

## Character Traits and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain's classic novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was published in 1876. It's the story of Tom Sawyer, a Missouri boy growing up in a small town on the Mississippi River. Tom is an orphan who lives with his Aunt Polly.

In the passage below, Tom and his friends Huckleberry Finn and Joe Harper have run away to an island. The townspeople, including Tom's Aunt Polly, believe the boys have drowned and are searching the river for the boys' bodies. Tom has crept back to the town to see what is happening. He has written a note to his aunt on a piece of bark. At her house, as he tries to leave it at her bedside, a heart-broken Aunt Polly and some neighbors arrive. Tom then hides under Aunt Polly's bed.

### The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

by Mark Twain

#### Chapter XV

He had to keep still long after she went to bed, for she kept making broken-hearted exclamations from time to time, tossing unrestfully, and turning over. But at last she was still, only moaning a little in her sleep. Now the boy stole out, rose gradually by the bedside, shaded the candle-light with his hand, and stood regarding her. His heart was full of pity for her. He took out his sycamore scroll and placed it by the candle. But something occurred to him, and he lingered considering. His face lighted with a happy solution of his thought; he put the bark hastily in his pocket. Then he bent over and kissed the faded lips, and straightway made his stealthy exit, latching the door behind him.

He threaded his way back to the ferry landing, found nobody at large there, and walked boldly on board the boat, for he knew she was tenantless except that there was a watchman, who always turned in and slept like a graven image. He untied the skiff at the stern, slipped into it, and was soon rowing cautiously upstream. When he had pulled a mile above the village, he started quartering across and bent himself stoutly to his work. He hit the landing on the other side neatly, for this was a familiar bit of work to him. He was moved to capture the skiff, arguing that it might be considered a ship and therefore legitimate prey for a pirate, but he knew a thorough search would be made for it and that might end in revelations. So he stepped ashore and entered the woods.

List 10 character traits of Tom.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Bonus question

What are three character traits that Tom does not seem to have?

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**Actual student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers.**

List 10 character traits of Tom.

1. kind
2. caring
3. patient
4. adventurous
5. brave
6. clever
7. mischievous
8. independent
9. careful
10. naughty

#### Bonus question

What are three character traits that Tom does not seem to have?

mean

stupid

dull