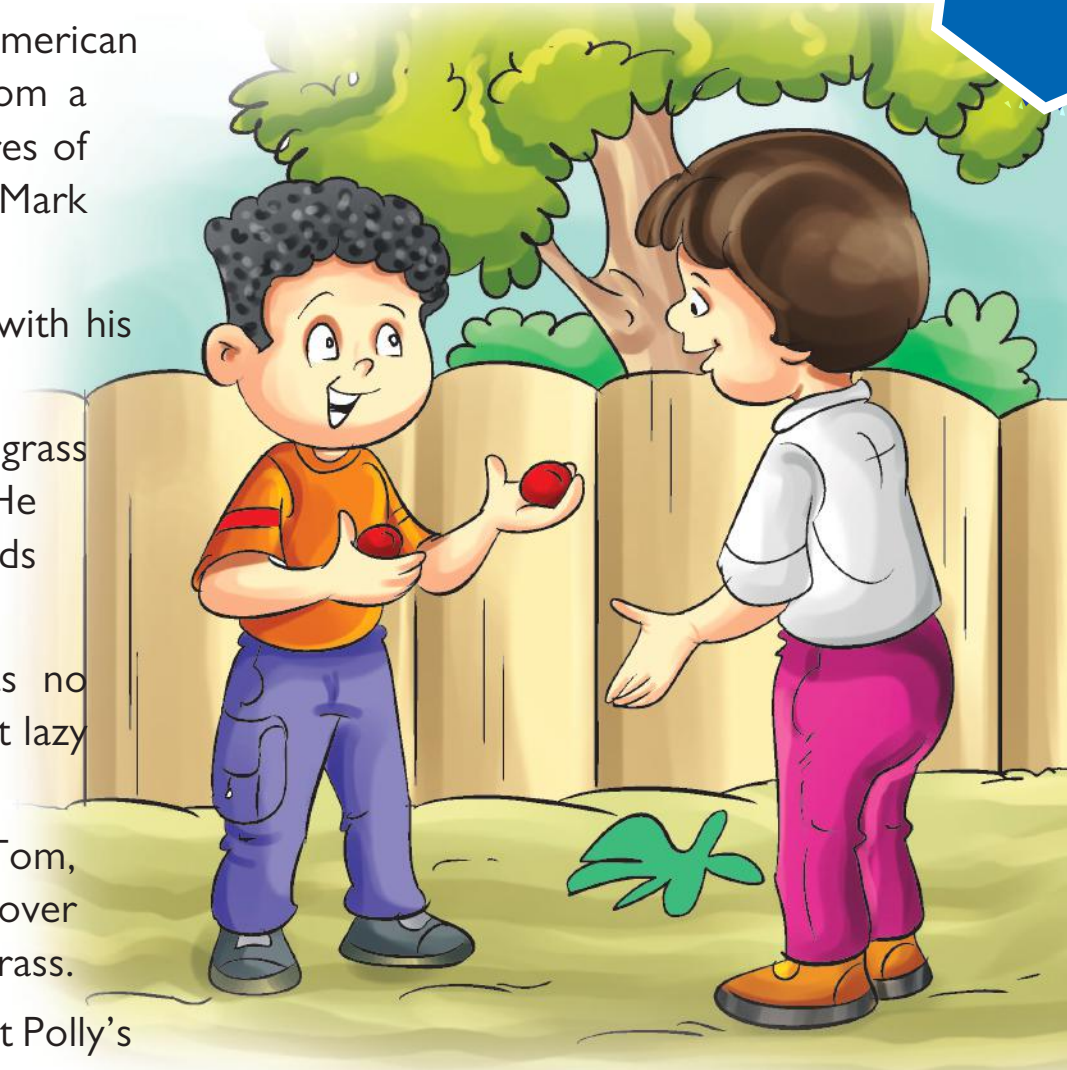
“Where are you, Tom? I have some work for you. Come and do it.”

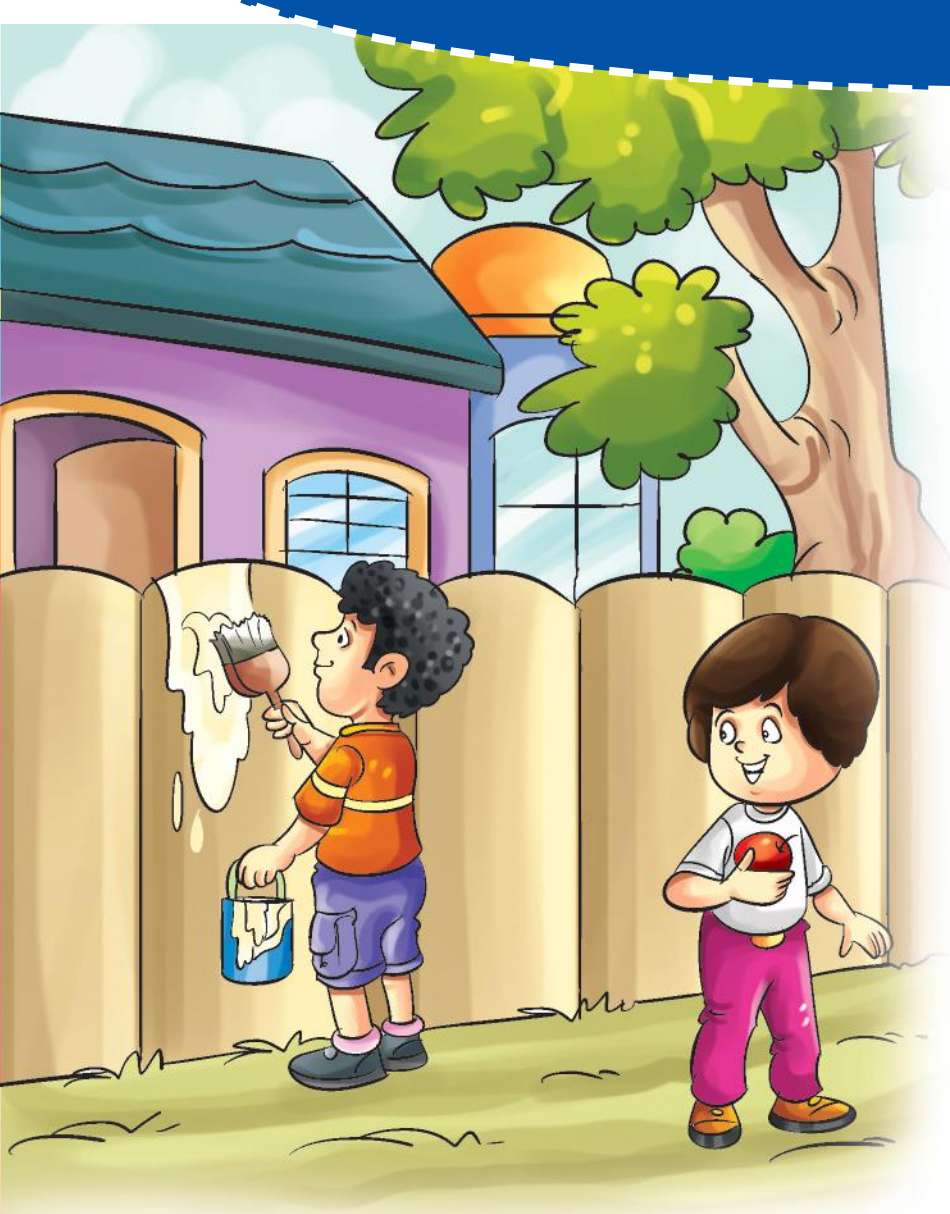
Tom heard her, but he did not open his eyes. He lay very still.

He said to himself, “Perhaps Aunt Polly won’t find me. Then I can sleep all morning!”

But in a moment she was standing next to him. “Get up,” she said.

Tom opened his eyes slowly.





“I want you to paint the *fence*, Tom. It’s a nice bright day. Try to paint the whole fence today.”

Before Tom could reply, Aunt Polly went away.

He looked at the fence. It was very long. Then he looked at the pot of paint. He felt sad.

He thought, “I’ll never, never finish. What a waste of a holiday!”

He *dipped* the paint brush in the pot of paint and started to work. Then he had a clever idea.

“I’ll call Johny and Ben and all the others. They can paint the fence.”

He smiled and sang and painted.

Soon his friend Ben walked up

to him.

There was an apple in Ben’s hand and Tom’s mouth watered on seeing it. Ben looked at him and laughed.

He said, “Tom, why does your aunt want you to work on a holiday?”

“Work?” said Tom, “This is not work, Ben. This is an art. You need the right kind of paint and the right kind of brush. Only some people can do it really well. Aunt Polly didn’t allow me to do it.”

“Really, Tom?” said Ben, “I don’t think so. Allow me to do this wonderful art.”

Tom shouted, “No Ben, you can’t. My aunt will know at once!”

“Come on, Tom. Give me that brush in the pot and I’ll give you my apple.”

“Well,” said Tom, “You can try.”

Tom gave Ben the paint brush and took the apple.

Ben painted and Tom ate.

After sometime, Tom said, "You're doing well, Ben."

Soon Billy came along. He had his hands in his pockets and he *whistled* a tune. Then he stopped. He saw Ben with a brush in one hand and a pot of paint in the other.

"Why are you working on a holiday?" Billy asked.

"I'm not working, I'm painting," said Ben.

Bill came over and looked at the fence.

"It is not easy, is it?" he said.

"Oh, no!" said Ben. "Not everyone can do it but Tom likes my work."

"Please can I try, Tom?" said Billy.

Tom smiled. His plan was working well.

"No, I don't think so," he said.

"I have two marbles." said Billy.

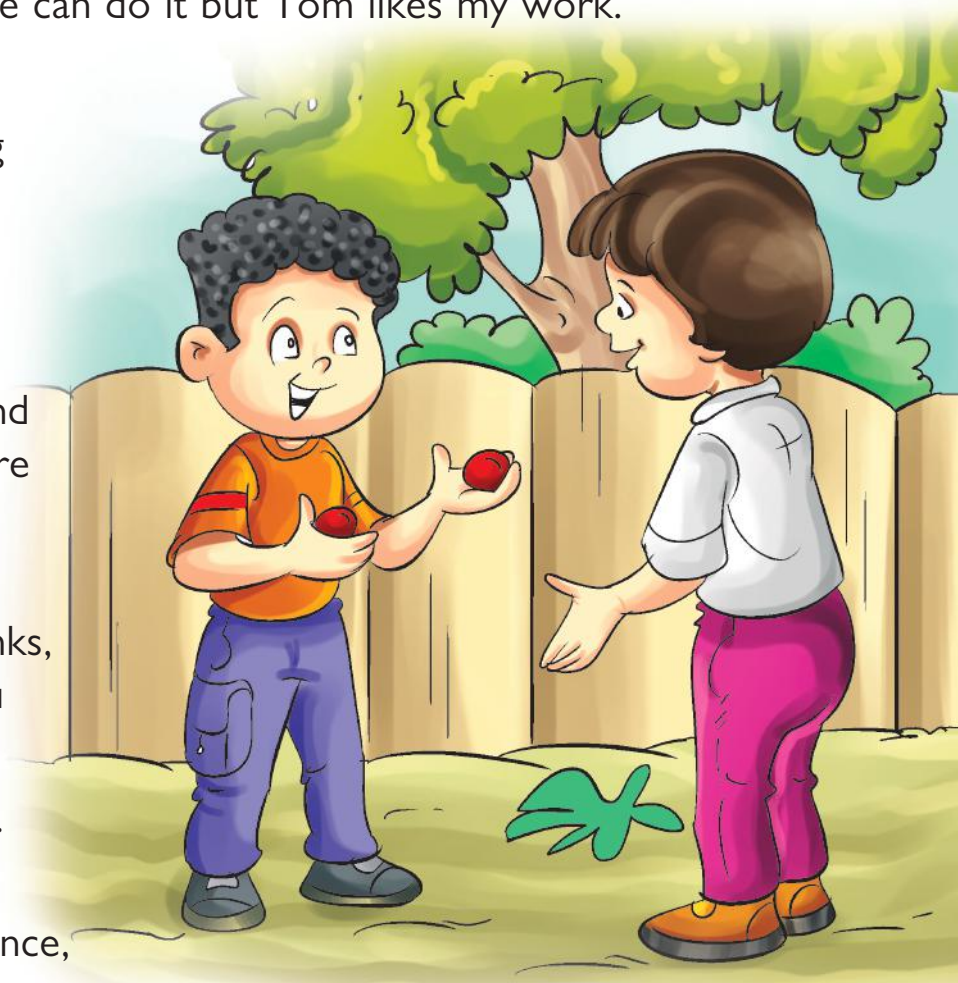
He took them out of his pocket and showed them to Tom. They were big blue ones. "Here," said Billy, "You take them."

Tom took them and said, "Thanks, Ben, don't you feel tired. Billy, you can try."

Later, Johny came along with a ball. And so came many others too.

All of them wanted to paint the fence, "Please, may we try?" they said.

Each time, Tom thought for a while and then he said yes. But first they gave him something for the chance to paint.



At the end of the day, Tom had a ball, a bag of marbles, a coin, sweets and some toys.

The whole fence was white and shining.

Tom smiled and he thought, "Work can be fun. Yes, it can be fun - when others do it."

Then he smiled and ran inside to show Aunt Polly.

Word Treasure

naughty : behaving badly

fence : barricade, boundary

dipped : put into

whistled : lips sang by folding



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- Tom Sawyer lay in the cool _____ and looked at blue sky.
a. water b. grass c. bed
- Tom heard her, but he did not _____ his eyes.
a. close b. turn c. open
- He _____ the paint brush in the pot of paint and started to work.
a. dipped b. touched c. moved
- There was an _____ in Ben's hand and Tom's mouth _____ on seeing it.
a. orange, reddened b. orange, itched c. apple, watered
- He had his hands in his pockets and he _____ a tune.
a. whistled b. sang c. made
- The _____ was white and shining.
a. brush b. paint c. fence

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. Tom was a lazy boy.
2. Tom painted the whole fence himself.
3. Tom got an apple from Billy.
4. Johny gave a ball to Tom.
5. Work can be fun, when others do it.



C. Answer the following questions :

1. Where did Tom lie?
2. What did Aunt Polly want Tom to do?
3. What did Tom want to do?
4. What did each of his friends do before he started the work?
5. What did Ben give Tom?

Fun with Words

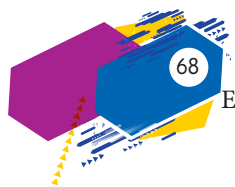
D. Match the opposites :

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. friend | a. always |
| 2. open | b. enemy |
| 3. bright | c. close |
| 4. never | d. active |
| 5. lazy | e. fast |
| 6. slow | f. evening |
| 7. morning | g. dull |

Essential Grammar

E. Join each of these pairs of sentences using either 'whom' or 'whose' :

1. This is a cat. Everyone likes it.
2. This is a singer. I saw her yesterday.
3. This is the dog. Its colour is black.
4. This is the cobbler. I gave him my shoes to repair.
5. It is a house. Its master is very cruel.



F. Change the following Present Indefinite Tenses into Past Indefinite Tenses.

One is done for you :

1. Jyotsna paints a beautiful picture.

Jyotsna will paint a beautiful picture.

2. Mann and Angel work very hard.

3. Varun does not make a noise in the class.

4. Do Gurjeet and Mayank watch television in the evening ?

5. Parul does not go to school on time.

6. The dogs bark at the stranger.

Essential Writing

G. On the basis of your reading of the story what kind of person does Tom seem to you? Is he lazy, clever or what? Discuss in the class and write down in your own words here.

Essential Speaking

H. Form several groups of five each in the class. Now dividing the story 'Work Can Be Fun' into five parts say it turnwise.