

**FIRST
STAGE**



CHILDREN'S THEATER
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THEATER ACADEMY

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ENRICHMENT GUIDE



TOM SAWYER

By Mark Twain

*Adapted by
James DeVita*

**School dates:
MARCH 10 - APRIL 13, 2006**

Please be sure to share this guide with all teachers who are taking their students to see this production. Photocopy or download additional copies from www.firststage.org

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Within this guide we have included a range of materials and activities. As teachers, you know best the needs and abilities of your students; therefore, please feel free to pick and choose and/or adapt any of the suggestions for discussion or activities.

We encourage you to take advantage of our photocopy-friendly format and generate copies of the entire guide for each classroom and copies of handouts for your students.

Have fun and enjoy the show!

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ATTENDING THE PLAY—GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

Discuss proper audience behavior with your students. While applause and laughter, when appropriate, are appreciated and anticipated, unnecessary noise or movement by audience members can distract the actors and other audience members and affect the quality of the performance for everyone. It is very important that students understand how their behavior can affect a live performance. You, the teacher, and other adult chaperones for your group have the primary responsibility for being sure your students behave appropriately. We ask that chaperones sit among the students, and not together in a group behind the students. Our ushers will react to disruptions and attempt to quell them, and we reserve the right to remove any student causing a distraction from the theater.

FIRST STAGE POLICIES

- Because of union regulations the use of recording equipment and cameras is strictly forbidden in the theater.
- Food, drink, candy and gum are not permitted in the theater.
- Any portable radios brought to the theater by students will be kept by the House Manager during the performance and returned to the group leader at the conclusion of the play.
- There is no smoking in the theater, by order of the Fire Marshal.
- Should a student become ill, suffer an injury or have another problem, please escort him or her to the theater lobby and ask an usher to notify the House Manager immediately.
- In the unlikely event of a general emergency, the theater lights will go on and someone will come on stage to inform the audience of the problem. Remain in your seats, visually locate the nearest exit and wait for First Stage ushers to guide your group from the theater.

SEATING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: *If you have special seating needs for any student(s) and did not indicate your need when you ordered your tickets, please call the Box Office at (414) 267-2962 **NOW**. Our knowledge of your needs will enable us to serve you better upon your group's arrival at the theater.*

FAMILY PERFORMANCES

Twenty-two family performances of *TOM SAWYER* are scheduled. If you know of friends or colleagues who might enjoy seeing this play, please tell them about these public performance opportunities. For tickets and prices, please call the Marcus Center box office, 414/273-7206.

The number for TDD (deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons) is 414/273-3080.

FRIDAYS

March 10, 24, 31 • 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAYS

March 11, 18 • 7:00 p.m.
March 25 & April 1 • 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.
April 8 • 1:00, 3:30 and 7:00

SUNDAYS

March 12, 19, 26 & April 2, 9* • 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

*The April 9, 3:30 p.m. performance will be interpreted for deaf and hard of hearing patrons.

*Most appreciated by adults, teens and young people ages 6 and older.
First Stage does not recommend any play for children under age 3. All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket.*

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

In adapting *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* for the stage, playwright James DeVita has taken the classic — albeit sprawling and episodic — novel and focused the action considerably. Tom’s flight of fancy to Jackson’s Island with his “pirate” cohorts is omitted, along with the trip to the haunted house and the resultant search for Joe’s treasure. It is Tom’s relationships with his Aunt Polly, Huck and Becky that form the heart of the novel, and it is Tom’s Journey toward maturity that propels the action.

As the action opens, Tom slips through the famous fence surrounding Aunt Polly’s home and quickly abandons any plans for school, opting instead to seek out Huck Finn for a day of playing Robin Hood. When the other children are released from school, Huck runs off, but Tom lags behind hoping for a chance to talk with Becky Thatcher. Becky appears, accompanied by the “citified” Alfred. Tom, always trying to impress, picks a fight with Alfred. As the two struggle, Becky walks off, and Miss Dobbins, the Reverend and Aunt Polly arrive on the scene. All three admonish Tom for fighting and for playing hooky. Tom claims to have been defending Aunt Polly, but younger stepbrother Sid reveals the truth. Tom hotly pursues Sid through the fence, with Aunt Polly proclaiming his upcoming punishment. If she can’t bring herself to strike him, she can at least put Tom to work painting the fence.

The next day finds Tom just beginning his personal Herculean labor. Huck laments that Tom will spend his entire day painting the fence. Tom bets Huck that he’ll find a way to get it done and meet Huck at the old fishing hole while there is still plenty of daylight. Other boys arrive, taunting Tom, but Tom works doggedly and with rapt concentration. Soon the boys are fighting over the chance to paint the fence. Tom sits back to “supervise” his crew. He throws away his apple core, nearly striking the brooding Joe, who has just arrived with Muff Potter in tow. Muff warns Tom to stay clear of Joe. Aunt Polly is heard singing in the distance. Tom quickly sends the boys away and (after liberally smearing himself with paint) falls prostrate in front of the fence. Amazed at Tom’s accomplishment, Aunt Polly sends Tom off to play.

Sunday arrives, and despite their protestations, Aunt Polly dresses Tom and Sid in their finest (including shoes) and sends them off to Sunday School. Tom begins his courtship of Becky as the Reverend drones on and on. Becky is slowly won over, and at recess the two are engaged. Their engagement is short-lived, however, when Tom lets slip his previous engagement to Amy Lawrence. Tom wallows a bit over the break-up, but when Huck presents an opportunity to sneak out to the cemetery with a dead cat to remove some warts, all is forgotten.

By moonlight the two carefully make their way to the grave of Hoss Williams to await the evil spirits that will take Hoss, the dead cat and the warts away. They hear voices and quickly hide themselves. The voices aren’t those of spirits, but rather Doc Robinson, Muff Potter and Joe, who proceed to dig up the body of Hoss. A dispute over money arises, and a scuffle ensues. Muff Potter is knocked unconscious. Joe stabs and kills Doc Robinson. Joe then plants the knife on Muff Potter and convinces Muff that it was he who killed the Doc just before he was knocked out. Muff runs off, and Joe plants Muff’s knife in Doc’s dead body.

In their fear of retribution from Joe, Tom and Huck make a solemn vow to keep secret all that they know. The next day an angry mob hunts down Muff Potter, and he is carted off to jail. Huck and Tom reconfirm their promise, but in a show of conscience, they visit Muff Potter in jail. The trip does little to ease their troubled minds.

In court Joe testifies that Muff committed the murder in very violent fashion. As Muff protests, Tom can take it no longer, and he rises and shouts out the truth: “It was Joe that done it!” Joe scrambles through the crowd, picks up the knife and tries to get at Tom. Failing, he escapes the sheriff and lights out of the court room. Tom is universally praised for his bravery. Becky apologizes for their fight and invites Tom to her upcoming picnic. Huck, on the other hand, is extremely upset with Tom. How could Tom have broken a blood oath? The two come to blows before being separated by the sheriff.

The day for the picnic arrives. No one has seen or heard anything about Joe, and the Sheriff proclaims things safe—although he’ll stick around with the Reverend to keep an eye on things. The kids partner off and head for the caves. Tom and Becky team up against the others in a game of Murderer’s Match. Each child gets three matches for their candles. They then proceed to attempt to blow out each other’s candles. The survivor is the winner. The action is fast and furious. As Tom and Becky head father into the caves, a multitude of bats descend upon them, and they become disoriented and lost.

The two struggle to find their way through the maze of passages. They happen upon Joe, who has been hiding out in the caves. They escape his clutches at least for the moment, but Joe is now in hot pursuit. The other children make their way out of the cave and report that Tom and Becky are missing. As the adults discuss a plan of action, Huck arrives, assesses the situation, grabs a lantern and heads into the cave to find his friend.

Joe captures Becky’s arm. Tom struggles valiantly, but he appears to be no match for Joe. Huck charges in and knocks Joe toward a pitfall. Joe stumbles, falling into the pitfall. Joe grabs Tom. Becky and Huck reach out for Tom. Joe loses his grip and falls to his death. Becky and Huck pull Tom out of harm’s way. There is a warm reunion, and the trio makes their way toward the cave’s exit.

Outside the cave, the adults have nearly given up hope. The Reverend suggests that they all kneel down and pray. Our heroes appear at the mouth of the cave and join the others in prayer. As the Reverend concludes, Tom offers a hearty “Amen!” amidst the rejoicing of the town. Tom invites Huck to come and stay with Aunt Polly and him. Huck begs off, but when he is offered apple pie, he agrees—at least temporarily.

MARK TWAIN

Samuel Clemens was born on a day when Halley's comet blazed the night sky on November 30, 1835. When the comet came again, he left the earth the next night. He was truly a wondrous specimen.

The Florida, Missouri native was born a sickly child; and his mother and the doctors often had to worry about his health, for when he got sick, it was more than once a life-or-death kind of matter. Clemens' mother later teased him that she was more afraid that he would live than that he would die, for, when Clemens wasn't sick, he was always getting into trouble! He put snakes in his aunt's sewing basket, hid bats in his pocket so that his mother would find them. He once dropped a watermelon shell onto his brother's head from a height of three stories!

His life wasn't all fun and games, though. Twain started going to work at age eleven, after his father died. He always took a book along with him. He worked in print shops and newspaper offices, and hunted for gold and silver out West.

It was Clemens' dream, though, to become a licensed riverboat pilot. Clemens took his pseudonym from his fascination with the steamboats that took tourists and entertainers down the Mississippi River. He would eventually fulfill his dream of becoming a riverboat pilot. Mark Twain means "safe water—twelve feet deep."

Twain's first pseudonym, or pen name, however, was Mike Swain (it wasn't his fault; the editor couldn't read Twain's handwriting). The story was "Forty-Three Days in an Open Boat," a story about the survivors of a disaster at sea. Twain would later be known more for his funny stories.

Twain would eventually marry Olivia Langdon, who acted as his editor. They had four children and a household full of cats. And it was a big house! Twain grew rich enough from his writing that he built the most elaborate and eccentric house in Hartford, Connecticut. It had nineteen luxurious rooms and five bathrooms. He didn't stay home all the time, though. He often traveled to Quarry Farm, near Elmira, New York, during the summers and traveled Europe for years at a time.

Even though Twain made a lot of money, he often lost it by poor investing. He lost \$200,000 on a failed typesetting machine, but wouldn't invest in Alexander Graham Bell's new telephone. He would later have the first telephone installed in a private house.

If he lost too much money, Twain would head out on a lecture tour to get more. His tours became world famous, and he enjoyed doing them. He was the most photographed man in the world, and there was even a Mark Twain impersonator working in Australia!

Despite all of his travels and tours, Twain was always writing. And he was very much a perfectionist. He would burn manuscripts if he believed they weren't good enough. Occasionally, he would take time to play with his children or to play pool. He also liked long country walks.

Twain's wardrobe was another oddity. He always wore white. He believed that wearing white made him feel "clean in a dirty world." He also designed his own shirts—and they buttoned in back. He washed his hair every day to keep his hair shiny, and he smoked up to forty cigars a day.

Three of his children died before he did, as did his wife. As the story goes, he was so distraught over finding the gift that the youngest daughter had intended on giving him for Christmas (it was a large globe, something he had always wanted), he stopped writing. Four months later, he slipped into a coma and died of heart disease near Redding, Connecticut in 1910.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer was written pretty quickly, in London and other places, but it was set aside for two years before Twain would eventually complete it. According to Twain, most of the adventures in the story really happened. The book sold two million copies while he was alive and it is still his most popular book.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, which could be called a “companion” to Tom Sawyer, has been called one of the most controversial books of all time. It was banned as soon as it was published because of its nonstandard grammar and Huck's “casual morals,” it is banned now because it is viewed as a racist book. Oddly enough, Twain thought the book was about equality and the universality of everyone's dreams. He hated slavery and paid the expenses of the first black students at Yale Law School and various other colleges. In addition, *Huck* has been called the “best book ever written in America.” Ernest Hemingway said, “All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since.”

SECRETS OF MCDOWELL'S CAVE

Probably the most famous Missouri cave is the infamous McDowell's Cave, more properly called McDowell's Cave, or, today, Mark Twain Cave. The approximately 2-mile long cave, a maze of crisscrossed passages, first gained world-wide fame in 1876 with the publication of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

The story of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher's adventure underground has probably been responsible for more candles and string being taken into the dark than can ever be counted. What is less well known is the story of the cave itself.

Discovered in the winter of 1819 or 1820 by Jack Simms, the cave became notorious during the 1840s, after its purchase by Dr. Joseph Nash McDowell. In 1849, McDowell put a wooden door on the cave and locked it. This behavior aroused local suspicion; and soon it came to light that the doctor, in addition to his apparent ability as a surgeon, was quite interested in experiments and research on cadavers. This extended methods of preservation, and one of his most macabre experiments involved suspending a copper and glass flask containing the body of his 14-year-old daughter in the cave.

Once the locals found out, such a commotion was raised that the body was removed a year or so later. McDowell aligned himself with the Southern cause during the Civil War and stockpiled guns and ammunition at his medical college in St. Louis. This gave rise to rumors of ammunition stashed in his cave, although never proven. McDowell died in 1868 and the cave was purchased by the Fielder and Stilwell families. After the publication of *Tom Sawyer*, the cave became a full-fledged tourist attraction, with the press of visitors calling John East to start a cave guide service in 1886. This made Mark Twain Cave the first commercial cave in Missouri. You may visit the Mark Twain Cave on-line at: <http://www.marktwaincave.com/>

ADDITIONAL HISTORY ABOUT MARK TWAIN

A Question of Race

Mark Twain and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

One of Mark Twain's earliest memories was being unable to sleep because of a captured runaway slave waiting to be shipped downriver, and his own family kept slaves, occasionally beating them for various offenses. He had even seen an owner kill a slave over a task poorly done. He never questioned it.

When he grew up, Mississippi was a slave state. Everyone he knew owned slaves, and he really didn't think there was anything wrong with slavery. No one else questioned the system, either, or so he thought.

As Twain grew older, he started seeing slaves more as individuals. He had wonderful memories of Uncle Daniel, the head of the slave family at his Uncle John's house, where he spent his summers. Uncle Daniel told wonderful, scary stories to all children—black or white—who cared to listen. Uncle Daniel would become the model for Jim, the slave who runs away with Huck.

Huck Finn would be modeled on Tom Blankenship, Twain's best friend with whom he got into much of his mischief. One act of Tom's elder brother, Benson, would stay with Twain for life. Once, Benson found a runaway slave. He could have turned him in for the \$50 reward (not to mention the admiration that came with it). The Blankenships were extremely poor and could have used both, but he wouldn't turn the slave in and brought him food for several weeks. Soon, though, word leaked out, and the slave was chased into the swamp and drowned.

When Twain left home and traveled to California, he began to see how the Chinese immigrants were being treated, and he began writing articles about the poor treatment. Later, he would go to New York and meet the Langdon family—devout abolitionists who used to have other abolitionists, black and white, over to dinner frequently. Twain learned more about the cause, and possibly his affection for Olivia Langdon helped him to speed up his changing views. Still, he began writing anti-slavery articles and began using “negro” instead of “nigger” to refer to blacks in his writing. Among his first articles in the Buffalo Express (he was part-owner) was a condemnation of a mob that lynched a black man in Tennessee found to be innocent, which had Twain writing still more furiously about the incident.

As Twain grew older, he began giving money to blacks to further their educations. He called it “part of the reparation due from every white to every black man.” Toward the end of this life, he stopped making speaking engagements unless a black parish asked him to speak at their church. He always found time for those engagements.

Despite the many condemnations of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* today, Twain considered the book to be about the universality of us all. In fact, Twain wrote some of the most powerful anti-slavery literature of his day. Maybe his humor isn't always understood, but his works—including *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—should be on the “must-read” list for everyone, regardless of age, color or belief.

TOM VS. THE MODEL BOY

During the early and mid-19th century, many boys' stories were moralistic tales featuring heroes who were "model boys"—characters who avoid trouble and try to do only good. Horatio Alger, the author of *Ragged Dick* (1867) and other similar books, was perhaps the most famous author of such stories. Twain despised such books and the boys who populated them. In *Life on the Mississippi* Twain voiced his disregard for this type of impeccably dressed and well-mannered boy: "He was the admiration of all the mothers, and the detestation of all their sons."

As Mark Twain began his writing career, a new trend was on the rise in children's literature. Authors such as Thomas Baily Aldrich and P. B. Shillaber were finding success with their "bad boy" stories. In 1865 Twain's *The Story of a Bad Little Boy* made the point that normal boys can misbehave and still become respectable grown-ups. Twain's major attack on the idea of the model boy came in *Tom Sawyer*. At the novel's outset, Tom's fight with the model boy of the town immediately establishes that Tom is someone completely different.

Although some may classify Tom as a "bad boy," William Dean Howells pointed out in the original review of *Tom Sawyer* that it is really a matter of degree. Tom "...is mischievous, but not vicious...he resorts to any stratagem to keep out of school, but he is not a downright liar, except upon terms of after shame and remorse that make his falsehood bitter to him. His is cruel, as all children are, but chiefly because he is ignorant; he is not mean, but there are definite bounds to his generosity; and his courage is full of prudence and mindful of retreat as one of the conditions of prolonged hostilities. In a word, he is a boy, and merely and exactly an ordinary boy on the moral side." (Howells, 621)

Walter Blair elaborates, "Twain's preachment is that Tom is what a normal boy should be; his mischief is a harmless part of his maturing; and he will become a well-adjusted adult. Accordingly, each of several lines of action begins with Tom's behaving in an irresponsible childish fashion and ends with an incident signifying his approach to responsible maturity. The love story begins with his fickle desertion of a former sweetheart and his ungainly attempts to win Becky; it ends with his...bravely helping her in the cave. The story of Tom and Muff Potter begins with the superstitious trip to the graveyard; it ends with Tom's defiance of boyish superstition and his courageous testimony in court. At the end, in a conversation with Huck, Tom though still a boy, is talking very much like an adult." (Blair, 79)

Twain's belief in the natural growth and maturation of Tom is further supported by the novel's conclusion—"So endeth this chronicle. It being strictly a history of a boy, it must stop here; the story could not go much further without becoming the history of a man."

THE 1840S

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is set in the 1840s—a very exciting time in the ever expanding country that was America. Immigrants were arriving from far off countries. People were traveling west over the Oregon and Santa Fe trails. Battles for women’s rights were being waged. The first women’s colleges, Mount Holyoke and Wesleyan, opened in the late 1830s. The issue of slavery was beginning to divide the country ethically, morally and politically. The Amistad trial reached the Supreme Court in 1841. American writers such as Herman Melville, Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper (a writer who Twain publicly criticized, but also owes a clear debt to) began to be recognized.

It was a time rich with potential. Adventure and romance could be found in the classic stories, dime novels or newspaper articles that Tom read. Encourage your students to explore one of the above events or an item or person from the timeline below and present an oral or written report.

- 1840 • William Henry Harrison elected the ninth president
- 1841 • Harrison dies; John Tyler is 10th president
- 1843 • Dorothea Dix begins to crusade to reform treatment of the mentally ill
- 1844 • First telegraph message sent in Morse code
 - James K. Polk is elected 11th president
- 1845 • Florida and Texas are the 27th and 28th states
 - 3,000 pioneers take the Overland trails west
 - John L. O’Sullivan talks of “Manifest Destiny”
- 1846 • The Oregon Treaty gives Oregon to the U.S.
 - Iowa becomes the 29th state
- 1846-48 • The Mexican-American War
- 1848 • Zachary Taylor is elected 12th president
 - Wisconsin becomes the 30th state
 - The Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Declaration
 - Ellen and William Craft escape slavery
- 1849 • The California Gold Rush begins
- 1850 • Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Daniel Webster forge the Compromise of 1850

SUPERSTITION

From cures to curses, the current of superstition runs strongly through both the novel and the play. Many of the superstitions encountered in *Tom Sawyer* come from a list of childhood superstitions that Twain compiled over the years. Superstition sets into motion one of the key actions of the plot. Huck and Tom's argument over the various methods of curing warts leads to their midnight journey with a dead cat to the graveyard. There, they witness the murder of Dr. Robinson by Joe and the framing of Muff Potter for the crime. Subsequently, Tom and Huck swear a blood oath to keep secret the truth of what happened. When Tom later breaks that oath, Huck is extremely upset, not only out of fear for what Joe might do, but also out of superstitious fear that a blood oath has been broken.

Tom and Huck seem to put a lot of belief in superstitions. What is a superstition? Brainstorm as many superstitions as possible with your students. Then, choose a superstition to research—where did it come from? Is it still said very much today? Is there any truth to it? Ask your students to report their findings to the rest of the class.

Here are some examples of superstitions and the reasons why they are viewed as “good luck” or “bad luck”:

BREAKING A MIRROR

Breaking a mirror means seven years of bad luck, unless you take the pieces outside & bury them in moonlight. Also, an undisturbed mirror in a house suddenly fall and smashes means that there will soon be a death.

KNOCKING ON WOOD

Knocking on wood, and the spoken expression “knock on wood” or “touch wood,” used as a charm to bring good luck or to avoid “tempting fate” after making some boast or similar statement. Why? It was believed that good spirits lived in trees, and that by knocking on anything made from wood, we could call upon these spirits for protection against misfortune.

SPILLING SALT

Salt used to be an expensive commodity used mainly for medicinal purposes. For this reason, spillage was to be avoided at all costs. The idea that it is unlucky to do so probably stems from the belief that Judas spilled salt during the Last Supper. Throwing spilt salt over the left shoulder is linked to its medicinal use. If it could not be administered, the next best thing was to throw it into the eye of the evil spirits that brought sickness upon us. These spirits were thought to lurk behind one's shoulder, waiting for an opportunity to strike.

THEATER ART

NEWSCAST

Ask your students to make news reports about the events that happened in *Tom Sawyer* from their point of view. This is a great theater activity, which also encourages reading, writing, thinking, listening and speaking skills. Group 5-7 students into news teams, each with an anchorperson, ad writers, and reporters. Together each group plans and presents newscasts (live as a theatre piece) to the rest of the class.

The subject is to produce a report about one of the most “newsworthy” events in Tom’s town — for example, Muff Potter’s trial, Tom and Becky getting lost in the cave, or Tom revealing Joe as the murderer.

Anchor persons—organize the newscasts, including scripts of their reports, direct a rehearsal, and anchor the performance

Reporters—write stories and/or offer live reports. (Interview main characters and townspeople about what happened and how they feel about it.)

Ad Writers—prepare commercials for local products of the town and period, and act out the commercials. Play the main characters and townspeople for interviews as needed.

CREATIVE WRITING

The following are some creative writing topics around the story of *Tom Sawyer*. Pick the one that is most appealing to you and ask your students to write an article based on these topics.

TOTAL ANONYMITY

Mark Twain wrote under a pseudonym or pen name. If you were to write stories or poems or plays, what name would you use? Why did you choose it?

HELP WANTED

Choose one of the characters from *Tom Sawyer* and analyze for possible employment potential. For which type of job would he or she be most qualified? Write a want ad and a letter of application from one of the characters.

VENGEANCE!

Revenge is one of the "big issues" of *Tom Sawyer*. Who wants to get revenge? Why? How might the story have been different if he didn't try to get revenge? Think about other stories you've read or movies you've seen in which one character spends a lot of time thinking about taking revenge on another character. Why was he or she mad in the first place? Should he or she take revenge on the other character? Why or why not? What happens when the “revenging” character tries to enact his or her revenge? Write an essay or a creative story about revenge answering the question, “is revenge effective?”

COMPARISON/CONTRAST

JUNIOR CRITICS

You may be familiar with the Disney adaptation of *Tom Sawyer* called *Tom and Huck*. As the video is only about an hour-and-a-half long, you may want to show it to your students before or after they have seen the play. This adaptation is fairly similar to the play, but (as always) there are some differences. Write a comparison/contrast essay or discuss in class what was different and what was the same. Which version did they like better? Which do they think they will remember longer?

FRIENDSHIP

Tom and Huck are the best of friends, but they're quite different from one another. Ask your students to use the "Friends Forever" worksheet to compare the differences and similarities between these two characters.

ARTS

All by Myself

In addition to spending much of the day scheming, Tom and Huck spend a lot of time exploring. Ask your students to create a project showing a real or a fantasy place that they like to go. Depending on the scale of the project, ask your student to draw on a paper or build a model using recycled material. When sharing the project, ask them to answer these questions: Where is the location? Why do they like going there? Why is it different from anywhere else? What kind of things do they usually keep there?

Portraits

Imagine that you were one of Tom's friends. Draw a picture of the two of you together on an adventure.

Remember – First Stage Children's Theater would love to display your student's artwork in our lobby during the run of the performance.

Call or e-mail Yiren Tsai for details
(414) 267-2975, ytsai@firststage.org

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the major theme of the play?
2. Why do Tom and the boy get into the fight at the beginning of the story? Is there ever a good reason to get into a fight? Why or why not?
3. Why might the boys want to help Tom with the fence? What kind of strategies did Tom use?
4. Why do you think Tom likes Becky? Why might Becky like Tom? How did Becky react when Tom says that she's not the first girl he's been "engaged" to? Why did she react that way?
5. What would you do if you'd seen a murder like Tom and Huck did? Why wouldn't Tom and Huck tell anybody what they saw? How easy would it be for you to tell what you saw? What might make it more difficult? What might make it easier to tell?
6. How might Tom have kept from getting lost in the cave with Becky? How well does he handle the situation after he realizes that they are lost? How does he keep both himself and Becky safe?
7. The set has realistic elements, but it wouldn't be considered realistic. Was the set effective in helping tell the story? Why or why not?
8. Of the young characters in the play, who are you most like? Why? Who would you most like to be? Why?
9. Why doesn't Aunt Polly whip Tom, even though the other adults told her that she should? What does she do instead?
10. Why is Tom the only person who pays attention to Huck? What did that tell you about the "good" people of the town?
11. Of the three people grave-robbing that night, who is the most respected? Who was actually the kindest man there? What does this tell you about appearances?
12. Does Huck hesitate to go into the "unexplored" sections of the caves when he hears that Tom and Becky are lost? What does this say about Tom and Huck's friendship? What does this say about Huck's character?

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ANSWER KEY

Who said it?

1. Huck 2. Miss Dobbins 3. Aunt Polly 4. Tom 5. Muff 6. Tom 7. Becky 8. Huck 9. Reverend 10. Huck 11. Muff 12. Tom 13. Joe 14. Becky 15. Joe 16. Tom

Inventor Answer

1.B 2.I 3.D 4.K 5.J 6.E 7.L 8.F 9.G 10.A 11.C 12.H

Tom's World

1. Becky 2. Aunt Polly 3. Huck 4. Whitewash 5. Sid 6. Graveyard 7. Missouri
8. Muff Potter 9. Doc Robinson

The original pseudonym or pen name of Samuel Clemens:

Answer: Mike Swain

Tricky Tom's Word Search

Answer:

W F L Y K B V M A P N K K K E
L E D I S A X M G O T K K M F
G G P J U D U I S E A Y P R V
R U W Z E A M N I X W Y G I D
A Z L C H S I H T X B A M D M
V T S S O B C C L E S U S R T
E J V P O M U F F P O T T E R
Y K A R K F S P F D D L E G U
A L C B B O S Q L B I R L H O
R O Q A M E B L H V Z R U Y S
D P J U D C E J M B P C G Z S
Z I D Y Y S C L X H K Z W D I
M I G E L R K B R X S O I S M
V B F U S G Y A L B S O F V K
T X Y O U H S A W E T I H W H

Other Answers

You'll notice in your guide the appearance of several "open-ended" questions intended to provoke discussion. There are no definite answers to these questions. These questions serve to open a student's mind and make reasonable responses to the question at hand and, further, to provide evidence based on what they know to justify their given answer. Please take advantage of these opportunities to build communication and reasoning skills.

STUDENT WORKSHEET

GREAT INVENTORS AND THEIR WORKS

Mark Twain loved to invest in inventions. He once lost \$200,000 on a failed typesetting machine, but chose not to invest in the telephone. To show he had no hard feelings, Twain later had the first telephone installed in a private house. The 1800s and early 1900s were filled with discovery. Match the inventors with their inventions or designs.

- A. Noah Webster
- B. Alexander Graham Bell
- C. Christopher Sholes
- D. Henry Ford
- E. John Roebling
- F. Frederick Law Olmsted
- G. Louis Sullivan
- H. Cyrus McCormick
- I. Orville and Wilbur Wright
- J. Thomas Alva Edison
- K. Eli Whitney
- L. Elisha Graves Otis

- 1. Telephone
- 2. Airplane
- 3. Automobile
- 4. Cotton Gin
- 5. Light Bulb
- 6. Modern Suspension Bridge
- 7. (Safe) Elevator
- 8. Central Park, New York City
- 9. Skyscraper
- 10. Dictionary
- 11. Typewriter
- 12. Mechanical Reaper

- 1. Which of these inventions has been the most useful to you? Why?
- 2. Which of these inventions do you think has been the most useful to humanity? Why?
- 3. Which is the “coolest” invention? Why?
- 4. Which inventor would you like to have lunch with to discuss his invention? Why?
- 5. Which invention do you think Tom and Huck would have wanted to get a hold of? Why?

STUDENT WORKSHEET DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Tom and Huck face many choices throughout the novel and the play. Although they tried to do the right thing, they didn't always make the best decisions. In pairs or small groups, discuss the following situations. Then, on a piece of paper, answer the following questions: 1) What would Tom and Huck do? 2) What would you do (really)? 3) What might you be expected to do? 4) What might be the consequences of each choice?

1. It's a gorgeous day out—sunny, 75 degrees and barely a cloud in the sky. Unfortunately, it's also a school day. You know your class is reviewing today for a big test, but you're certain that you know everything already. It's a half-day of school, so it's not too likely that your school secretary will call home to find out where you are if you decide to just go to the park today.
2. You're walking home from school one day and you see a kid who can't be much older than six running down the street. She looks scared. No one is chasing her, but something seems wrong.
3. You see your best friend buying something from an older guy who lives in your neighborhood. When you ask him about it, he shoves whatever it is into his pocket and changes the subject. The whole thing seems suspicious, but he is your friend and it might be nothing. Still...
4. You're babysitting your twin five-year-old cousins when one of them hits you—hard—with a large plastic toy.
5. You and your friend are climbing rocks near your house. You find a cave. It's still light out and you could explore it, but you left your flashlights back home. You know there could be a snake in the cave, but there might not be one... and it is a neat-looking cave...
6. You stay after school to clean out your locker one day when you hear what sounds like a fight coming from Mrs. Davis' room. Mrs. Davis is your least favorite teacher in the whole school. No one else is around. Suddenly, Mrs. Davis screams.

STUDENT WORKSHEET TOM'S WORLD

Answer each question and then write the letter in the brackets in the space at the bottom to find out the secret word.

1. She was the girl Tom liked. _ [] _ _ _
2. Tom lived with this woman. _ _ [] _ _ _ _ _ _
3. He's Tom's best friend. _ _ _ []
4. Tom had to do this to a fence. [] _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
5. Tom's brother's name. [] _ _
6. Tom saw a crime here. _ _ [] _ _ _ _ _ _
7. The state where Tom and Huck lived. _ _ _ _ _ _ []
8. Joe's partner—until he turned on him. [] _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
9. He was the person that Joe killed. _ _ _ _ [] _ _ _ _

The original pseudonym or pen name of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain):

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
8 7 3 1 5 4 6 9 2

The answer may surprise you. Ask your teacher to read the article on Mark Twain for an explanation.

TRICKY TOM'S WORD SEARCH

Use the names and words that you came up with for the Hannibal Characters' activity and circle those names below.

W F L Y K B V M A P N K K K E
 L E D I S A X M G O T K K M F
 R G P J U D U I S E A Y P R V
 X U W Z E A M N I X W Y G I D
 V Z L C H S I H T X B A M D M
 X T S S O B C C L P S U S R E
 B J V P O M U F F P O T T E R
 M K A R K F S P F D D L E G D
 C L C B B O S Q L B I R L H Y
 F O Q A M E Z L H V Z R U Y R
 D P J U D C B J M B P C G Z G
 Z I D Y Y S E L X H K Z W D Q
 M I G E L R C B R X S O I S E
 V B F U S G K A L B S O F V K
 T X Y O U R Y G Z Y D J R C H

WHO SAID IT?

Can you remember which character said each of the following lines and why?

1. Oh stop always yellin' about the dern book.
2. Miss Polly, with all respect, I advise you to do your duty by the boy.
3. I'll be the ruination of you, I will, 'cause I haven't the heart to give you a lickn' when you're deserving.
4. I reckon there ain't one boy in a thousand, maybe two thousand that could paint this fence the right way.
5. You stay clear o' Joe.
6. Say Becky, was you ever engaged to be married?
7. You think you can give me a stupid old pocket knife and everything's better!?
8. Now don't be steppin' on any graves. You do, make sure you cross yourself three times, turn three times, and spit. And don't even think about lookin' at the moon over your left shoulder.
9. Spare the rod and spoil the child. So sayeth the good book.
10. We can't ever tell another livin' soul what we seen...or we're dead for sure.
11. Learn a good lesson from me and don't find yourself in my place some day.
12. Muff Potter didn't kill the Doc—it was him!
13. That score is settled. Not so bossy now are you?
14. Can you find the way, Tom? It's all mixed-up crookedness to me now.
15. You've a habit'o followin' me, haven't you, boy?
16. T'weren't me found the way out...it was Huck. It was Huckleberry saved our lives.