

# Tom Sawyer's Fence

adapted from the story by Mark Twain

Tom Sawyer looked at the fence and all gladness left him. Instead of enjoying his 15  
 Saturday, Tom had to whitewash the fence. With a sigh he dipped his brush into the 31  
 bucket and passed it along the first board. Tom knew the other boys would tease 46  
 him for having to work and the thought burned him like fire. Soon Tom heard Ben 62  
 coming along. Tom ignored him. "I'm going swimming," Ben said. "But of course you'd 76  
 rather *work!*" Tom thought a minute then said, "What do you call work?" Ben 90  
 couldn't believe what he was hearing. "You mean that you *like* it?" Tom swept his 105  
 brush back and forth. Ben was getting very interested. "Say, Tom, let *me* whitewash a 120  
 little." "No," said Tom, "There isn't one boy in a thousand that can do it the right 137  
 way." Ben pleaded, "Let me try! Just a little. I'll give you an apple." Tom made his 154  
 face look sad, but excitement filled his heart. Slowly he handed over the brush. 168  
 While Ben sweated in the sun, Tom sat in the shade and munched the apple. Other 184  
 boys came to tease, but stayed to whitewash. When Ben tired, Tom traded the next 199  
 chance to Billy for a kite—and so on. By afternoon, Tom owned twelve marbles, a bit 216  
 of chalk, a piece of blue glass, a knife handle, a couple tadpoles, a doorknob, a tin 233  
 soldier, and a key that didn't unlock anything. He had enjoyed a nice, lazy afternoon 248  
 and the fence had three coats of whitewash on it! If he hadn't run out of whitewash, 265  
 he'd have charged every boy in the village for the chance to paint his fence! 280

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

## Parent Tips

Bold or italic type, commas, exclamation marks, and type size are used to signal the reader that the meaning of those words is particularly important. This meaning should be emphasized during oral reading. Encourage your student to pay attention to the italics in this week's story. Ask how the emphasized words help her better understand the text.

### 1. What happened in the beginning?

- o Tom felt excited.
- o Ben ate an apple.
- o Tom felt bad.

### 2. What happened in the middle?

- o The boys painted for Tom.
- o Tom went swimming.
- o Tom whitewashed the fence.

### 3. What happened at the end?

- o All the boys went fishing.
- o Tom enjoyed the afternoon.
- o Tom felt bad about the fence.

4. Do you think Tom tricked the boys or was he being nice letting them have a turn whitewashing the fence? How do you know?

