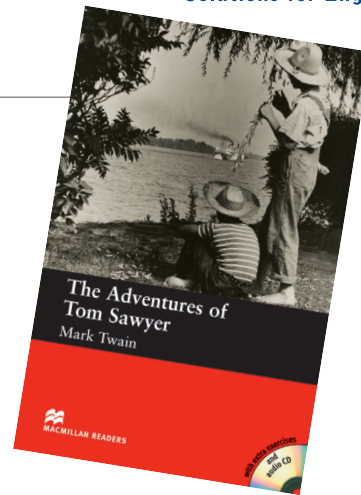


# The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

## Chapter Nine: The Pirates

<b>Author:</b> Adrian Tennant
<b>Level:</b> Beginner - pre-intermediate
<b>Age:</b> Teenagers / adults
<b>Time needed:</b> 20-30 minutes per activity
<b>Preparation:</b> You might want to prepare interview cards for the journalists in Activity 2.



### Activity 1

- 1 Play the first part of Chapter nine from the start to, 'Huck can be a pirate too...'
- 2 Tell students you want them to listen and then write one or two questions about the first part of the story. Tell them you will play the section again.
- 3 Put students in pairs and ask them to write their questions.
- 4 Tell them you want them to do the same for two more parts of the story.
- 5 Play the next section from, 'It was midnight on Tuesday.' to, 'Soon, the pirates were asleep.' Again have pairs write one or two questions.
- 6 Finally, play the last section from, 'Tom woke late in the morning.' to the end of Chapter nine. For this section encourage students to write two or three questions.
- 7 Monitor, in between playing the recording, and help students with their questions (in terms of form / grammar, not content).
- 8 Get pairs to swap their questions and read the questions they have been handed. Then, play the whole of Chapter nine again, pausing between the sections, and ask the students to try to answer the questions they were given.
- 9 Pair the pairs and get them to check and discuss the questions and answers.

**Note:** If you feel your students need help with the questions, give them prompts e.g. *Why did you run away from home? How did you feel when you met Joe? How long did it take you to get to Jackson Island? etc.*

### Activity 2

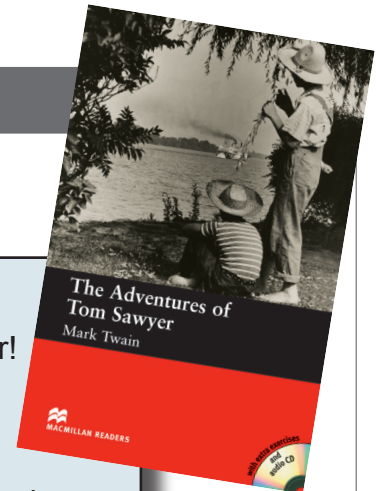
- 1 Divide the class into two groups – A and B.
- 2 Tell the student As that they will be a journalist and the Bs that they are Tom Sawyer.
- 3 Explain that you will play Chapter nine again. Afterwards, you would like the journalists to interview Tom.
- 4 Ask the students to listen to the chapter. The journalists should try to think of questions they would like to ask Tom. Tom should think about what he might be asked i.e. his feelings, why he did something, what else he did etc.
- 5 Play the recording.
- 6 Put all the A students in pairs and ask them to write five or six interview questions together.
- 7 Put all the B students in pairs and ask them to discuss what they might be asked.
- 8 Monitor and help where necessary. You might also want to play the recording one more time (or hand out the transcript).
- 9 Put students in pairs (one A with one B) and have them conduct the interview.

### Extension: The news

Tell the students that the evening news will feature an interview with Tom Sawyer live from St Petersburg. See if any of the pairs would like to act out the interview in front of the class.

Chapter Nine: The Pirates

Transcript



Tom was very unhappy. He was in trouble and Becky did not love him. He was going to leave home for ever!

Sadly, Tom walked away from St Petersburg. He met his friend, Joe Harper. Joe was walking away from the town too.

'Goodbye, Joe,' said Tom. 'Nobody loves me! I'm leaving home.'

'Oh!' replied Joe. 'I'm leaving home too. My mother is angry with me.'

'Let's leave St Petersburg together,' said Tom.

'Yes,' said Joe. 'We'll be hungry and cold. We'll die. Then everybody will be sad.'

Tom did not like Joe's idea. He did not want to die. 'Let's be pirates!' he said. 'Let's go to Jackson's Island and be pirates.'

'What do pirates do?' asked Joe.

'They fight other pirates!' replied Tom. 'They find buried treasure under the ground – gold and silver and jewels! They sink ships to the bottom of the sea!'

'Yes,' said Joe happily. 'Let's be pirates! And let's ask Huck to come. Huck can be a pirate too.'

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It was midnight on Tuesday. Tom was two miles from St Petersburg. He was standing next to a small wooden boat.

Soon, Huck and Joe arrived.

'I've got some cake,' said Tom. 'What have you got?'

'I've got a piece of meat and some corn,' said Huck.

'I've got a cooking pot and a fishing line,' said Joe. 'Come on, pirates! Let's get into the boat.'

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At two o'clock in the morning, the pirates were on Jackson's Island. Jackson's Island was three miles from St Petersburg. It was a long, narrow island in the Mississippi River.

There were lots of trees in the middle of the island. There

Chapter Nine: The Pirates

Transcript

were sandy beaches round the edge of the island. Nobody lived on Jackson's Island.

The pirates took their things from the boat. There was an old sail in the boat. The pirates made a tent with the old sail.

'This is our camp!' said Tom.

Huck lit a fire. Then they cooked some meat and corn in Joe's cooking pot. They ate their meal. Then they lay down next to the fire.

'This is wonderful,' said Tom. 'We don't have to wake early.'

'We don't have to go to school,' said Joe.

'What do pirates do?' asked Huck.

'Oh,' said Tom. 'They fight other pirates and they find buried treasure under the ground.'

'They sink ships to the bottom of the sea!' said Joe.

Soon, the pirates were asleep.

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Tom woke late in the morning. It was very quiet and the sun was warm.

'Come on!' he shouted. He took off his clothes and ran into the river. Huck and Joe were soon in the water too. The pirates swam for a while. Then they went back to their camp.

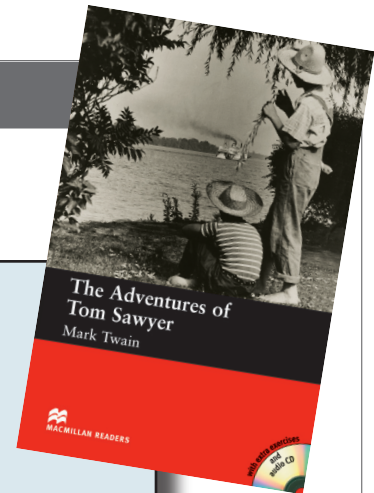
The pirates were happy and very hungry. Huck lit the fire again. Joe cut some meat into pieces and Tom caught some fish. They cooked the food and they had a big meal.

In the afternoon, the pirates sat down near some trees. They talked for a few minutes. But soon they were silent. Tom thought about Aunt Polly. Joe thought about his mother. Huck thought about St Petersburg. They did not say anything.

Suddenly, there was a loud noise.

BOOM!

The boys ran to the beach. A steamboat was on the river about a mile away. The noise was from a big gun on the



Transcript

steamboat. There were lots of people on the steamboat. Many small boats were on the river too. BOOM!

'Somebody is dead,' said Tom. 'Somebody has drowned in the river.'

'Yes, that's right,' said Huck. 'They fire the gun over the water. Then the dead body comes to the top of the water. I remember! Bill Turner was drowned last year. They fired the gun then!'

'Who has drowned this year?' asked Joe.

Suddenly, Tom knew. 'It's us!' he shouted. 'We're drowned!'

This was very exciting news. Tom, Huck and Joe were very pleased. People were looking for the boys' bodies. They were important people now.

But in the evening, the boys were sad. They were very quiet.

At last, Joe spoke. 'Let's go home,' he said quietly. 'It's boring here.'

'Go home, then!' said Tom angrily.

'I'm going,' said Joe.

He stood up.

'We're staying, aren't we, Huck?' said Tom.

Huck looked at Tom. 'Oh, Tom,' he said. 'I want to go too. I'm bored too. Let's all go.'

'I won't go,' said Tom. 'You two can go. I'm staying.'

Huck and Joe started to walk away.

Suddenly, Tom had a wonderful idea. 'Wait! Wait!' he shouted. 'I want to tell you something.'

Joe and Huck ran back and Tom told them his idea.

Huck and Joe did not go home that evening.

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The next day, the pirates went swimming again. They caught some fish and they climbed some trees. And they looked for buried treasure.

In the evening, they had a big meal of fish and meat. Then they fell asleep.

