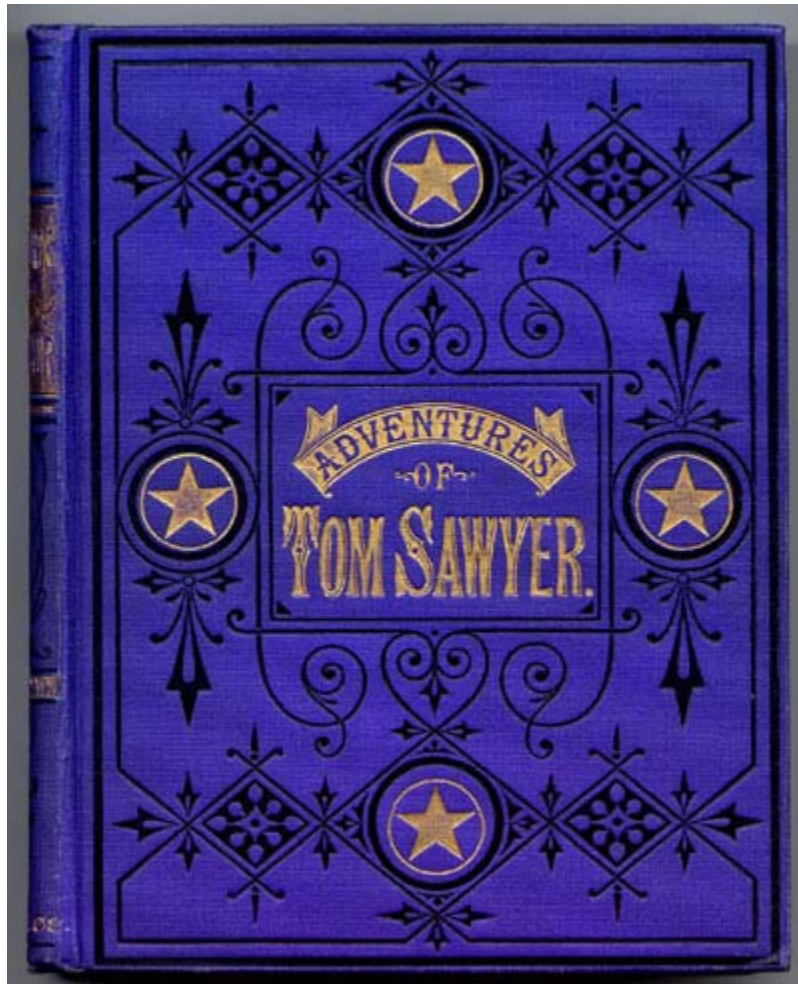


The Adventures of Tom Sawyer & Mark Twain



**Using Real Life to Create Fiction:
Mark Twain Style**

Developed by Dr. Cindy Lovell

The cast of characters...

Tom Sawyer: _____

Huckleberry Finn: _____

Becky Thatcher: _____

Aunt Polly: _____

Injun Joe: _____

Sid: _____

Mary: _____

Others: _____

The characters in *Tom Sawyer* were based on real people. Upon whose lives were these characters based? What other characters from *Tom Sawyer* would you like to learn about? How can you discover their “true” identities? Jot down your questions and ideas...

On the following pages, describe the main characters by identifying passages in the book that describe them, and then draw them based upon those descriptions and your own interpretations...

Tom Sawyer

Note the passage(s) from the book that best describe this character. Include page numbers.

Huckleberry Finn

Note the passage(s) from the book that best describe this character. Include page numbers.

Becky Thatcher

Note the passage(s) from the book that best describe this character. Include page numbers.

Aunt Polly

Note the passage(s) from the book that best describe this character. Include page numbers.

Peter

Note the passage(s) from the book that best describe this character. Include page numbers.

Injun Joe

Note the passage(s) from the book that best describe this character. Include page numbers.

Characters

"There was never yet an uninteresting life. Such a thing is an impossibility. Inside of the dullest exterior there is a drama, a comedy, and a tragedy." ~Mark Twain

Fictional characters are usually based at least in part on someone from real life. Think about the cast of characters in your life. Write their names and some characteristics and traits about them. Could you "grow" them into fictional characters for your story? How would you change them? What details are unique to them? From the way they talk to their clothes to their likes and dislikes, they are all potential characters in your stories.

Name	Characteristics

Settings

There are many settings in Tom Sawyer, the primary one, of course, being the town of St. Petersburg in which Tom lived. There are many secondary settings, however, from the cave to the parlor to schoolroom. Thinking about your own life - places you know well - list as many possible settings as possible...

Settings from *Tom Sawyer*...



Cardiff Hill, beyond the village and above it, was green with vegetation, and it lay just far enough away to seem a Delectable Land, dreamy, reposeful and inviting. (p. 12)



Tom appeared on the sidewalk with a bucket of whitewash and a long-handled brush. He surveyed the fence, and all gladness left him and a deep melancholy settled down upon his spirit. Thirty yards of board fence, nine feet high. (p. 12)



Then he skipped out, and saw Sid just starting up the outside stairway that led to the back rooms on the second floor. (p. 20)



She halted a moment on the steps and then moved toward the door. Tom heaved a great sigh as she put her foot on the threshold. (p. 22)



Presently she stepped into the kitchen, and Sid, happy in his immunity, reached for the sugar-bowl – a sort of glorying over Tom which was well-nigh unbearable. But Sid's fingers slipped and the bowl dropped and broke. (p. 23)



A log raft in the river invited him, and he seated himself on its outer edge and contemplated the dreary vastness of the stream... (p. 25)



Tom contrived to scarify the cupboard with it and was arranging to begin on the bureau, when he was called off to dress for Sunday-school. Mary gave him a tin basin of water and a piece of soap... (p. 29)



He entered a dense wood, picked his pathless way to the centre of it, and sat down on a mossy spot under a spreading oak. There was not even a zephyr stirring; the dead noonday heat had even stilled the songs of the birds; nature lay in a trance that was broken by no sound but the occasional far-off hammering of a woodpecker, and this seemed to render the pervading silence and sense of loneliness the more profound. (p. 64)

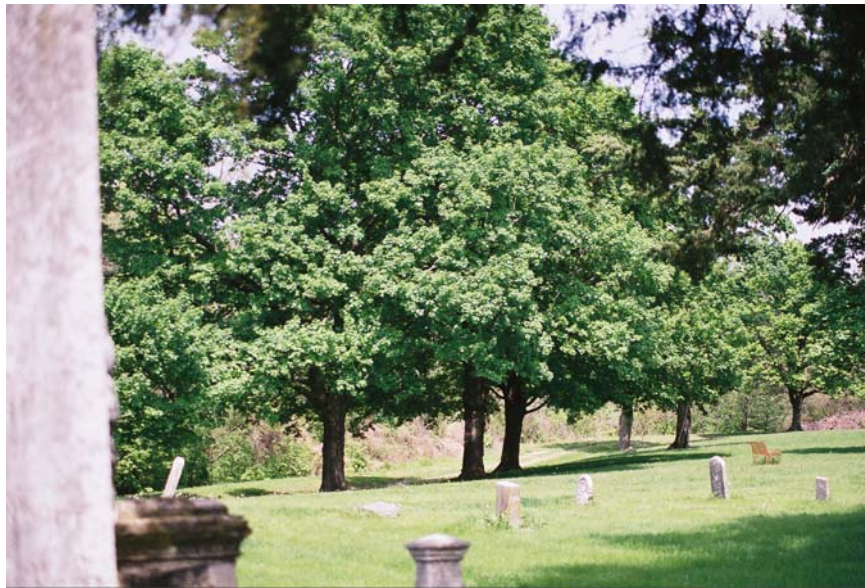
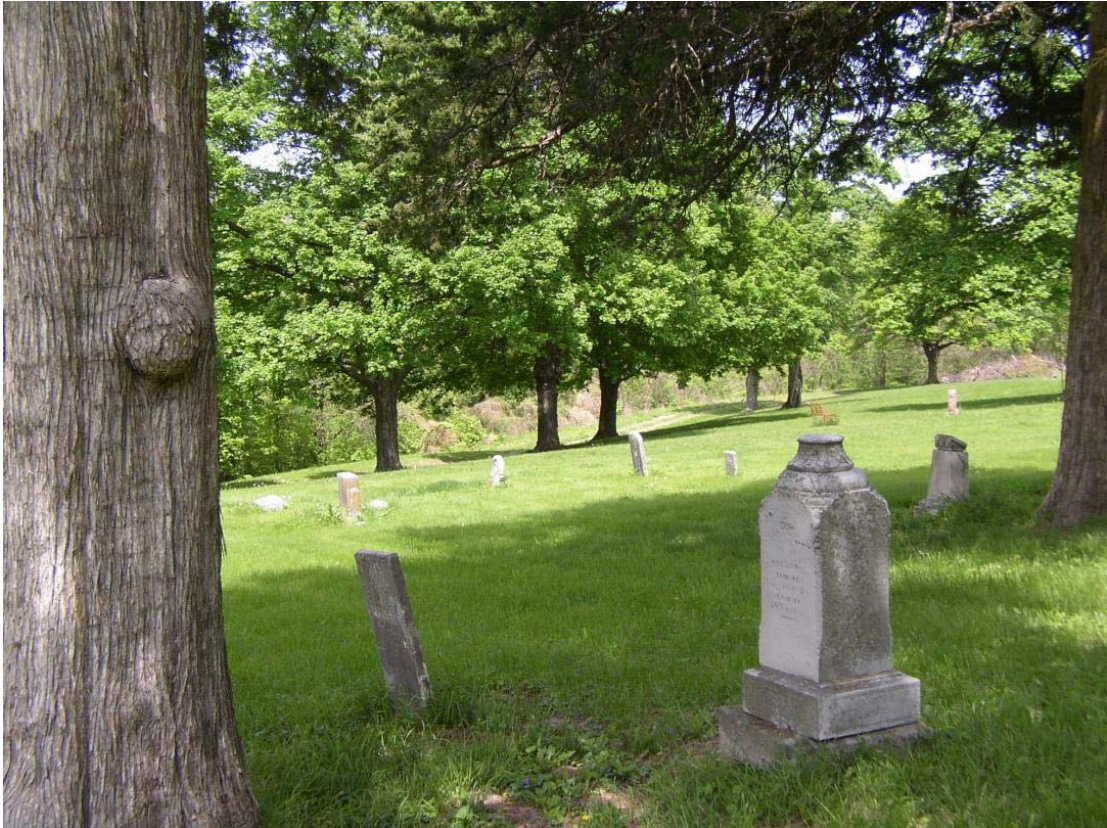


The ticking of the clock began to bring itself into notice. Old beams began to crack mysteriously. The stairs creaked faintly. (p. 70)





It was a graveyard of the old-fashioned western kind. It was on a hill, about a mile and a half from the village. It had a crazy board fence around it, which leaned inward in places, and outward the rest of the time, but stood upright nowhere. Grass and weeds grew rank over the whole cemetery. All the old graves were sunken in. (p. 71)



...three great elms that grew in a bunch within a few feet of the grave. (p. 72)



When Tom crept in at his bedroom window, the night was almost spent. (p. 83)

...sail through the open window... (p. 95)



...the boy was mending the health of a crack in the sitting-room floor with it. One day Tom was in the act of dosing the crack when his aunt's yellow cat came along... (p. 94)

~

The handle of the tell-tale tea-spoon was visible... (p. 95)



Three miles below St. Petersburg, at a point where the Mississippi river was a trifle over a mile wide, there was a long, narrow, wooded island, with a shallow bar at the head of it, and this offered well as a rendezvous. It was not inhabited; it lay far over toward the further shore, abreast a dense and almost wholly unpeopled forest. (p. 99)



It seemed glorious sport to be feasting in that wild free way in the virgin forest of an unexplored and uninhabited island, far from the haunts of men, and they said they never would return to civilization. (p. 102)



He...found himself at his aunt's back fence. (p. 114)



“What makes the candle blow so? said Aunt Polly. (p. 114)



“-and if I’m asleep, you throw some gravel at the window and that’ll fetch me.” (p. 198)



The mouth of the cave was high up the hillside – an opening shaped like a letter A. (p. 202)



Within was a small chamber, chilly as an ice-house, and walled by Nature with solid limestone that was dewy with a cold sweat. (p. 202)



By and by the procession went filing down the steep descent of the main avenue, the flickering rank of lights dimly revealing the lofty walls of rock almost to their point of junction sixty feet overhead. This main avenue was not more than eight or ten feet wide. Every few steps other lofty and still narrower crevices branched from it on either hand – for McDougal's cave was but a vast labyrinth of crooked aisles that ran into each other and out again and led nowhere.
(p. 202)



They tripped along the murky aisles with the rest of the company, visiting the familiar wonders of the cave – wonders dubbed with rather overdescriptive names, such as “The Drawing Room,” “The Cathedral,” “Aladdin’s Palace,” and so on. (p. 219)



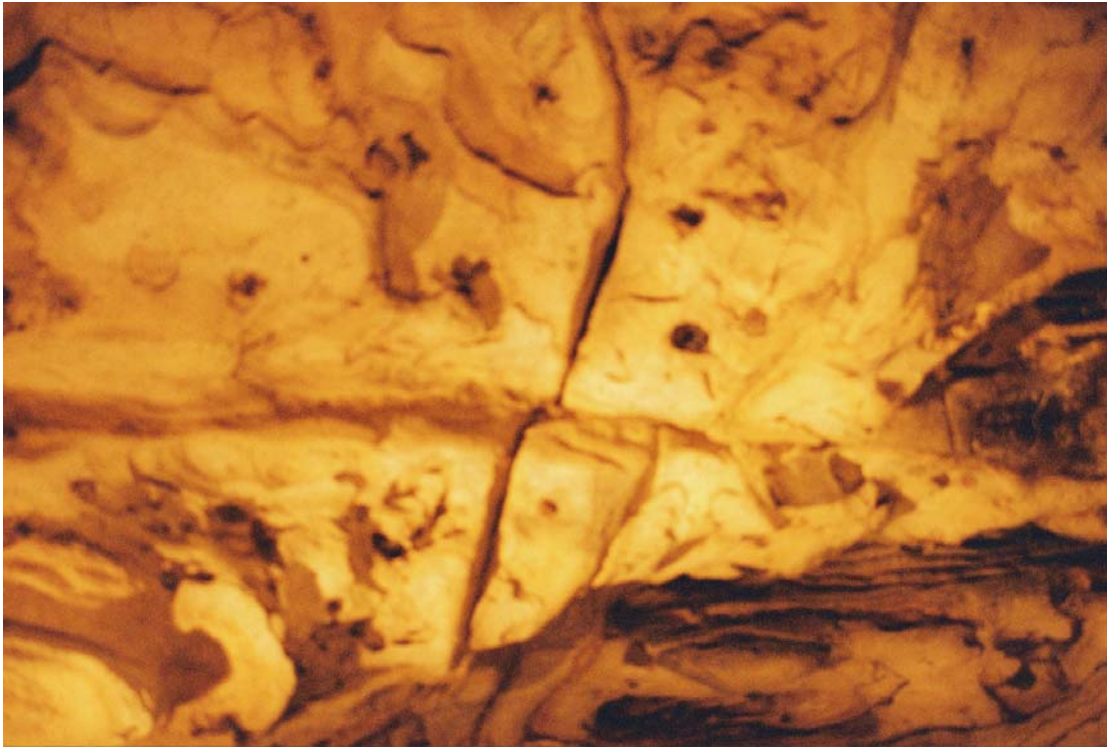
*...then they wandered down a sinuous avenue holding their
candles aloft and reading the tangled web-work of names,
dates, post-office addresses and mottoes with which the rocky
walls had been frescoed (in candle smoke.)
They smoked their own names under an overhanging shelf and
moved on. (p. 219)*



This shortly brought them to a bewitching spring, whose basin was encrusted with a frost work of glittering crystals; it was in the midst of a cavern whose walls were supported by many fantastic pillars which had been formed by the joining of great stalactites and stalagmites together, the result of the ceaseless water-drip of centuries. (p. 220)



When the cave door was unlocked, a sorrowful sight presented itself in the dim twilight of the place. Injun Joe lay stretched open the ground, dead, with his face close to the crack of the door, as if his longing eyes had been fixed, to the latest moment, upon the light and the cheer of the free world outside.
(p. 234)



'Under the cross,' hey? (p. 241)

Events

Many of the events in *Tom Sawyer* were based on real events while others were created in the imagination of the author. Think about “simple” events and “exciting” events. Which do you think were based on true stories? Which do you think only happened in Mark Twain’s imagination? Next, think about some events in your own life. List simple and exciting events that could be expanded on to create a work of fiction.

Simple	Exciting	Real or Imagined?
Playing hooky		
Whitewashing the fence		
Loose tooth		
	Witnessing a murder	
	Running away to the island	
Birthday party		
	Lost in the cave	
	Digging for treasure	
	Finding gold	

Events from your life...

Simple	Exciting

To learn more about the “real stories” of Mark Twain and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, you might want to visit Hannibal, Missouri someday.

Hannibal is where Samuel Clemens grew up, and as you have seen in the pictures, many of the places, including his boyhood home and the cave, are well preserved. When you do make it to Hannibal, visit the Mark Twain Museum located just a few blocks from the boyhood home, and see if you can spot these bricks outside on the sidewalk...



If you were to have a brick installed in Hannibal, what would you want it to say?

Notes

Notes

Note to Teachers:

This unit was developed by Dr. Cindy Lovell, education coordinator for the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum using the Modern Library Paperback Edition (2001) of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. This edition can be purchased through the museum's website: <http://www.marktwainmuseum.org>. All photos were taken in Hannibal by Cindy Lovell. If you require more information about the setting, characters, and events of Tom Sawyer, please contact: Cindy.Lovell@marktwainmuseum.org