

· 英语简易读物 ·

Mark Twain

*The Adventures of
Tom Sawyer*

汤姆·莎耶历险记

(简 写 本)



商 务 印 书 馆

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馬克·吐溫 (Mark Twain) 的真名是薩繆爾·蘭亨·克利曼斯 (Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 1835-1910)，生于美国米苏里州的弗罗里达，是美国的批判现实主义作家和諷刺家。他父亲是一个法官，迁居在密西西比河畔的肯尼波尔城。他在他叔叔的农場里度过他的童年，这是他一生中最快乐的时期。他早年丧父，十二岁时不得不在肯尼波尔城一家印刷所当学徒。但因所得的工資不足以維持生活，他不久就离开肯尼波尔，流浪在密西西比河一带的各个城市，充当临时排字工人。他热爱水上生活，当过領港員。这时他开始接触并了解各式各样的人物，便着手写作。馬克·吐溫就是他当領港員开始写作时所用的笔名。

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CHAPTER 1

“FULL OF MISCHIEF”

“Tom!”¹

No answer.

“Tom!” cried Aunt Polly² again.

No answer.

“I wonder where that boy’s gone. TOM!”

The old lady pulled her spectacles down on her nose and looked over them about the room.³ Then she put them up and looked out under them. She seldom or never⁴ looked *through* them for so small a thing as a boy. She seemed puzzled for a moment and said:

“Well, if I catch you, I’ll——”

She did not finish, for by this time she was bending down and pushing the sweeping-brush under the bed. She disturbed nothing but the cat. Then she went to the open door and looked out in the garden. Tom was not in sight.⁵

1. Tom [tɒm] — 人名, Thomas 的简称.

2. Polly ['pɒli] — 人名.

3. looked over them about the room — 从眼镜片上面向房间里四周看看.

4. seldom or never — 极其难得.

5. Tom was not in sight. — (她)看不到汤姆,

"To-o-o-m!" she shouted.

There was a slight noise behind her, and she turned just in time to seize a small boy and prevent him from running away.

"What have you been doing in that cupboard?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing! Look at your hands, and look at your mouth. What is that stuff?"

"I don't know, aunt."

"Well, I know. It's jam. I've told you forty times¹ that if you touched that jam I'd skin you. Hand me that stick."

The blow was about to fall.²

"Hi! Look behind you, aunt!"

The old lady whirled round and snatched her skirts out of³ danger. The boy fled, and disappeared over the high fence of the garden. His aunt stood surprised for a moment, and then gave a gentle laugh.

"Hang the boy!⁴ Can't I ever learn anything? Hasn't he played that trick before? He's full of mischief, but he's my own dead sister's boy, poor thing, and I hate whipping him. Every time I hit him my old heart

1. I've told you forty times — 我已告诉过你几十次了。这里 "forty times" 作 "几十次" 或 "很多次" 解。

2. The blow was about to fall. — 正要打下去的时候。

3. out of = away from.

4. Hang the boy! — 这孩子真该死!

almost breaks, and every time I forgive him my conscience blames me. He'll stay away from school¹ this afternoon, and I'll be obliged to punish him by making him work tomorrow. It's cruel to make him work on a Saturday, when all the boys are having a holiday, but he hates work more than anything else, and I must do my duty towards the child, or I'll spoil his character."²

Tom did stay away from school, and he had a very good time.³ He returned just in time to help Jim,⁴ the small servant boy, to saw and split the next day's firewood before supper. Tom's younger brother (or rather stepbrother), Sidney,⁵ had already finished his part of the work, for he was a quiet boy, and had no adventurous, troublesome ways.⁶

While Tom was eating his supper and stealing sugar every time he had an opportunity, Aunt Polly was wondering whether Tom had disobeyed her and had been to the river. She had sewn up his shirt at the neck in order to prevent him from taking it off and swimming.

1. stay away from school — 逃学.

2. or I'll spoil his character — 否则我会把他纵坏了.

3. had a very good time — 玩得很痛快.

4. Jim [dʒim] — 人名.

5. Sidney ['sidni] — 人名.

6. adventurous, troublesome ways — 冒险和捣蛋的习惯.

"Tom, it was quite warm in school, wasn't it? Didn't you want to go swimming?"

"No, auntie.¹ Well, not much."

"Come here. Show me your collar."

Tom opened his coat. The neck-band of his shirt was securely sewn.

"Well, you may go out and play. I was sure that you had stayed away from school and been swimming."

"I thought you sewed his collar with white thread," said Sidney. "Now it's black."

"Why, I did sew it with white thread! Tom!"

But Tom did not wait for the rest. As he went out he said, "Sid,² I'll give you a beating for that."

In a safe place Tom examined two needles which were stuck in his coat. One needle had white thread wound round it and the other had black.

"She wouldn't have noticed it, but for³ Sid. Hang it, sometimes she sews it with white and sometimes she sews it with black. I can't remember which she uses. I wish she'd stick to one colour.⁴ But I'll make Sid suffer for that."

1. auntie — aunt 的亲热称呼。

2. Sid [sid] — Sidney 的简称。

3. but for — 如果不是。

4. stick to one colour — 老用一种颜色的线。

Within two minutes he had forgotten all his troubles. A stranger was standing before him, a boy a little bigger than himself. A stranger of any age, male or female, was an object of curiosity in the poor little village of St. Petersburg.¹ This boy was well dressed, too—well dressed on a week-day.² Tom stared scornfully at the stranger's fine clothes, which seemed to make his own appear worn-out. Neither boy spoke. Finally, Tom said:

“I can beat you!”

“I'd like to see you try it.”

“Well, I can do it.”

“No you can't.”

“Yes I can.”

“No you can't.”

“I can.”

“You can't.”

“Can.”

“Can't.”

An uncomfortable pause followed. Then Tom drew a line in the dust with his big toe, and said:

“You daren't step over³ that. If you do, I'll beat you till you can't stand up.”

1. A stranger of any age...of St. Petersburg [snt 'pi:təzbə:g]. — 在 St. Petersburg 这个貧苦的小村子里, 每一个陌生人, 不論是男是女, 都是人們好奇心的对象。

2. on a week-day — 在平日, 即在非星期日的日子里。

3. step over — 跨过。

The new boy at once stepped over the line, and said:

"Now let me see you do it."

"You had better be careful."

"Well, you *said* you'd do it. Why don't you do it?"

"For two cents I *will* do it."

The new boy took two coins out of his pocket, and held them out scornfully.

Tom struck them to the ground.

In an instant both boys were rolling in the dirt, fighting like cats. For a few minutes they tore at each other's hair and clothes, hit and scratched each other's noses, and covered themselves with dirt and glory.¹ At last through the dust of battle Tom appeared, sitting on the new boy and striking him with his fists.

"Say that you've had enough!"² said Tom.

The boy only struggled to free himself.

"Say, 'Enough!'"

The hitting went on.

Finally the stranger gasped "Enough!" Tom let him get up, and said, "Now that will teach you."³

1. covered themselves with dirt and glory — 弄得混身是泥土，也混身是威风。

2. Say that you've had enough! — (你)說一聲，吃够了! (意即“討饒!”)。

3. Now that will teach you. — 这下子可給你一个教訓了。

The new boy went off brushing the dust from his clothes, occasionally looking back and threatening what he would do to Tom the next time he met him. Tom replied with insults. As soon as Tom's back was turned the new boy snatched up a stone, threw it, and hit Tom between the shoulders. Then he ran like a deer. Tom chased the traitor home, and thus found out where he lived. He then held a position¹ at the gate for some time, daring the enemy to come outside; but the enemy only made faces at² him through the window, and refused. At last the enemy's mother appeared, and called Tom a vicious, impolite child, and ordered him to go away.

Tom got home late that night, and when his aunt saw the state of his clothes, she became more determined than ever to make him work hard during the holiday on Saturday.

CHAPTER 2

THE FENCE IS WHITEWASHED

Saturday ~~morning~~ had come and all the world was ~~bright and red~~. There was a song in every ~~heart~~, cheerfulness in every face, and

-
1. held a position 1. 摆好位置。
 2. made faces at 2. -- 做脸...扮鬼脸。