

TOM SAWYER

Adapted by Susan C. Hunter

From the book by Mark Twain

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**If a shorter version of this play is desired, Act One, Scene Five can be cut after Tom's line "Oh Lordy" and then omit the next three scenes. The play can then continue with Act Two, Scene Four. Huck's line "Thought you was the Widow Douglas. I been hidin' from her fer days" should then be cut. Please note that with the shorter version of the play, the role of Reverend Sprague does not appear.*

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Tom Sawyer – a high-spirited young boy of about 11 or 12

Sid Sawyer – his bratty younger brother

Aunt Polly – his aunt, strict but kindhearted

Amy Lawrence – Tom’s former girlfriend, sort of spoiled

Huckleberry Finn – the town orphan, doesn’t go to school, dressed in rags

Joe Harper – Tom’s friend

Ben Rogers – another friend of Tom’s

Becky Thatcher – the new girl, the object of Tom’s affections

Mrs. Harper – Joe’s mother

Alfred Temple – Miss Dobbins’ conceited nephew

Miss Dobbins – the old maid school teacher

Susan Harper – Joe’s sister

Gracie Fisher – a school girl

Meggie – school girl, 8 or 9 years old

Joanna – school girl, friend of Meggie

Muff Potter – the town drunk

Injun Joe – a murderous scoundrel

Doctor Robinson – a young man, taken to robbing graves for scientific research

Judge Thatcher – Becky’s father

Widow Douglas – A sweet-natured woman

Mrs. Thatcher – Becky’s mother

***Reverend Sprague – only appears in longer version of play**

ACT ONE, SCENE ONE:

Outside AUNT POLLY's house. School is just letting out. AMY, JOE, and SID enter with schoolbooks. GRACIE and SUSAN enter separately.

AMY

Hey, Gracie . Have you seen Tom?

GRACIE

He wasn't at school today.

AMY

I know, but he's 'sposed to walk me home every day, seein' as we're engaged.

SUSAN

You and Tom ain't engaged no more, Amy. I thought you never wanted to speak to him again.

AMY

That was yesterday. I'm ready to forgive and forget the past.

JOE

Somebody better tell that to Tom.

AMY

That's why I'm lookin' for him. So's we can get re-engaged.

SID

I ain't seen him, Amy. Reckon he played hooky again.

AMY

Sid Sawyer, you better keep mum about that to your Aunt Polly or Tom'll get you for sure. You tell him I was lookin' for him, you hear?

(SHE exits.)

SID

I ain't skeered of Tom Sawyer.

JOE

Here he comes now!

SID

(Scared)
Where?

(SID runs off in fear, as MUFF, TOM, and HUCK are heard offstage.)

JOE

Oh, he ain't skeered. Not a bit.

MUFF

*(As **THEY** enter, carrying fishing poles)*

Well, boys. I'm sure sorry the fishin' weren't good today.

HUCK

Maybe not, but the swimmin' was bully, warn't it, Tom.

TOM

I'll say, Hucky!

JOE

Hey, Tom. Did ya catch anything?

TOM

Naw, Joe. But I stubbed my toe.

JOE

Did it bleed?

TOM

Somethin' powerful!

JOE

Let me see!

AUNT POLLY

(From inside)

Tom! Tom Sawyer!

TOM

(Ready to escape)

Aunt Polly!

SID

Here he is, Auntie!

JOE

Bye, Tom. Hey, Amy Lawrence was lookin' for ya.

*(**JOE** exits, while **SID** makes kissing noises.)*

TOM

You hush up, Sid.

SID

Hush up yourself or maybe I'll tell somethin' about where you was today.

HUCK

S'long, Tom.

MUFF

Watch that toe, now.

(THEY exit as AUNT POLLY enters)

AUNT POLLY

Was that Huck Finn and Muff Potter just now? You stay away from that riffraff, Tom.

TOM

Aw, they's all right, Aunt Polly.

AUNT POLLY

Muff Potter's a drunk and that Huck'll never amount to nothin' but trouble.

SID

I hear Muff sure knows the best fishin' holes, though, don't he Tom.

AUNT POLLY

Oh, he does, does he? And he didn't happen to show you one today did he?

TOM

No ma'am. I was in school today.

AUNT POLLY

Reckon it was middlin' warm. Didn't you want to go in a-swimmin, Tom? Your hair looks damp.

TOM

Some of us pumped water on our heads. Just to cool off.

AUNT POLLY

You didn't have to undo your collar where I sewed it. Let me see, now.

TOM

Still sewed, just like you left it.

(AUNT POLLY examines the collar closely.)

AUNT POLLY

Well, go along with you.

SID

I thought you sewed his collar with white thread, but it's black.

AUNT POLLY

Why, I did sew it with white! Tom!

SID

Haa!

TOM

Just you wait, Sid!

AUNT POLLY

Oh no you don't. Go get the whitewash bucket and paint the fence.

TOM

But Ben and Joe and me was gonna play pirates.

AUNT POLLY

Should have thought on that when you decided to go a-swimming instead of doing your lessons. Go on.

TOM

Yes, ma'am.

(HE exits, returning momentarily with a pail and brush.)

AUNT POLLY

Come inside, Sid. You've got chores of your own.

SID

(Ingratiatingly)

Yes, Auntie.

AUNT POLLY

(Calling off to TOM, who has not yet returned)

You whitewash that fence nice and neat, now, Tom. And put two coats on it. You hear?

(SHE exits. TOM enters.)

TOM

By jingo, if that ain't too bad.

*(HE starts painting unenthusiastically. BECKY THATCHER enters.
TOM falls in love at first sight.)*

Hi.

BECKY

Hello. Watcha doing?

TOM

Nothin' much, just paintin' an old fence.

BECKY

Is it fun?

TOM

(Lying)

Sure it is. It's just dandy.

BECKY

Wished I could paint some, but my mama would skin me alive if she saw me. What's your name?

TOM

Tom Sawyer. What's yours?

BECKY

Becky Thatcher. We just moved in down at t'other end of the street. My daddy's a judge.

TOM

I ain't got a mama or a daddy. I live here with my Aunt Polly.

BECKY

Well, I better get back home. It was nice to meet you.

TOM

Could I walk ya to yer porch, maybe?

BECKY

Oh no! Yer all covered in whitewash.

TOM

I reckon I am.

BECKY

But maybe tomorrow. When yuh's all cleaned up.

TOM

You bet!

BECKY

Bye now.

TOM

Bye, Becky.

(SHE leaves. TOM sighs happily and starts painting the fence.)

Becky Thatcher. Tom and Becky. Becky and Tom. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sawyer.

(SID enters with a water pail.)

Hi, Sid. Watcha doin'?

SID

Fetching water for Aunt Polly.

TOM

Say, Sid, I'll get it for ya, if you'll whitewash some.

SID

Naw.

TOM

I'll give you a white alley marble.

SID

Where'd you get a white marble?

TOM

Traded it off of Ben Rogers for a rabbit foot.

SID

Let's see it.

TOM

(Pulling the marble from his pocket)

White alley, Sid. And it's a bully one.

(Suddenly AUNT POLLY appears)

AUNT POLLY

Get on with you, Sid. You, Tom. Get to work.

(SID exits, taking the marble with him, as TOM begins to paint.)

TOM

Hey, Sid! Gimme my white alley! Sid! If that don't beat all.

(JOE enters, eating an apple. TOM sees him and pretends to be hard at work on a masterpiece of art.)

JOE

Hi-ya! You're up a stump, ain't you? Tom?

TOM

Why it's you, Joe. I warn't noticin'.

JOE

I'm goin' down to the river to catch frogs. Don't you wish you could?

TOM

No, I'm right busy.

JOE

Yeah, you gotta work.

TOM

What do you call work?

JOE

Why, ain't that work?

TOM

Well, maybe it is and maybe it ain't. All I know is it suits Tom Sawyer.

JOE

You don't mean to say you like it.

TOM

Does a boy get to whitewash a fence every day?

(TOM steps back and elaborately surveys his work. HE dabs here and there.)

JOE

That's so, I reckon. Say, Tom. Let me whitewash a little.

TOM

No, Joe. Aunt Polly is real particular 'bout this fence.

BEN

(Entering, pretending HE is a steamboat)

Beep. Beep. Paddles full steam ahead! Beep.

(Seeing JOE and TOM)

H'llo, Tom. I'm goin' swimmin', I am. Wanta come?

TOM

Well, that would sound good any other day, Ben. But today I got somethin' a whole lot better.

BEN

Like what?

JOE

Tom's whitewashing the fence and he won't let me try.

BEN

Is it fun?

JOE

Course it is. Come on, now, Tom.

TOM

If it was the back fence I wouldn't mind. But out here in the front. . .

JOE

I'll give you the core of my apple.

TOM

Well, here. . .No, Joe, now don't. I'm afeard.

JOE

I'll give you all of it.

TOM

Well, all right. But don't tell nobody I did it.

JOE

(Grabbing a brush)

That's dandy, Tom.

BEN

What about me?

TOM

You, too, Ben?

BEN

Tain't fair if you don't let me, too, Tom. I'll give you this old key.

TOM

What's it open?

BEN

Don't know. But that's always the kind as ends up opening a treasure chest that's been buried awhile.

TOM

That's so. But I don't know.

BEN

I got a dead rat you can have, too.

TOM

Is it stiff?

BEN

Stiff as a board. And it's got a string to swing it with.

TOM

There's another brush around in the shed.

MEGGIE

(Entering with JOANNA)

Hi Tom.

TOM

Oh, hi Meggie.

JOANNA

Whatcha doin'?

TOM

Men's work. Nuthin' fer girls to worry theirselves about.

MEGGIE

Anything boys can do, girls can do just as good.

JOANNA

Better!

JOE

Tom's letting us whitewash. I gave my apple.

JOANNA

Oh it looks like ever so much fun. I got a piece of blue glass you can see through. If I give it to you, will you let me paint, too? Please?

MEGGIE

And I got a piece of licorice. Been carryin' it around since my birthday last week, so it's nice and ripe. Please, Tom?

(THEY both give him pitiful looks.)

TOM

Well, all right. But don't you go spilling any paint around.

MEGGIE

(As BEN enters with another bucket and several brushes.)

We'll be just as careful as you boys.

JOANNA

Carefuller.

TOM

Hand over the loot.

MEGGIE

Here!

SID

(Entering with water bucket)

Whatcha doin'?

TOM

Oh, hi, Sid.

SID

(Suspiciously)

Why's everyone painting?

JOE

It's fun, Sid.

It is? **SID**

Sure, I give my dead rat to do it. **BEN**

Well then, let me try. **SID**

Sorry, Sid. You had your chance. **TOM**

Yeah, but that was before it was fun. **SID**

No. **TOM**

I'll give you an old dog collar I found. **SID**

Nope. **TOM**

And the handle of a knife. **SID**

Nope. **TOM**

And. . .and four orange peels. **SID**

Nope. **TOM**

And the white alley you gave me. **SID**

I what? **TOM**

Well, that I borrowed. . .stole. . .from you. **SID**

TOM

Well. . .

SID

And I won't tell Aunt Polly what you done to the cat this morning, givin' him the pain killer.

TOM

Sid, you got yerself a deal.

(THEY shake as the lights go out..)

ACT ONE, SCENE TWO:

In Front of the Curtain, a Street.

AUNT POLLY enters and is met by **MRS. HARPER**.

AUNT POLLY

Well, Sereny Harper. It's nice to see you out and about. Where are you off to?

MRS. HARPER

Hello Polly. Just planning on paying a visit to your new neighbor, Mrs. Thatcher.

AUNT POLLY

I was bakin' all day yesterday and thought I'd take one of my apple pies over myself.

MRS. HARPER

Why don't we go together?

AUNT POLLY

I was just thinking the same thing, Sereny.

MRS. HARPER

How's Tom? Joe said he was too sick to go to school today.

AUNT POLLY

Oh, he tried to trick me into believing it. Carried on somethin' fierce, like he was 'bout to die. Moanin' and groanin', till I nearly fainted with fright.

MRS. HARPER

Oh my!

AUNT POLLY

But when I begged him to tell me what was ailing him, do you know what he said?

MRS. HARPER

What?

AUNT POLLY

He said, "Oh Auntie, my sore toe's mortified!" Well, I was so relieved I nearly forgot to punish him for scarin' me out of my wits. He's on his way to school, all right.

MRS. HARPER

I declare, Polly. Raising boys is hard on a body's health.

AUNT POLLY

Ain't it the truth, Sereny. Ain't it the God's truth!

(THEY exit. After a moment, TOM enters with a fishing pole. HE is about to escape when AMY enters.)

AMY

There you are, Tom. I been lookin' all over fer you.

TOM

Oh, hi, Amy.

AMY

(Wrapping her arms in his)

I know you feel powerful bad about us gettin' unengaged and I don't know if I should forgive you or not. But I guess I will 'cause my Mama's makin' ice cream tonight and she said you could come over. You will, won't you, Tom?

TOM

(Disentanglin himself from her grasp)

I . . I don't think so, Amy. I got some important business to attend to.

AMY

What kind of business?

TOM

Just business.

AMY

Well, I never heard of no business that would keep you away from eatin' ice cream before.

TOM

I jist can't, that's all. Got somethin' on my mind. Who's that?

(ALFRED TEMPLE enters. HE is dressed in a suit and tie, with a hat on his head and a sour expression on his face.)

AMY

Why, that's old Miss Dobbins' nephew, come to stay with her fer a piece. They was over to Mason's Dry Goods yesterday, when I was out with my mama.

TOM

He sure looks peculiar.

AMY

Acts kinda stuck up, if you was to ask me.

TOM

(Approaching ALFRED tentatively)

I'm Tom Sawyer. What's your name?

ALFRED

'Tisn't any of your business, maybe.

TOM

What?

ALFRED

I said, 'tishn't any of your business.

AMY

Well, I never!

TOM

I 'low I'll make it my business.

AMY

That's tellin' him!

ALFRED

Well, why don't you?

TOM

If you say much, I will.

ALFRED

Much, much, much! There now!

TOM

Oh, you think yer mighty smart, don't you? I could lick you with one hand tied behind me, if I wanted to.

ALFRED

Well, why don't you do it? You say you can do it.

AMY

Do it, Tom.

TOM

Well, I will if you fool with me.

(HE points to ALFRED's hat.)

What a hat.

ALFRED

I dare you to knock it off. And anybody that'll take a dare will suck eggs!

TOM

You talk big, don'tcha?

ALFRED

Aw. . . Take a walk.

TOM

(Drawing a line in the dirt with his toe)

I dare you to step over that, and I'll lick you till you can't stand up. Anybody'll take a dare will steal sheep.

AMY

And pigs, too!

ALFRED

(Stepping over the line)

You said you'd do it, now let's see you do it!

TOM

By jingo! For two cents I would do it!

(ALFRED takes two cents from his pocket. TOM strikes them to the ground. In an instant a fight has begun.)

AMY

Kill him Tom! You can do it. Ouch! Hit him harder!

ALFRED

I'll get you! I swear I will!

TOM

Holler 'nuff.

AMY

You got him, Tom!

ALFRED

No!

TOM

(Pinning ALFRED to the ground)

I said holler 'nuff!

ALFRED

'Nuff!

(ALFRED sits up, sniffing, as JUDGE THATCHER, WIDOW DOUGLAS, MRS. THATCHER, and BECKY enter.)

JUDGE

Here now, what is this commotion?

WIDOW DOUGLAS

Thomas Sawyer, have you been bothering this poor lad?

TOM

No, it was. . .

JUDGE

(To ALFRED)

Are you all right, young fellow?

ALFRED

(Whining)

Big bully. I wasn't doin' nuthin' to him.

WIDOW DOUGLAS

Your Aunt Polly will hear of this disgraceful behavior!

MRS. THATCHER

(Taking BECKY by the hand)

Shocking! Come along, dear. You don't want to be late on your first day at school.

TOM

(Jumping up and trying to look presentable)

Hey, Becky!

(BECKY turns up her nose and follows her mother off.)

Well, don't that beat all.

AMY

(Suspiciously)

Becky? How'd you know her name? Tom Sawyer, I'm beginnin' to see the kind of business you got tonight.

TOM

Aw, you don't even know.

AMY

(As HE starts to exit in the opposite direction of the others)

Where you goin'? Ain't you comin' to school?

TOM

Me an' Huck Finn's got to connoiter first.

AMY

You better not be late, or you'll get the switch from Miss Dobbins again.

TOM

(As HE exits)

Shucks, I ain't skeerd a that.

AMY

Oh, foot! Now who's gonna carry my books?

ALFRED

(Still snuffling)

Is my nose bleeding?

AMY

(Approaching ALFRED and examining him closely)

No, but your eye is gettin' kinda puffy-like. And your pretty suit's mussed up mighty bad. Here, let me take a look.

ALFRED

(As AMY reaches toward his eye)

Don't touch it.

AMY

(Drawing back)

I was just tryin' to help. Say, what's your name again?

ALFRED

Alfred Temple.

AMY

Alfred, was you ever engaged?

ALFRED

No.

AMY

(Happily)

Whyn't you walk me to school, Alfred. And tonight, my mama's makin' ice cream. All you can eat.

ALFRED

What flavor?

AMY

Why, most any flavor you want, I guess.

ALFRED

*(As **THEY** exit to the sound of the school bell)*

That's something like!

(Lights out)

ACT ONE, SCENE THREE: *Benches are set up into a rough schoolroom.*
MISS DOBBINS, the schoolteacher is listening to
SUSAN recite her lesson. TOM tries to sneak in.

SUSAN

Dark and tempestuous was the night! Around the throne on high, not a single star quivered; but the deep intonations of the heavy thunder constantly vibrated upon the ear!

MISS DOBBINS

(Seeing TOM sneaking in)

Thomas Sawyer!

TOM

Ma'am?

MISS DOBBINS

Come up here. Why are you late again, as usual?

TOM

Well, ma'am, I . . .

MISS DOBBINS

Your excuse had better be good or you'll find yourself sitting with the girls.

TOM

(Pointing to an empty seat beside BECKY)

You mean over there?

MISS DOBBINS

Yes sir. You'll sit all day next to our new girl, Rebecca Thatcher. Now then, why were you late?

TOM

I stopped to talk to Huckleberry Finn.

MISS DOBBINS

You did what?

TOM

I stopped to talk to Huck Finn.

MISS DOBBINS

Thomas Sawyer, this is the most outrageous confession I have ever listened to. Go and sit with the girls. And let this be a lesson to you.

(TOM happily sits next to BECKY.)

TOM

Hi, Becky.

MISS DOBBINS

Gracie Fisher. Your recitation please.

GRACIE

Uh. . . .

MISS DOBBINS

Right now.

GRACIE

Yes, ma'am.

(GRACIE steps forward and pantomimes reciting as the dialogue between TOM and BECKY continues.)

BECKY

(As TOM draws on his slate)

Let me see it.

TOM

Look. It's a house.

BECKY

It's nice. Make a man.

TOM

Like this?

BECKY

It's beautiful man. I wish I could draw.

TOM

It's easy. I'll learn you.

BECKY

Oh, will you. That will be ever so nice. Here's one. It's Miss Dobbins!

TOM

(Watching her as SHE draws)

Yes, Becky. That's it. And put her spectacles down at the end of her nose.

BECKY

Shall I?

TOM

Yes. Say, Becky, was you ever engaged?

BECKY

What's that?

TOM

Why, engaged to be married.

BECKY

No.

TOM

Would you like to?

BECKY

I reckon so. I don't know. What is it like?

TOM

Well, you only just tell a boy you won't ever have anybody but him, ever, ever, ever and then you kiss and that's all. Anybody can do it.

BECKY

Kiss? What do you kiss for?

TOM

Why, they always do that.

BECKY

I don't know.

TOM

Now Becky. I'll whisper it.
(HE whispers.)

Now whisper it to me.
(SHE whispers.)

Now, Becky, it's all done. All but the kiss.

BECKY

Oh, Tom. Wait until lunch. Then I will.

TOM

And always after this, you ain't ever to love anybody but me, and you ain't ever to marry anybody but me, never, never, never.

BECKY

And you ain't ever to marry anybody but me, either.

TOM

Sure.

BECKY

It's so nice. I never heard of it before.

TOM

Oh, it's ever so bully. Why, when me an Amy Lawrence was engaged. . .

BECKY

Oh, Tom! Then I ain't the first you've been engaged to? Oh, it's too mean!

MISS DOBBINS

Thomas Sawyer! Rebecca Thatcher! What is the meaning of this disruption?

(Grabbing BECKY's slate with a picture of her on it)

And what is this? I see! Did you draw this, Rebecca Thatcher?

BECKY

I . . . I . . . I

MISS DOBBINS

Well?

BECKY

Oh, Miss Dobbins. . . .

MISS DOBBINS

No, look me in the face – did you draw this. . . this caricature?

BECKY

Oh dear, I've never been in trouble at school before.

MISS DOBBINS

Rebecca Thatcher! Stand forward!

TOM

(Standing)

I done it.

MISS DOBBINS

You?

TOM

Yes ma'am. I done it. Becky, Rebecca, she didn't do nothin' but look.

MISS DOBBINS

Thomas Sawyer, come forward at once for a whipping!

BECKY

Oh Tom, how could you be so noble?

MISS DOBBINS

Take off your jacket, sir! Now then, let this be a lesson you shall never forget!

(Lights out.)

ACT ONE, SCENE FOUR:

Midnight. Graveyard near the grave of Hoss Williams. TOM and HUCK enter carrying a cloth sack.

TOM

Huck, you reckon it's midnight yet?

HUCK

Dunno. Moon's behind all them clouds.

TOM

Are you sure this is the only way to git rid of warts, Hucky?

HUCK

(Holding up the sack)

Only way 's I know. You take a dead cat and go and get in a graveyard long 'bout midnight when somebody wicked's been buried.

TOM

Hoss Williams was buried today. Reckon he's about as bad as they come.

HUCK

'Nen a devil will come, or maybe two or three, and when they're takin' that feller away, you heaves yer cat after 'em and say "Devil follow corpse, cat follow devil, warts follow cat, I'm done with ye!" That'll fetch any wart.

TOM

Hucky, do you believe dead people like it for us to be here?

HUCK

I wisht I knowed.

TOM

Do you reckon Hoss Williams hears us talkin'?

HUCK

His spirit does, Tom.

TOM

Wisht I'd said Mr. Williams.

HUCK

A body can't be too particular how they talk about dead people.

TOM

Shhh!

(HUCK jumps, terrified.)

HUCK

What is it, Tom?

TOM

There! You hear it?

HUCK

Lord, Tom! Those devils is coming! What'll we do?

TOM

Quick, behind that bush. And stay perfectly still.

HUCK

I'm all a-shiver, Tom!

TOM

Looky, there!

HUCK

It's devil-fire! Lordy, Tom, we're goners! Can you pray?

TOM

I don't know, Hucky. . .

(HUCK grabs TOM's shoulder in fear. TOM falls to his knees.)

Now I lay me down to sleep. . .

HUCK

Shhh! Listen. It ain't no devils. It's humans. One of 'em anyways. That's ol' Muff Potter's voice, ain't it?

TOM

It's so. He sounds drunk, as usual. Say, Huck. I know another o' them voices. It's Injun Joe.

HUCK

That murderin' scoundrel? I'd druther they was devils a dern sight. What kin they be up to?

(The boys hide as MUFF, INJUN JOE, and MUFF POTTER enter, carrying a lantern.)

DOC

Hurry up. The moon might come out at any minute.

MUFF

(Drunkenly)

Now the cussed thing's about to be done, Robinson, and you'll just out with another five.

INJUN JOE

That's the talk!

DOC

Look here, what does this mean? You required your pay in advance to rob the grave and I've paid you.

INJUN JOE

Yes, and you done more than that. Five years ago you drove me away from your father's kitchen one night when I come to ask for some food. When I said I'd get even with you if it took a hundred years, your father had me jailed for a vagrant. Did you think I'd forget?

(INJUN JOE lunges toward DOC ROBINSON.)

MUFF

Here now, what's up?

(MUFF tries to stop the fight and gets knocked out. INJUN JOE pulls MUFF's knife from his belt and stabs DOC, who dies. INJUN JOE puts the knife in MUFF's hand, robs the dead man's pockets, then shakes MUFF to wake him up.)

INJUN JOE

That score is settled. Muff Potter! Wake up!

MUFF

(Waking up and seeing the dead man with alarm)

Lord, how is this, Joe?

INJUN JOE

It's a dirty business. What'd you do it for?

MUFF

I? I never done it.

INJUN JOE

Look here, that kind of talk won't wash. You two was scuffling and you fell flat. Then up you come all reelin'-like and snatched the knife and jammed it into him. Then out you went and here you've laid dead as a wedge till now.

MUFF

I didn't know what I was doin'. It was all on account of the whiskey. I'm a fool for the drink, Joe. Oh, it's awful --- and him so young and promisin'. You won't tell, Joe, will you?

INJUN JOE

No, we won't mention this business at all. Now you be off yonder and I'll go off this way.

MUFF

(As HE hurries off)

Oh bless you, Joe. Bless you.

INJUN JOE

(To himself)

He won't think of his knife till it's too late, the old rumpot!

(INJUN JOE exits, laughing to himself. After a moment TOM and HUCK emerge from behind the bush. TOM moves toward the body. HUCK grabs his arm.)

HUCK

Tom, don't You want the curse of a murdered man's soul a-followin' you to the end of your days?

TOM

Huckleberry, what do you reckon'll come of this?

HUCK

I reckon hangin'll come of it.

TOM

Who'll tell? Us?

HUCK

What are you talkin' about? S'pose somethin' happened and Injun Joe didn't hang? Why he'd kill us some time or other, just as sure as we're a-standin' here.

TOM

That's sure.

HUCK

Tom, we gotta keep mum. Now look'a here, Tom, let's take and swear to one another -- that's what we gotta do -- swear to keep mum.

TOM

Do we just shake hands an' swear?

HUCK

No, there ought to be writin' 'bout a big thin like this. And blood.

TOM

I got a bit of pencil.

HUCK

Look, here's a shingle. You can write on that.

TOM

(Reading as HE writes)

Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer swears they will keep mum about this and they wish they may drop down dead in their tracks if they ever tell and rot.

HUCK

That's a dandy oath, Tom. Now we got to prick our fingers and sign in blood.

TOM

I've got a needle. We'll use that.

(THEY each prick a finger and sign with a giant "x".)

Now we'll bury it under the oak at the cemetery gate.

HUCK

Does this keep us from ever telling, always?

TOM

We'd drop dead – don't you know?

HUCK

I reckon that's so.

(A rooster crows in the distance.)

TOM

A rooster!

HUCK

We gotta get outta here, Tom.

TOM

Don't you let on to nobody that we came here tonight, Hucky.

HUCK

Never, never, Tom. And you neither.

TOM

I promise.

HUCK

Bye, Tom.

TOM

Bye, Huck.

(THEY exit leaving the body behind. Lights out.)

ACT ONE, SCENE 5

On a street near the graveyard.

*Next morning. A **CROWD** has gathered.*

MRS. HARPER

I say we string him up as soon as he's found. No need to wait for a trial.

WIDOW DOUGLAS

Why Sereny Harper! Don't talk such a way. It's bad enough as it is.

MISS DOBBINS

This ought to be a lesson to grave robbers.

AMY

Wisht I'd have seen it when they found him.

BECKY

How could you say a thing like that?

WIDOW

I'd have screamed, sure.

SUSAN

I wouldn't have screamed. But I would have hid my eyes.

WIDOW

Poor man. He tended to my Sam before he went to his reward.

AUNT POLLY

(Entering)

What's all the commotion?

MRS. HARPER

Why Polly, haven't you heard? Young Doc Robinson's been murdered.

AUNT POLLY

No! How?

GRACIE

Someone stabbed him with a knife.

MRS. HARPER

Not just someone – Muff Potter.

WIDOW

Now, Sereny Harper, you got no real proof. I don't believe Muff Potter could do such a thing. He may be a drunk, but he's good at heart.

MRS. HARPER

Well, what was Muff Potter's knife doing right next to Doc's body, all bloody? That's proof enough for me.

JOE

(Entering)

They've got him! They've found Muff Potter!

(CROWD enters, including MUFF, JUDGE, INJUN JOE, HUCK, and TOM)

MUFF

I didn't do it, friends.

MISS DOBBINS

There now, who's accused you?

JUDGE

Is that your knife?

MUFF

Yes! I must have left it --- Oh, tell 'em Joe, tell 'em. It ain't no use now.

INJUN JOE

It was Muff, all right. The Doc was scuffling with him and Muff jammed his knife right into him, poor devil.

(CROWD reacts in horror)

I guess he was drunk. Leastways, he says he don't remember none of it.

MRS. HARPER

I've heard enough. Drunk or not, I say hang him!

JUDGE

They'll be time enough for that, if it comes to it.

MISS DOBBINS

This town isn't safe till Muff Potter's swinging from a rope.

JUDGE

The law says that Muff Potter is entitled to a fair trial, just like anybody. And he'll get it. Come along now, Muff.

(CROWD disperses as JUDGE takes MUFF away. Last to leave is INJUN JOE, who looks at TOM and HUCK suspiciously as he goes.)

TOM

Did you hear that, Hucky? Injun Joe telling lies that'd send lightning bolts out of the sky to strike him dead. But nothin' happened.

HUCK

He's sold his soul to the devil, Tom. Did you see the way he looked at us as he was leavin'? Like he knowed we knowed somethin'.

TOM

Oh, Huck, you ain't forgot the oath, have you?

HUCK

Not me.

TOM

We can't forget it, Huck. Never, till we die.

HUCK

Oh, Lordy, Tom, don't say "die". It sets me a-quakin' to think on it.

TOM

Well, I won't forget it. Honest Injun!

HUCK

Tom!

TOM

I mean, honest, I won't. Never.

HUCK

Never, never, never. As long as we live.

TOM

*(As **THEY** look at each other fearfully)*

Oh Lordy!* If only we could get away from here fer awhile. Maybe I could keep mum about this.

HUCK

I know whatcha mean. Some place where Injun Joe couldn't put his devil's hex on us.

*(**JOE HARPER** enters angrily.)*

TOM

Hi, Joe.

JOE

Don't try to talk me out of it, Tom! I'm leavin' this place. I've taken too much hard usage and lack of sympathy. My ma'll be sorry she whipped me fer nuthin'. I'm goin' tonight, never to return. I hope you won't forget me, Tom. We was always pals. So farewell.

TOM

Farewell? But Joe, we're goin' with you, me and Huck.

JOE

(Overjoyed)

You are?

HUCK

Sure. We was just makin' our own plans of escape.

JOE

By jingo, ain't that lucky! I figure it's best to be hermits and live on crusts of bread in a far-off cave, and die sometime of cold and want and grief.

TOM

Why, how you talk! Hermits is good, but they ain't nuthin' compared to pirates.

JOE

Pirates?

TOM

Why, sure! Pirates is splendid as can be, Joe! Their names is known around the world and make folks shudder just to hear 'em spoken. They plow the dancin' seas in their ships and run their skull and corssbones up the masthead when anyone comes near. And they wear black velvet doublets and jackboots and crimson sashes and such.

HUCK

What's a doublet?

TOM

(Not quite sure himself)

It's. . .well. . .it's a sort of fancy thing that all pirates wear, that's what.

HUCK

(Dismayed)

I reckon I ain't dressed fittin' fer a pirate, but I ain't got none but these.

TOM

Why, Hucky. Your rags'll do to begin with. Once we find the buried treasure and get rich, why you'll look like any other pirate.

JOE

Oh, it sounds glorious, Tom! When do we go?

TOM

Tonight. We can hole up on Jakcson's Island. It's so deserted no one'll know we're there till we unfurl the Jolly Roger an' claim our booty.

HUCK

I'm willin'.

TOM

But first we got to have new names.

HUCK

Why?

TOM

(With a sigh at HUCK's ignorance)

'Cause that's the way it's done, Hucky. Now mine's Tom Sawyer, the Black Avenger of the Spanish Main. What about you, Joe?

JOE

How about. . .Joe Harper. . .the. . .Terror of the Seas!

TOM

That's bully! And you, Huck?

HUCK

I don't know, Tom. What's wrong with plain old Huck Finn?

TOM

It ain't a proper pirate name. Now, let me think. I know! Huck Finn the Red Handed!

JOE

That's a dandy one!

TOM

And o' course we need a password.

HUCK

Why?

TOM

So's we know it's one of us that's come and not some pretender tryin' to steal our loot.

HUCK

But cain't we jist look an' see who 'tis?

TOM

No! They might be cleverly disguised.

JOE

Well then, what should it be?

TOM

(Solemnly)

I know! Blood!

HUCK

Blood?

JOE

Blood!

END OF ACT ONE

**If a shorter version of this play is desired, the preceding scene can be cut after Tom's line "Oh Lordy" and then omit the next three scenes. The play can then continue with Act Two, Scene Four. Huck's line "Thought you was the Widow Douglas. I been hidin' from her fer days" should then be cut. Please note that with the shorter version of the play, the role of Reverend Sprague does not appear.*

ACT TWO, SCENE ONE

Jackson's Island. TOM, HUCK, and JOE sit around a campfire. HUCK smokes a corncob pipe. JOE and TOM hold pipes of their own.

HUCK

So's you jist put it to yer mouth and light it up.

JOE

(Trying to imitate, but having no luck)

Like this?

HUCK

You'll catch on soon enough, I reckon.

TOM

(Exploding in coughs)

Why, it's just as easy!

(More coughing)

If I'da knowed this was all, I'd a learnt long ago.

JOE

(Hasn't even gotten his lit yet)

So would I. It's just nuthin'.

HUCK

(Lighting JOE's pipe)

Here, Joe.

JOE

(Unenthusiastically)

Oh, thanks, Huck.

TOM

(Trying not to gag on the smoke)

It's mighty fine tobacco, ain't it, Hucky?

HUCK

Well, it ain't bad. I'se had better.

TOM

Well, it ain't bad, though.

HUCK

No, it ain't.

JOE

(Holding his stomach)

I believe I could smoke this pipe all day and not get sick ‘tall.

TOM

(Looking a little queasy)

By jingo, so could I. But I betcha Ben Rogers couldn’t.

JOE

Ben Rogers! He’d keel over in jist two draws.

TOM

I bet he would. And Johnny Miller. I wish I could see Johnny Miller tackle it once.

JOE

He couldn’t any more do this than nuthin’. Just one little puff would fetch him.

TOM

(After an uncomfortable pause)

Say, boys, don’t say anything about it, and sometime when they’re around, I’ll come up to you and say, “Joe, got a pipe? I want a smoke.” And we’ll light up just calm as can be, and then just see ‘em look.

JOE

(Green around the gills)

By jingo, Tom, that’ll be grand. I wish it was now.

TOM

(Pale and miserable)

Wouldn’t they be dogged?

JOE

(Getting up unsteadily)

I’ve lost my knife. I reckon I’d better go find it.

TOM

(Eager for an excuse to leave)

Well, I’ll help ya, Joe. You look over yonder, an’ I’ll hunt down by the spring.

HUCK

I’ll come, too.

TOM and JOE

No!

TOM

You needn't come, Huck. We can find it.

(THEY exit separately, holding back the nausea.)

HUCK

Suit yerselves, boys.

(HE sits down, poking at the campfire. There is a sound like thunder.)

What was that?

(HE peers off into the distance. The rumbling sound repeats.)

'Tain't thunder. There ain't no clouds, nor lightnin'. Anyways, it sounds more like cannons bein' fired.

(HE gazes off. The sound is heard again.)

By jingo! Somebody's drowned! Hey, Tom! Joe! Come quick!

TOM

(Entering, looking better)

What is it, Hucky?

HUCK

Listen.

JOE

(Entering from opposite direction)

What's that sound?

HUCK

Don'tcha remember? They done it last summer when Bill Turner was drowned. They shoot a cannon over the water, ant that makes him come up to the top. Yes, and they take loaves of bread and put quicksilver in 'em and set 'em afloat, and wherever there's anybody who's drowned, they'll float right there an' stop.

JOE

That's so. I wonder what makes the bread do that?

TOM

Oh, it ain't the bread so much. I reckon it's mostly what they say over it before they start out.

HUCK

But they don't say nuthin' over it. I seen 'em an' they don't.

TOM

Well, maybe they say it to themselves, then. O' course they do. Anybody might know that.

JOE

That sounds right. How could a ignorant lump o' bread find a body by itself?

HUCK

Mebbe so, but I never heerd 'em.

JOE

By jingo, I wisht I was over there now.

HUCK

Yes sir, I'd give heaps to know who it is.

JOE

Me, too.

TOM

Hold on, Boys. I know who's drowned. It's us!

JOE

Us?

TOM

Sure. We been gone fer two whole days. Now, it's nearly night again, and they figure we musta drowned.

HUCK

Ain't it a lark?

JOE

They must be missin' us heaps by now!

TOM

I reckon they're over there sobbin' their eyes out.

JOE

(Suddenly struck by conscience)

I 'spect my Ma is cryin' heaps.

TOM

And Aunt Polly. And Becky Thatcher or some of them girls, too.

HUCK

They's goin' on down the river now.

TOM

Reckon the boys are envious, though. All the folks talkin' 'bout us an' all.

HUCK

But they ain't gonna find no bodies in the river. What do you reckon they'll do then?

TOM

Have a funeral anyways, I 'spect.

JOE

(Hesitantly)

Tom. What if we went back and told 'em we wasn't dead?

TOM

What? You mean give up our pirate hideout? After the way they treated you?

JOE

They didn't treat me bad, Tom. Not really. I been thinkin'. We shouldn't ought to have taken the bacon and those hams.

TOM

Why, that's our provisions, Joe. And anyways, we've hooked apples lotsa times. And licorice, too.

JOE

'Tain't the same. Those was just little things. Hams are valuable. Somebody's probably missin' 'em. Missin' 'em bad, mebbe.

TOM

I never thought of it that way. I know! When we find our treasure, why we'll sneak back an' leave a fortune right at the exact spot where we took the hams. That'll pay 'em back.

JOE

'Tain't enough. Oh boys, let's give it up. I wanta go home. It's so lonesome of a sudden.

TOM

Oh no, Joe. You'll feel better by and by. Just think of the fishin' that's here.

JOE

I don't care for fishin'. I wanta go home.

TOM

But Joe, there ain't such another swimmin' place anywhere.

JOE

Swimmin's no good. I don't seem to care for it, when there ain't nobody to say I shan't go in. I mean to go home.

TOM

Listen to that, Hucky! What kinda pirate is it that wants to go home after two days.

JOE

‘Tain’t that, Tom. It’s thinkin’ about my Ma cryin’ over me. And Susy, too.

TOM

Well, go on home then, baby. Huck an’ I will stay right here, won’t we, Hucky?

HUCK

I . . . I . . . reckon I’ll stay, Tom, if you will. Still, it mightn’t be so bad, just to go back fer a day or so.

TOM

Not me. Not the Black Avenger o’ the Spanish Main. I’m stayin’ right here, and any that’s not babies’ll do the same.

JOE

Oh, I’ll stick it out, Tom. I ain’t goin’ back on bein’ a pirate.

HUCK

Me neither. I wanna get me some o’ them doublets.

TOM

All right, boys! I knowed you was square all along. It’s gettin’ on to dusk. Let’s fix us some grub.

JOE

I’m not real hungry tonight, Tom. I reckon I’ll just go to sleep. I feel awful tired.

(JOE moves to the side, picks up a ragged blanket, and lies down sadly.)

HUCK

(Also depressed)

Think I’ll take me a walk.

TOM

I’ll go with you, Hucky.

HUCK

(As HE leaves)

No, Tom. I . . . I reckon I’d like to be alone right now. I got a kinda funny sort a solitary feelin’.

(TOM settles down by the campfire.)

TOM

Oh sure, Hucky. I understand. Ain't they all sorry back home, right now. An' Injun Joe needn't think 'bout Tom Sawyer an' Huck Finn an' what we might know. Piratin's a dandy sorta life.

(HE looks around.)

Sure can get powerful lonely here fast. I hope Aunt Polly ain't too sorrowful 'bout me drownin'. I never meant her to feel bad. Becky'll forget me pretty quick, I reckon. It's like women to do that way.

JOE

(Stirring in his sleep)

Mama!

TOM

Mebbe if I jist went over to look in on 'em. Leave Aunt Polly a note to let her know we're turned pirates and not drowned. I'll tell Joe. No, he'd jist wanna come along, too. By jingo, I'll jist sneak off an' be back 'fore they miss me.

(HE hunts up a piece of bark.)

Now, let's see. Dear Aunt Polly. We ain't gone to a watery grave like everyone thinks. . .

(Lights out)

ACT TWO, SCENE TWO:

The porch outside Aunt Polly's house, evening. TOM sneaks on and moves to the door. HE is about to open it quietly when HE hears a noise and darts down in front of the porch. MRS. HARPER enters with her daughter SUSAN. SHE knocks on the door. AUNT POLLY answers it.

AUNT POLLY

Oh, Sereny Harper. It's you. And Susan, too.

MRS. HARPER

We're sorry to disturb you, Polly.

AUNT POLLY

Sereny! Lord know we both carry a heavy burden this night. Come inside. I been reading scriptures.

MRS. HARPER

If you don't mind, why I'd rather stay outside. My house seems to creak so now with Joe gone. And every sound sets my heart a-pounding and thinking it's him come back to me after all.

(SHE weeps. This sets both SUSAN and AUNT POLLY to weeping as well.)

AUNT POLLY

I know just what you mean. Why only a moment ago I imagined something a-hovering at the door, wanting to come inside. But of course, it warn't nothing but a shadow. Sid! Come out and pay your respects to Mrs. Harper and Susan.

SID

(Emerging from the house, dry-eyed, but trying to appear somewhat mournful)

I'm comin'.

(The women sit in porch chairs while the two children sit on the steps.)

AUNT POLLY

I was just saying to Sid, my Tom warn't bad, so to say . . . only mischievous. Only just giddy, and harum-scarum, you know.

SUSAN

Tom never meant any harm, and he was the best-hearted boy that ever was.

SID

Humph!

MRS. HARPER

It was just so with my Joe. Always full of devilment, and up to every kind of mischief, but he was just as unselfish and kind as he could be. And laws bless me, to think I went and whipped him for taking that cream, never once recollecting that I throwed it out myself because it was sour. And I never to see him again in this world, poor abused boy.

(SHE wails.)

SUSAN

You mustn't dwell on it, Mama. You meant well.

SID

I hope Tom's better off where he is, but if he'd been better in some ways . . .

AUNT POLLY

Sid! Not a word against my Tom, now that he's gone! God'll take care of him, never you trouble yourself about that. Oh, Sereny! The problem is, I don't know how to give him up! He was such a comfort to me, even when he tormented my old heart out of me.

MRS. HARPER

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord! But it's so hard! Oh, it's so hard! Only last Saturday my Joe busted a firecracker right under my nose and I sent him to bed without no supper. Little did I know then, how soon. Oh, if it was to do all over again I'd hug him and bless him for it.

AUNT POLLY

Yes, yes, yes, I know just how you feel. No longer than day before yesterday noon my Tom took and overturned my china sugar bowl while he was a-stealing from it. And God forgive me, I gave him the devil for it, poor boy, poor dead boy.

SUSAN

They're out of their troubles now.

AUNT POLLY

The last words I ever said to him was to reproach . . .

(SHE breaks down. MRS. HARPER and SUSAN sob. Even TOM is sniffing mournfully. SID tries rather unsuccessfully to look sad.)

SUSAN

I'll never forget my brother Joe. Nor Tom neither.

AUNT POLLY

Bless you child.

SID

I'll never forget the tricks they played on me.

MRS. HARPER

Well, we'd best be getting on back. We'll meet at the funeral again tomorrow, though I prayed I wouldn't see the day come. Imagine allowing them to send that heathen Huckleberry Finn off with our two boys.

AUNT POLLY

I won't say a word against the lad. He met his maker same as my Tom, and I only wish I could have taken his place, poor creature. I bless those eyes that saw my Tom at the last.

MRS. HARPER

You're right, of course. The dear lad had no mother to care for him, and hardly a father, drunk as he is all the time and disappearing for weeks on end besides. How could he have been any different than he was? The Lord will have mercy, Polly. It's my comfort.

(THEY embrace. The HARPERS leave.)

AUNT POLLY

Sid, you go on in. I'd like to sit a piece out here by myself.

SID

(As HE exits)

Don't worry, Auntie. You still got me.

AUNT POLLY

I do, thank heaven.

(SHE sighs sadly, leans back wearily, then begins to pray.)

Dear Lord. I know he warn't a model boy, the kind you can point to with pride and show off to Reverend Sprague and such. But in my heart, I loved him the better for it. Love him, too, Lord, and take care of him till I get there. I know there's a place for him with you, Lord, same as for everyone that means well, even when they ain't always picture-perfect on the outside. Oh Tom. Tom.

(SHE begins to nod off, exhausted by her grief. TOM creeps to her side. HE is about to put the bark message in her hand, but suddenly HE has another idea.)

TOM

The funeral's tomorrow. By jingo, what an idea!

(HE takes back the message and kisses AUNT POLLY on the cheek.)

I . . . I love you, Aunt Polly. Truly I do. Don't you fret now. We'll be back, I promise.

(HE runs into the street.)

Just wait till I tell the boys my plan. Won't they just die!

(HE exits as lights fade.)

ACT TWO, SCENE THREE: *The Church, next day. Like the schoolroom it is made up of rows of benches, with a podium at the front of the congregation. People are gathering for the funeral.*

MRS. THATCHER

There, there, Becky. Don't take on so.

BECKY

I can't believe Tom's gone. I'll never, never see him again no more.

AMY

(Dramatically)

Last time me an' Tom met, I was a-standin' jist so . . . jist as I am now, and as if you was him, I was as close as that . . . an' he smiled, jist this way . . . an' then something seemed to go all over me, like . . . awful, you know . . . an' I never thought what it meant, o' course, but I can see now.

JOANNA

I saw Joe the very same day they disappeared. He said the town would "hear somthin'" soon, but I never thought to warn nobody.

MEGGIE

Well, I saw Tom a-talkin' to Huck Finn that day, but they was too far off fer me to hear what they was sayin'.

GRACIE

My Pa found their raft.

BEN

Well, my Pa was on the boat that searched fer their wretched corpses.

ALFRED

Well, Tom Sawyer, he licked me once.

JOANNA

Most any boy could say that.

(Music plays as REVEREND SPRAGUE enters, followed by the HARPER FAMILY, then AUNT POLLY and SID.)

MRS. HARPER

(Hysterically)

Joe! Oh Joe!

SUSAN

Mama, Mama, please don't cry. He's better off, I guess.

WIDOW DOUGLAS

Polly, we're all so sorry.

(Finally everyone is seated. REVEREND SPRAGUE prepares himself for speaking. Silently, TOM, HUCK, and JOE sneak on, listening to their own funeral.)

REVEREND

Dearest friends. We gather today to mark the passing of three fine lads, Thomas Sawyer,
(Wails from the people)

Joseph Harper,

(More wails)

And Huckleberry Finn.

(Very subdued wails)

They were, uh, lively boys and full of . . . energy. In fact, their enthusiasm was known to overflow its banks on many occasions. In school, Miss Dobbins found their contribution to class discussions . . . frequent, and . . . unique.

MISS DOBBINS

Yes! Quite unique!

REVEREND

Unfortunate circumstances prevented Huckleberry Finn from attending school, but the extent of his intellect was well-known to all.

AMY

Huck Finn? Why he's so dumb he don't know nuthin'.

(HUCK stands up in protest, but TOM pulls him down.)

REVEREND

In Sunday School, their abilities were apparent, also. Why barely a month ago, Thomas Sawyer acquired enough tickets by reciting scriptures that he was awarded a Bible. It frankly came as a surprise to some of us who did not realize the depth of his devotion.

SID

He traded fer those tickets jist so's he could show off to the girls. He never learnt a Bible verse proper in his life.

AUNT POLLY

Hush yourself, Sid!

REVEREND

Yet even so, his sense of humor never failed. When asked to display his knowledge by identifying the first two disciples, instead of giving the names that he must have known so well, he humorously replied David and Goliath.

(Instead of laughing, the congregation wails loudly.)

And Joseph Harper was so filled with the holy spirit that he often observed the injunction against working on the Sabbath, not only on Sundays, but all week long.

(Extreme wailing)

Unfortunate circumstances also prevented Huckleberry Finn from attending church. But today we are faced with the solemn task of bidding farewell to these fine boys. Bidding farewell forever.

(Wails and moans)

I turn your attention to the comfort of the scriptures.

(TOM, JOE, and HUCK stand up and move down the aisle.)

I am the resurrection and the li . . . li . . . life!

(REVEREND SPRAGUE points in disbelief at the BOYS.)

It . . . It . . . It is a miracle! Praise the Lord!

(Everyone cheers, weeps, embraces the BOYS and each other.)

AUNT POLLY

Tom! You're alive!

MRS. HARPER

Joe, is it really you?

(There is general chaos as everyone hugs TOM and JOE. HUCK stands alone.)

TOM

Aunt Polly, it ain't fair. Somebody's got to be glad to see Huck.

WIDOW DOUGLAS

And so they shall. I'm glad to see him, poor motherless thing. Huckleberry Finn, I'll care for you now, you don't need to worry about a thing.

HUCK

But, Widow Douglas, ma'am . . .

WIDOW DOUGLAS

We'll have you civilized before you know it.

HUCK

Oh now . . .

WIDOW DOUGLAS

No need to thank me. I should have done it sooner.

REVEREND

Sing everyone! Lift up your voices in praise!

(CONGREGATION sings “Old One Hundred” as lights fade.)

***ACT TWO, SCENE FOUR:** *The Jailhouse, outside the courtroom, a week later, right before the trial of MUFF POTTER.*

MRS. HARPER

Hurry Polly. The courtroom is filling up. We won't be able to see a thing.

POLLY

I'm coming, I'm coming.

TOM

(Entering miserably)

Do you think they'll hang him, Auntie?

POLLY

A man's been murdered, Tom. His killer's got to pay.

TOM

But what if it wasn't Muff that done it?

MRS. HARPER

(As SHE leaves)

Well, that don't seem likely now, does it? I'll go ahead, Polly, and save us some good seats.

SID

Coming to the trial, Tom?

TOM

I . . . I ain't decided yet.

SID

Well, I ain't gonna miss it for anything. I wanna see the look on Muff Potter's face when he gets sentenced. Bet his eyes'll pop right outta his head, I bet. Just hope I can stay awake. You pitch around and talk so much in your sleep the last few nights that you keep me awake half the time.

POLLY

It's a bad sign. What you got on your mind, Tom?

TOM

Nothin'. Nothin's I know of.

SID

And how you do talk. Last night you said, "It's blood, it's blood, that's what it is" over and over. And you said, "Don't torment me so --- I'll tell, I'll tell!" Tell what? What is it you'll tell?

POLLY

Sure it's the murder. I dream about it most every night myself. Sometimes I dream it's me done it! Well, soon it'll be over, Lord knows. Come on in, boys.

(SHE exits.)

TOM

I ain't coming in just yet.

SID

(Suspiciously)

It just don't make sense.

TOM

(Lunging at SID, who runs off)

Go on!

(HUCK sneaks on.)

Hucky!

HUCK

(Jumping in surprise)

Tom! Don't sneak up on me like that. *Thought you was the Widow Douglas. I been hidin' from her fer days.

TOM

Whatcha got there?

HUCK

Oh, just some tobacco and matches. Thought I'd take 'em over to Ole Muff Potter before. . .well, you know.

TOM

Lemme go with you, Huck. But we gotta hurry. Trial's gonna begin in a few minutes and then, well. . .

HUCK

Come on.

(THEY move to jailhouse, a tiny one-room affair, with a small window.)

Say, Muff! Muff! It's us. Tom and Huck!

MUFF

Howdy, boys.

HUCK

We brung you some tobacco.

MUFF

Why, thank you, boys. You've been mighty good to me – better'n' anybody else in this town. And I don't forget, I don't. I says to myself, "I used to mend all the boys' kites and things, and show 'em where the good fishin' places was, and befriend 'em, and now they've all forgot ole Muff when he's in trouble. But Tom don't and Huck don't – they don't forget him.

(INJUN JOE enters and eavesdrops on the conversation)

Well, boys, I done an awful thing and I gotta swing fer it, I reckon. But I'm grateful boys for the help you've gived to me. And I know you'd help me more if ye could.

TOM

(Ready to confess)

Muff . . .

HUCK

(Grabbing TOM)

Injun Joe!

JUDGE

You run along boys. The trial's about to begin. Injun Joe, you're the first witness. Are you ready?

INJUN JOE

I'm ready.

(HE exits, glowering at the boys.)

JUDGE

Come on, Muff.

MUFF

I guess this is good bye, boys. I wisht I hadn't done it, but that demon rum caught up to me in the end. You've helped me a lot these past few days and I just want to thank you for all you done for Ole Muff. It's more than I deserve, I reckon.

TOM

(When THEY are gone)

I most told old Muff just now.

HUCK

I know, Tom. But Injun Joe, you know what he'd do.

TOM

Don't you feel sorry for Muff?

HUCK

Most always. Most always.

TOM

Remember what he said to us, Huck? That he knowed we'd help him more if we could?

HUCK

Tom Sawyer, what are you thinkin'?

TOM

We can help him, Huck. And we should.

HUCK

No, Tom, no!

TOM

I'm going in there, Huck.

(HE exits.)

HUCK

Tom! What are you doing? Oh, Lordy, Tom, are you trying to get us killed? Tom? Well, shoot me in the foot, hold on a minute. I'm comin', too!

(HUCK looks up to heaven and exits. Lights out.)

ACT TWO, SCENE FIVE: *The Courtroom. INJUN JOE is on the witness stand.*

INJUN JOE

So after he come to, he ran off, scared as a rabbit. He forgot about his knife, though. That's how they caught him. It's hard to talk about a pal like this.

MUFF

You've done what you had to do, Joe. I know that.

JUDGE THATCHER

The defendant will please refrain from comment. This case seems clear. The witnesses have fastened this awful crime upon the unhappy prisoner at the bar. It is my solemn duty to proclaim a verdict and a sentence.

TOM

(From the back of the room)

Wait, your honor!

HUCK

No, Tom. Don't you do it!

JUDGE

What is it?

TOM

I got some evidence to give.

JUDGE

You? Come forward if this be true.

TOM

(Breathless with fear)

Your honor, I . . . I was there. On the night. . . of. . . the murder.

JUDGE

Where?

TOM

In the graveyard.

JUDGE

A little bit louder please. Don't be afraid. Were you anywhere near Horse Williams grave?

(INJUN JOE stands up threateningly)

TOM

Yes, sir. I was near as I am to you. I was hid behind the elms that's on the edge of the grave.

(INJUN JOE gives a start.)

JUDGE

Did you have anything with you?

TOM

Only a dead cat.

JUDGE

What did you take it there for?

TOM

To throw it after devils and cure warts with.

(The CROWD laughs.)

JUDGE

Tell us everything – in your own way – don't skip anything. And don't be afraid.

TOM

It wasn't Muff at all. He was fighting with the doctor and the Doc he clipped him a good one and Muff went down. Injun Joe took Muff's knife and stabbed Doc Robinson and

(Suddenly INJUN JOE crashes through the crowd and out of the courtroom.)

JUDGE

After him! Don't let that man escape!

(Many people follow after INJUN JOE. Others crowd around TOM.)

AUNT POLLY

Tom, I'm so proud of you!

TOM

Aw, Aunt Polly.

BECKY

Oh Tom, You were wonderful!

TOM

Thanks, Becky.

BECKY

I'm having a picnic for my birthday tomorrow. Will you come?

TOM

I reckon. If you want me to.

BECKY

I'd like it most awfully. Will you?

TOM

Sure I will.

WIDOW

(Rushing in breathlessly)

Injun Joe got away!

TOM

Got away?

HUCK

Oh, Tom. He's gonna be lookin' for revenge, sure as you're born. What are you gonna do?

TOM

I don't know, Hucky. I don't know.

(Lights out.)

ACT TWO, SCENE SIX:

*In front of curtain – a Corridor in MacDougal’s Cave. A group of **CHILDREN** is exploring.*

GRACIE

Oh, look at that one!

BEN

It’s only a bunch of rocks.

SUSAN

All dripping on each other.

GRACIE

But it looks like a man standing on his head.

SID

I see it now.

JOE

There’s one that looks like a castle!

AMY

Don’t go too far, Joe. MacDougals Cave has too many twists and turns. You’ll get lost.

JOE

Aw, I won’t.

SID

Amy’s right. It’s easy to get mixed up if you don’t watch out.

SUSAN

Let’s all stay together.

SID

Joe! Stay with us, now!

JOE

I’m coming.

*(The **GROUP** exits. In a moment, **the curtains open** on another part of the cave. **TOM** and **BECKY** enter. **THEY** are running and swatting the air.)*

BECKY

Oh, Tom! Bats! Get ‘em away! Oh! Oh!

TOM

It's all right, Becky. They're gone now.

BECKY

Oh, Tom. It was awful. They were flying in my hair and squealing and flapping their wings.

TOM

I know, Becky. But we're safe now. Don't worry.

BECKY

My, it seems so quiet all of a sudden.

TOM

It does, doesn't it?

BECKY

What part of the cave are we in now?

TOM

Well, it's. . . I reckon we've come a ways from the main corridor, on account of the bats and all.

BECKY

It seems ever so long since I heard any of the others.

TOM

We're probably away down below them. I don't know how far north or south or east or whichever it is. We couldn't hear them here.

BECKY

We better start back.

TOM

P'rhaps we better.

(HE looks about in confusion.)

BECKY

Can you find the way, Tom? It's all mixed-up crookedness to me.

TOM

Let's go this way.

BECKY

So long as we don't get lost.

(THEY exit. After a moment, INJUN JOE enters stealthily. HE carries a strongbox, searching for a place to hide it. TOM's voice is heard and INJUN JOE runs off.)

TOM

(Off)

This way, Becky.

BECKY

Yes. Yes, this looks familiar.

TOM

(As THEY enter)

Her it is. This is the way.

BECKY

Why, Tom, this is the same place we just left.

TOM

That's so. Well, we'll try another trail. Don't you worry, Becky.

BECKY

Tom, we're lost, ain't we?

TOM

Why, how you talk. We got here somehow, didn't we? Well, we got to find the way back is all.

BECKY

Oh, Tom, never mind the bats, let's go back that way.

TOM

(Calling)

Hello!

(A far off echo answers back.)

Hello!

(The echo replies.)

BECKY

Oh, don't do it again, Tom. It's too horrid!

TOM

It is horrid, but I better, Becky. They might hear us, you know. Hello!

BECKY

Might? Tom, Tom, we're lost! We're lost! We never can get out of this awful place! Oh, why did we leave the others?

(SHE sinks to the ground in tears.)

TOM

Don't give up, Becky. Not yet. Why they may be close by and looking for us. Don't cry, Becky. Don't.

(THEY move away, calling desperately.)

Hello! Hello!

(After a moment INJUN JOE enters, gazing off malevolently, then looks at the strongbox and moves off in another direction. Lights out.)

ACT TWO, SCENE SEVEN:

*A street in town – can be played in front of grand.
MRS. THATCHER catches up to MRS. HARPER
on their way to church.*

MRS. THATCHER

Good morning, Sereny.

MRS. HARPER

Why, good morning, Sarah.

MRS. THATCHER

Is my Becky going to sleep all day? I just expected she'd be tired to death.

MRS. HARPER

Your Becky?

MRS. THATCHER

Yes. Didn't she stay with you last night? I told her to ask Susan if she could sleep over if she was too tired to come all the way home last night.

MRS. HARPER

Why, I never saw here at all.

MRS. THATCHER

What?

AUNT POLLY

(Entering with SID)

Good morning, Sarah. Good morning, Sereny. I've got a boy that's turned up missing. I reckon my Tom stayed at your house last night, Sereny. And now he's afraid to come to church. I've got to settle with him.

MRS. HARPER

He didn't stay with us.

AUNT POLLY

Joe Harper, have you seen Tom this morning?

JOE

No'm.

AUNT POLLY

When did you see him last? Was he on the ferry boat coming home from the picnic?

JOE

I don't remember.

SUSAN

Last I saw him was in the cave. Him and Becky was exploring on their own. I tried to tell them, but . . .

MRS. THATCHER

Oh, Lord! Have you seen Becky since then?

SUSAN

I don't think so.

JOE

Maybe they're still there! In the cave!

SID

(Somewhat happily)

Lost forever!

GRACIE

Oh my goodness!

AUNT POLLY

Joe! Go fetch the neighbors. We've got to search the cave.

JOE

(Running out)

Yes'm!

SID

Maybe they're dead. Can I have his fishing pole?

AUNT POLLY

You hush your mouth, Sid. Oh, if only we ain't too late!

(Lights out.)

ACT TWO, SCENE EIGHT: *Back inside the cave. BECKY is sleeping, TOM is gone.*

BECKY

(Laughing in her sleep)

Ha, ha ha!

(SHE wakes up with a start.)

Tom? Tom!

(TOM enters.)

TOM

Yes, Becky. I'm here.

BECKY

Oh, how could I sleep? I wish I never, never had waked! I've seen such a beautiful country in my dreams. I reckon we're going there.

TOM

Maybe not. Maybe not.

BECKY

How long do you reckon we've been here, Tom? It seems like days and weeks, but it couldn't be that long. I'm so hungry, Tom.

TOM

(Taking something out of his pocket)

Do you remember this?

BECKY

It's my birthday cake.

TOM

Yes, I wish it was as big as a barrel, for it's all we've got.

BECKY

You saved it from the picnic for us to dream on, Tom, the way grown-up people do with wedding cake --- but it'll be our ---

TOM

(Handing half to her, but wrapping his half up and putting it away)

Here, Becky. There's water over yonder. Shall I scoop some up for you?

BECKY

No, Tom. I feel better now. Let's move on.

TOM

Becky, can you bear it if I tell you something?

BECKY

What is it?

TOM

Well then, Becky, we must stay here where there's water to drink. That little piece is our last candle.

BECKY

Oh, Tom, no!

TOM

It don't mean anything, Becky.

BECKY

Reckon they're looking for us?

TOM

Sure they are. You know your Pa'd never give up till he found you.

BECKY

That's so, I reckon.

*(Suddenly **INJUN JOE** appears from the shadows. **HE** grabs **BECKY**, who screams.)*

TOM

Injun Joe!

INJUN JOE

*(Releasing **BECKY** and pulling out a knife)*

Tom Sawyer! I reckon I've got a score to settle with you.

TOM

Becky, get out of the way!

*(**TOM** and **INJUN JOE** struggle for a moment. **TOM** is pushed to his knees. **INJUN JOE** lunges, but **TOM** slides away and **INJUN JOE** "falls" off a ledge and off stage. **BECKY** screams. **TOM** takes the candle from her and looks in the direction **INJUN JOE** disappeared.)*

TOM

He's dead, Becky. He fell on his knife down on the ledge below. There ain't nothing we can do for him.

BECKY

Oh, Tom! It's dreadful!

TOM

Come on, Becky. Let's get away from here. We'll find more water some place else. I promise we will. Let's go. Let's go.

(THEY exit. Lights out)

ACT TWO, SCENE NINE: *On the street outside AUNT POLLY's. The school bell is clanging. People are rushing on to find out what is going on.*

WIDOW DOUGLAS

What is it? What's the commotion?

AMY

(Running on)

They're found! They're found!

MRS. HARPER

Both of them? Alive?

AMY

Yes!

MRS. HARPER

(Running to the house)

Polly! Thank heavens! They're found, Polly!

JOE

(Running on)

They've brought 'em back safe from the ferry!

AUNT POLLY

Tom and Becky's back?

SID

Reckon I could still have my own room?

AUNT POLLY

You hush up, Sid. You know you're just that glad to have your own brother safely home.

SID

Sure I am.

MRS. HARPER

Here they come now.

(A cheering crowd enters with BECKY in their midst. TOM is nowhere to be seen.)

JUDGE THATCHER

This is indeed a happy day!

AMY

Oh, Becky, how did you ever get out of there?

BECKY

It was all Tom's doing. He made me go on after Injun Joe fell on his knife and was laying there dead. Oh my, I just wanted to give up. It seemed we'd been walking forever. Then, like a miracle, Tom spotted a crack of light a way up on a ledge. And he climbed up and found the way out.

AUNT POLLY

But where is Tom? Is he all right?

JOE

Here they come now!

(TOM and HUCK enter with a treasure box.)

AMY

What's that?

TOM

It's treasure!

BEN

Treasure? Where'd it come from?

TOM

I found it in the cave while I was searching for a path. I reckon Injun Joe hid it there.

JUDGE THATCHER

Then no doubt it is stolen property. You boys will receive a fine reward for recovering it.

(HUCK pries open the treasure box. EVERYONE crowds around to see what's in it.)

Why, this loot is very old. It must have been hidden away for years.

MUFF POTTER

Probably came from Murrel's gang.

MRS. THATCHER

Who?

MUFF POTTER

Murrel. He was one of the dangedest bandits in these here parts, back in my grampa's days.

JUDGE THATCHER

Well, if that's so, I figure the money belongs outright to the two lads who recovered it.

(The CROWD cheers.)

JOE

Gee golly, what're you gonna do with all that money?

WIDOW DOUGLAS

Well, to start off, Huckleberry will be buying some decent clothes and a new pair of shoes. And then he'll be putting some of it in the bank for a rainy day.

MRS. HARPER

Why, Widow Douglas, you sound as if you're planning to adopt that boy.

JUDGE THATCHER

She is indeed. She has already spoken to me about taking the lad under her wing and raising him properly. What do you say, Huckleberry?

HUCK

Did you say I'd have to wear shoes?

WIDOW DOUGLAS

Of course. And you'd be going to school to learn how to read and write.

HUCK

(Running offstage)

Ahhhhhh!

WIDOW DOUGLAS

(Following after him)

Huckleberry! What's wrong, son?

AMY

What about you, Tom? What are you going to do with your half of the treasure?

TOM

Well, I'm gonna use some of it to start up a pirate gang.

BEN

Can I join?

AMY

And me, too?

JOE

What about me?

TOM

Sure you can. But first you gotta say the secret password.

JOE

What is it?

TOM

Blood!

JOE

Blood!

ALL THE KIDS

Blood!

THE END