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THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
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Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Tom Sawyer

Author:

Mark Twain

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.

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How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

How does Tom turn the job of whitewashing the fence into something other boys want to do? What does this show about the way Tom thinks?

Example answer: I think Tom makes the fence seem special by acting like it is fun and important work. He does not beg the other boys to help, which makes them want to try it even more. This shows that Tom is clever and understands how to make people curious. He uses his imagination to get out of trouble.

Chapter 35

At the end of the book, what has changed for Tom and Huck? What do you think Mark Twain wants readers to think about freedom, friendship, and rules?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Why does Tom take the blame for Becky when the schoolmaster finds the torn book? What does this show about Tom's character?

Example answer: Tom takes the blame because he cares about Becky and does not want her to be punished. I think he knows he will get in trouble, but he chooses to protect her anyway. This shows that Tom is not only a prankster. He can also be brave, kind, and loyal when it really matters.

How do Tom and Becky react to being lost in the cave? What does Tom do that helps them keep going?

Example answer: If I were lost in the cave, I would feel scared just like Tom and Becky do. Becky becomes very tired and worried, but Tom keeps trying to find a way out. He shares food, comforts her, and explores carefully with the kite string. I think Tom shows real courage because he is afraid but still keeps thinking and helping.

Chapter 1

What do you learn about Tom from the way he acts with Aunt Polly, Sid, and the new boy in Chapter 1? Use details from the chapter to support your ideas.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

How does Huck feel about being praised and about living with Widow Douglas? Why might a comfortable home still feel hard for him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

The word fortune can mean a large amount of money or luck. How do Tom and Huck's choices lead them to their fortune in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does Tom turn the job of whitewashing the fence into something other boys want to do? What does this show about the way Tom thinks?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Tom can be mischievous, but he also has strong feelings. How does Chapter 3 show both sides of Tom's personality?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does the news about Injun Joe after the cave is sealed make this chapter feel shocking? What might readers feel about what happens to him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

How do Tom and Becky react to being lost in the cave? What does Tom do that helps them keep going?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Why is it funny or surprising when Tom receives the Bible prize at Sunday school? What does this moment tell you about appearances and honesty?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

In the church scene, how do the pinch-bug and the poodle change the mood? Why do you think Mark Twain includes this silly event?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Why is the town so worried about Tom and Becky? How does Huck's sickness add another problem to the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

How does the picnic create both fun and danger?
What clues show that Tom and Becky may be in trouble?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How do Tom and Huck show different attitudes about school, rules, and superstition in this chapter? Which boy would you rather spend an afternoon with, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What causes Tom and Becky to quarrel in Chapter 7? How could either one of them have handled the problem differently?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

How does Huck show courage when he follows Injun Joe and gets help? Why is Huck's decision important to the safety of others?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

Tom and Huck try to understand the clue about Number Two. What do they think it means, and what do you predict they will do next?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Tom imagines himself as a pirate, a robber, and Robin Hood. What do these adventure words mean to Tom, and why do they make him feel better when he is upset?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

How does the graveyard scene change the feeling of the story? What details make this chapter feel scary or serious?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

How does the haunted house scene build suspense? Which details make you worry about Tom and Huck?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

Why are Tom and Huck so interested in buried treasure? What does the word treasure mean to them besides just money?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Why do Tom and Huck make a secret oath after what they see in the graveyard? Do you think keeping the secret is the right choice? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

The word conscience means the part of you that helps you know right from wrong. How does Tom's conscience bother him in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

After the trial, why might Tom feel both proud and afraid? How does Injun Joe's escape keep the danger alive?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What makes Tom's testimony in Muff Potter's trial brave? How might Tom be feeling when he tells the truth?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What does Aunt Polly's pain-killer episode show about her care for Tom? How does the scene with the cat add humor to the chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Why do Tom, Joe, and Huck decide to run away to Jackson's Island? What are they hoping to escape from, and what are they hoping to find?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

During vacation, Tom tries new activities and goes through sickness and boredom. What does this chapter show about how quickly people's feelings and interests can change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

How does exam day reveal the personalities of the teacher and the students? Which part of the school celebration stands out most to you, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What parts of island life seem exciting to the boys? What parts show that their adventure is not as easy as they expected?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Why does Tom sneak back home instead of simply returning for good? What does this choice show about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Why does Tom take the blame for Becky when the schoolmaster finds the torn book? What does this show about Tom's character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What does Aunt Polly learn about Tom's secret visit home? How does this change the way she feels about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How do the storm and the boys' homesickness change the mood on the island? What do the boys begin to understand about home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How do the people's reactions at the funeral affect Tom, Joe, and Huck? What is surprising about the boys' return?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

How do jealousy and pride cause problems between Tom, Becky, and Alfred? What lesson could the characters learn from this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
