

**Sammy Sample**  
**9-17-10**  
**Hour 1**  
**Book Report**  
**First Quarter**

**Title: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**

**Author: Mark Twain**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

**Protagonist:**

Tom Sawyer is the protagonist of the novel. He is about 12 years old and lives in the small town of St. Petersburg, Missouri. He wants to be an outlaw and likes to play hooky from school and church. He drives his Aunt Polly crazy and hates his half-brother Sid.

**Antagonist:**

Injun Joe is the antagonist of this story. Joe is a half breed Indian and a robber and murderer. He kills Dr. Robinson and in addition plans a brutal attack on a wealthy widow. He is greedy and bitter because of his treatment by the townspeople.

**Conflict:**

This is a person vs. person conflict. Tom wants to get the \$12,000 that Joe has stolen and Joe wants to kill the Widow Douglas and then get away. Both characters cannot get what they want, so there is a conflict.

**Setting:**

The story takes place in a small town in Missouri during the 1830's. The setting is very important to the story because the town represents the place where Mark Twain grew up. Many of the characters are based on people he actually knew. The language, superstitions, and culture of the village are all important in this story.

**Plot:**

Tom Sawyer is a mischievous and hilarious boy growing up in the 1830's by the Mississippi River. He is constantly in trouble with Aunt Polly, who loves him and suffers trying to raise him. Tom is a very clever boy. He tricks his friends into whitewashing the fence, and wins a bible in church by cheating his friends out of their prize tickets.

Tom is not a good student and often plays hooky. He likes girls, and leaves Amy Lawrence for Becky Thatcher. His best friends are Joe Harper and Huck Finn. Huck is the son of the town drunk and disliked by all the adults. The kids respect him because he is the only free boy in town.

Tom, Joe, and Huck plan many adventures. One time they run away from home and camp out on Jackson Island. The town believes the boys are dead and are in for an amazing surprise when the boys return and show up at their own funeral.

One night, the boys go to a graveyard with a dead cat to try to cure warts. They accidentally witness Injun Joe killing Doc Robinson. Muff Potter, a kindly drunk, gets blamed for the murder. At the trial, Tom testifies and Potter is saved. However, Joe escapes and Tom spends sleepless nights worrying Joe will come to kill him.

One day Huck and Tom look for buried treasure. They stumble upon a “haunted” house and discover Joe and his partner hiding their stolen money. There is over \$12,000 in coins. The boys plan to follow the thieves and steal the money for themselves.

Becky Thatcher plans a picnic. One of the activities is for the children to explore a cave. After the picnic ends, the children go home, not knowing that Tom and Becky have been left behind and are lost in the cave. Their lives are in danger. Tom also discovers Joe hiding in the cave.

Tom eventually escapes. The town has bolted the cave shut, not knowing that in doing so they are killing Injun Joe. Tom and Huck become heroes and with Joe’s treasure are now rich and famous.

**Climax:**

The climax of the book is when Injun Joe dies. Tom says after the trial he will never sleep well until he sees Joe dead. He gets his wish when the people reenter the cave and find Joe’s body. Tom will never be bothered again by this man.

**Resolution:**

At the end of the story, Tom tells the town that he and Huck are rich. The boys shock the people by bringing in a wagon with \$12,000. Huck will live with the Widow Douglas and Tom will be a town hero.

**Theme:**

The theme is for adults to remember what it was like to be a child. The book makes fun of how silly children can be and reminds us of the fun they can have before having to enter “civilization”.