

Tom Canty and Edward Tudor of *The Prince and the Pauper* are physically identical but in other ways they are exact opposites. Of course their lives and circumstances are completely opposite, the one is a street urchin and thief, the other a crown prince being reared to be king in a palace. The differences go deeper, however, and their personal traits, the traits that determine their place in the world, are opposites.

Tom is mistreated, disrespected and unloved. Edward is treated magnificently, his every wish matters, and deeply respected and much beloved, even by Henry VIII.

Tom has no personal voice: he can't say who he is. Edward has a strong personal voice and continually says who he is regardless of the persecution that it brings his way. This trait of having or not having a voice relates to inner personal integrity: Tom lacks it, Edward has it. Because of this, Tom can't assert his thoughts while Edward can assert his thoughts and intentions; for example, while Miles is in the stocks, he asserts that Miles shall be an Earl.

This shows that Tom does not have a strong mind of his own, whereas Edward does have a strong mind of his own. Tom has never learned respect for objects, while Edward values and respects objects rightly. The boys, though very different, have one trait in common. They are both able to see the reality in new situations and to grow and develop in them. Tom has the ability to rise to a nobler state of mind and life. Edward has the ability to learn compassion for outrages he has never seen before.

**More:**

The pauper's name is Tom Canty. The prince's name is Edward Tudor.

Tom Canty is an unwanted infant because he is another mouth to feed. All England wants Edward Tudor because he is an heir to the throne.

Tom Canty wears rags; Edward Tudor is clothed in silks and satins.

Only his own family talks about Tom Canty. Edward Tudor is talked about by all England — who celebrate.

All England wants a male heir to the throne. Problems of succession can arise when a king dies without leaving a male heir behind. Sometimes the result is civil war.

The two boys are born on the same day: 12 October 1537.