

ENTEBBE BRIGHT SECONDARY SCHOOL

S.2 ENGLISH/LITERATURE

TIME: 1HR 30 MINS

ATTEMPT ALL QUESTIONS

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

In the novel The adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, Tom lives with his Aunt Polly. She has given him the job of painting the front fence. Tom is busy with brush and paint when Ben, a boy he knows, comes by. Ben teases Tom about having to work, saying:

"Hello, old chap, you go to work, hey?"

Tom pretends he has not noticed Ben.

"Why, it's you, Ben! I warn't noticing."

"Say_ I'm going in a swimming, I am. Don't you wish you could? But of course you druther work _ wouldn't you? Course you would!"

Tom contemplated the boy a bit, and said:

"What do you call work?"

"Why, ain't that work?"

Tom resumed his whitewashing, and answered carelessly:

"Well, maybe it is, and maybe it ain't. All I know, is, it suits Tom Sawyer."

"Oh come, now, you don't mean to let on that you like it?"

The brush continued to move.

"Like it? Well, I don't see why I oughtn't to like it. Does a boy get a chance to whitewash a fence every day?"

That put the thing in a new light. Ben stopped nibbling his apple. Tom swept his brush daintily back and forth _ stepped back to note the effect _ added a touch here and there _ criticised the effect again _ Ben watching every move and getting more and more interested, more and more absorbed. Presently he said:

" Say, Tom, let me whitewash a little."

Tom considered, was about to content; but he altered his mind:

"No_ no_ I reckon it wouldn't hardly do, Ben. You see, Aunt Polly's awful particular about this fence _ right here on the street, you know _ but if it was the back fence I wouldn't mind and she wouldn't. Yes, she's awful particular about this fence; it's got to be done very careful; I reckon there ain't one boy in a thousand, maybe two thousand, that can do it the way it's got to be done."

Ben continues to persuade Tom to let him paint, until Tom, looking reluctant but feeling jubilant, accept the bribe of an apple and hands over his brush to Ben to use while he goes to sit in the shade close by.

As the afternoon goes on, Tom uses the same wily plot on all the boys who come past and mock him. Each of them ends up painting the fence in return for something precious which they trade with Tom.

By the time Ben was fragged out, Tom had traded the next chance to Billy Fisher for a kite, in good repair; and when he played out, Johnny Miller bought in for a dead rat and a string to swing it with _ and so on, and so on, hour after hour. And when the middle of the afternoon came, from being a poor poverty-stricken boy in the morning, Tom was literally rolling in wealth. He had besides the things before mentioned, twelve marbles, part of a Jew's harp, a piece of blue bottle-glass to look through, a spoon-cannon, a key that wouldn't unlock anything, a fragment of chalk, a glass stopper of a decanter, a tin soldier and a couple of tadpoles, six fire-crackers, a kitten with only one eye, a brass door-knob, a dog-collar _ but no dog _ the handle of a knife, four pieces of orange-peel, and a dilapidated old window sash.

Questions

1. Do you think it was fair for Aunt Polly to make Tom paint the fence? Give reasons
2. What makes Tom's approach to work interesting?
3. The adventures of Tom Sawyer is set in the 1840s when it was common for children to work rather than go to school. Do you think it is still possible to make children of Tom's age do this kind of work? Explain your answer.
4. The language and content of extract shows you that the novel was written long ago. Find three words or phrases in the extract that support this.
5. If you were Tom, what would you have done to get the fence painted?
6. Show that you know the meaning of the following words:
7.
 - i) contemplated
 - ii) Whitewashing
 - iii) Nibbling
 - iv) Criticised
 - v) Reluctant
 - vi) Jubilant bankrupted
2. Write a poem in your own words but with poetic features in a praise of your favorite teacher.