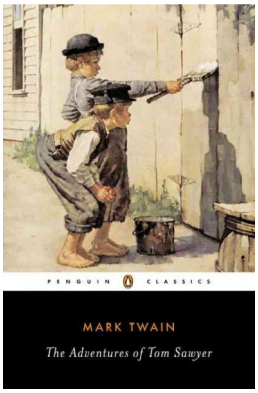
"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" reviewed by Sarah on June 15, 2010



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Name:
Sarah
Grade:
11
Title:
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Author:
Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain
Genre:
historical
Write a review of the book, including plot points, if you wish:
In the classic, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, written by Mark Twain, the main character is Tom Sawyer, an imaginative boy whose life is full of adventures. Three of Tom's main characteristics are his imaginativeness, his sorrowfulness, and his nobleness. Tom is a very imaginative boy who is always getting himself into trouble. Then Tom feels sorrow when, in his urge for adventure, he causes those he loves to be hurt. Finally, Tom, when those he loves are faced with punishment, shows his nobility by accepting their punishment himself. The first characteristic of Tom is his imaginativeness. Tom says: "I, indeed! I am Robin Hood, as ty caitiff carcase soon shall know." In this scene, Tom Sawyer and Joe Harper are pretending that they are Robin Hood and Guy of Guisborne fencing in Sherwood Forest, thus letting their imaginations run wild for a time in which they finally say that "they would rather be outlaws a year in Sherwood Forest than President of the United States for ever." The second example of Tom's imaginativeness is when Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, and Joe Harper ran away from home to become pirates. Tom said: "'Oh, they have just a bully time-take ships, and burn them, and get the money and bury it in awful places in their island where there's ghosts and things to watch it, and kill everybody in the ships-make them walk a plank.'" In this scene, Tom is explaining to Huck what pirates do. Tom again let's his imagination run wild when he explains what he thinks pirates do. Finally, the third example of Tom's imaginativeness is when he had the idea to become a robber. Tom stated: "A robber is more high-toned than what a pirate is-as a general thing. In most countries they're awful high up in the nobility-dukes and such...And you've got to swear on a coffin, and sign it with blood." In this scene, Tom is explaining to Huck how much better a robber is than a pirate and continues using his imagination when he adds that "you've

got swear ona coffin, and sign it with blood." Thus Tom has proven of his possessing the trait of imaginativeness. The second of Tom Sawyer's characteristics is his sorrowfulness for hurting others. Tom "stole out, rose gradually by the bedside, shaded the candle-light with his hand, and stood regarding her. His hear was full of pity for her...he bent over and kissed the faded lips." In this scene, Tom is feeling sorrow for having caused his aunt so much grief for her nephew, who she thinks has drowned. Tom was planning on giving her a note in which he was to tell her not to worry about him and leaves her with a kiss instead, because he wants to wait until after the funeral before returning home. Even though he has the idea of coming home, but decides to wait until after the funeral, thereby causing his aunt to have to suffer a little longer, Tom does feel sorrow for his poor, old aunt and for hurting her. The next example is when Tom returns home and is showing his true sorrow for hurting his aunt. "Auntie, I know it was mean, but I didn't mean to be mean; I didn't honest...Because I loved you so...and I was so sorry." In this scene Tom is trying to convince his aunt that he loves her and was "so sorry" for hurting her and that he "didn't mean to be mean" and thus show's yet another example of his sorrowfulness. A final example of Tom's characteristic of sorrowfulness is: after Tom had ignored Becky Thatcher in order to get back at her for refusing to take his knob as a sign of their engagement because he mentioned that he had been engaged to Amy Lawrence before. "Without a moments hesitation he ran to her and said: 'I acted mighty mean today, Becky, and I'm so sorry. I won't ever, ever do it that way again as long as ever I live.'" In this statement Tom is truly showing how sorrowful he is for having hurt Becky and is asking her to make up with him. Thus, Tom's characteristic of possessing sorrowfulness for hurting others is truly his second character trait. The final characteristic of Tom Sawyer is his nobility. After Becky Thatcher had ripped a paper in the teacher's book, Mr. Dobbins asks each student individually if he or she had torn the book. "Tom was trembling from head to foot with excitement, and a sencse of the hopelessness of the situation. A thought shot like lightning through Tom's brain. He sprang to his feet and shouted: 'I done it!' When he stepped forward to go to his punishment, the surprise, the gratitude, the adoration that shone upon him out of poor Becky's eyes made him feel that it was worth it to lie." This act of Tom Sawyer showed that he truly had a love for Becky Thatcher and possessed an inner nobility of heart. The next example of Tom's nobility is when he told the truth of Muff Potter and how it was really Injun Joe who had killed the doctor, thereby saving Muff Potter from hanging. "'And as the doctor fetched the board around and Muff Potter fell, Injun Joe jumped with the knife...'" This great act of nobility, to save the life of innocent Muff Potter from hanging, and endangering his own life shows just how noble Tom Sawyer really is. The final example of Tom's nobleness is proven after Tom saved Becky from dying in McDougal's cave. Judge Thatcher said "that no commonplace boy would ever have got his daughter out of the cave." This statement made by Judge Thatcher proves even further of Tom's nobility and is significant because it is coming from a greatly admired man from the town. Thus, Tom Sawyer truly possesses the characteristic of nobility also. In conclusion, it has been proved that in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, written by Mark Twain, the main character Tom Sawyer truly does posses the characteristics of imaginativeness, sorrowfulness, and nobleness. In Tom's adventures he show his imaginativeness by his explanations of what outlaws, pirates, and robbers do in his own mind and this characteristic remains consistent throughout the book. Tom proves his sorrowfulness by sympathizing and apologizing for wrong he had done; this characteristic also remains constant throughout the book. Finally, Tom expresses his nobleness by taking the place of Becky Thatcher in her punishment for ripping the teacher's book, his defending the innocent man Muff Potter from hanging, and saving Becky Thatcher from McDougal's cave in which Judge Thatcher proves Tom's nobility by calling him "noble" and "generous." This characteristic too remains conistent throughout the book.

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