

From *The adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

About half-past ten the cracked bell of the small church began to ring, and presently the people began to gather for the morning sermon. The Sunday-school children distributed themselves about the house and occupied pews with their parents, so as to be under supervision. Aunt Polly came, and Tom and Sid and Mary sat with her—Tom being placed next the aisle, in order that he might be as far away from the open window and the seductive outside summer scenes as possible. The crowd filed up the aisles: the aged and needy postmaster, who had seen better days; the mayor and his wife—for they had a mayor there, among other unnecessaries; the justice of the peace; the widow Douglass, fair, smart and forty, a generous, good-hearted soul and well-to-do, her hill mansion the only palace in the town, and the most hospitable and much the most lavish in the matter of festivities that St. Petersburg could boast; the bent and venerable Major and Mrs. Ward; lawyer Riverson, the new notable from a distance; next the belle of the village, followed by a troop of lawn-clad and ribbon-decked young heart-breakers; then all the young clerks in town in a body—for they had stood in the vestibule sucking their cane-heads, a circling wall of oiled and simpering admirers, till the last girl had run their gauntlet; and last of all came the Model Boy, Willie Mufferson, taking as heedful care of his mother as if she were cut glass. He always brought his mother to church, and was the pride of all the matrons. The boys all hated him, he was so good. And besides, he had been “thrown up to them” so much. His white handkerchief was hanging out of his pocket behind, as usual on Sundays—accidentally. Tom had no handkerchief, and he looked upon boys who had, as snobs. (Twain and Stoneley, 2008, 38)

Twain, M. and Stoneley, P. (2008) *The adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

1. Why was Tom placed next to the aisle during the church service?

- a) To keep an eye on the Sunday-school children
- b) To be closer to Aunt Polly
- c) To avoid distractions from the outside scenes
- d) To have a clear view of the cracked bell

2. Who is described as the most lavish in the matter of festivities in St. Petersburg?

- a) The justice of the peace
- b) The widow Douglass
- c) Lawyer Riverson
- d) The mayor and his wife

3. Who is referred to as the belle of the village?

- a) Aunt Polly
- b) Mary
- c) Sid
- d) The widow Douglass

4. How do the boys feel about the Model Boy, Willie Mufferson?

- a) They admire and respect him
- b) They are jealous and hate him
- c) They consider him a snob
- d) They see him as a rival for attention

5. How does Tom view boys who have handkerchiefs?

- a) He sees them as well-prepared and responsible
- b) He views them as snobs
- c) He admires their fashion sense
- d) He wishes he had a handkerchief himself

Answers:

- 1. To avoid distractions from the outside scenes
- 2. The widow Douglass
- 3. Mary
- 4. They are jealous and hate him
- 5. He views them as snobs