

**MCB**  
STD-VI

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 3**  
**PERIOD NUMBER : 1**  
**CHAPTER NAME : WHITEWASHING THE FENCE**  
**BY MARK TWAIN**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

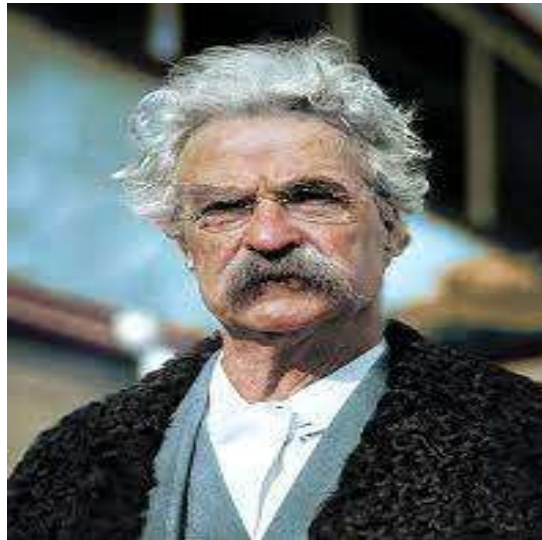
- (i) Reading Comprehension followed by questions
- (ii) Be acquainted with short story/Fiction
- (iii) Understanding the plot
- (iv) Understanding characters
- (v) Developing LSRW Skills
- (vi) Know how to write a story- Beginning, middle and end

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- (i) Develop LSRW
- (ii) Appreciating the story, plot, characters
- (iii) Developing skill of Critical appreciation
- (iv) Be acquainted with typical vocabulary meant for story writing
- (v) Appreciating the joys of childhood
- (vi) Appreciating varieties of style and diction in literary writing

# INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHOR

Mark Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens, was the celebrated author of several novels, including two major classics of American literature: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He was also a riverboat pilot, journalist, lecturer, entrepreneur and inventor.



# For Readers of all Ages

- "Although my book is intended mainly for the entertainment of boys and girls part of my plan has been to pleasantly remind adults of what they once were themselves, and what they felt and thought."
  - Mark Twain
- Wrote *Tom Sawyer* for both kids and adults
- Kids could connect it to current life
- Adults could remember what they were like as kids



## Basic Situation

- Tom Sawyer, the main character in the story, is a boy who has a knack for getting into trouble and lives with his aunt Polly and half brother Sid in the town of St. Petersburg, Missouri. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* tells about the many challenges Tom faces as he grows up and the lessons he learns.



## EXPLANATION (25-26)

- So Tom actually sets to work whitewashing the fence, but it's not too long before he gets bored out of his mind and sets about planning a scheme.
- Tom's buddy Ben Rogers, a notorious teaser, comes by.
- Ben's enjoying his Saturday, pretending to be a big old steamboat, but when he finally stops and tries to call attention to Tom's troubles, to his work, Tom pretends that he'd rather be painting fences than anything else, even playing or swimming.
- When Ben teases him about having to work, Tom contends that whitewashing is a privilege, by pretending that fence-painting really is an art, and one that Aunt Polly would only trust to him.
- This makes Ben very interested indeed and in no time – Ben begs Tom to let him try, which Tom does, but only after Ben agrees to hand over the rest of his apple to Tom.



## EXPLANATION (27)

- By the time Ben's tired out, Tom's already got a new mark lined up, and the process continues – Tom taking payment for the "privilege" of whitewashing – until, before too long, the fence is completely painted.
- Tom, well rested and considerably wealthier – wealthier, that is, if broken glass, old keys and one-eyed kittens constitute wealth.
- Tom plays this trick on other boys for the rest of the day.
- He amasses all sorts of treasure—a dead rat on a string, marbles, a chalk fragment, and more—and gets the boys to do so much work for him that the fence has three coats by quitting time.
- He feels delighted, rich, and optimistic about the world.
- He heads back to report his good work to Aunt Polly.



## EXPLANATION (27)

- Tom plays this trick on other boys for the rest of the day.
- He amasses all sorts of treasure—a dead rat on a string, marbles, a chalk fragment, and more—and gets the boys to do so much work for him, he escapes from doing the task of whitewashing and the fence has three coats by quitting time.
- By the time the fence has three coats, Tom has collected a hoard of miscellaneous treasures.
- Tom muses that all it takes to make someone want something is to make that thing hard to get.
- He feels delighted, rich, and optimistic about the world.





# ANALYSIS

In this chapter, Tom reveals his basic knowledge of human psychology; that is, that a person most desires what cannot be easily attained. Tom is also a fine actor, and he cleverly uses this ability in handling his friends. Thus, Tom is able to use this basic understanding of human nature to get others to do his work for him and to pay for the privilege of doing it. Instead of being able to join the others at the town center, he brings the center of the town to him, has others do his work for him, and he ends up with all sorts of treasures. In this way, Twain reveals Tom as a natural leader.

# VOCABULARY

**ACTIVITY:** Group discussion

**HOME ASSIGNMENT:** Get Going  
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handwriting

**vigor:** active strength or force

**straitened:** restricted; poor; insufficient

**tranquilly:** peacefully

**hove in sight:** came into view

**dreading:** fearing

**gait:** way of walking

**anticipations:** expectations

**whoop:** call of joy

**personating:** imitating

**ponderously:** sluggishly; slowly

**starboard and larboard:** (also called port) the nautical terms for left and right, respectively.

Larboard is the left-hand side of or direction from a vessel, facing forward. Starboard is the right-hand side, facing forward.

The words starboard and larboard get elided to stabboard and labboard.

# VOCABULARY

**ACTIVITY:** Group discussion

**HOME ASSIGNMENT:** Get Going C , Page 29, one page handwriting

up a stump: (idiom) in a difficult situation

wheeled: rotated as if on an axis; moved in a circular motion

contemplated: looked with continued attention

altered: changed

reckon: think

**THANK YOU**  
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