

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain

How does Tom make work desirable without ever arguing that whitewashing is fun?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The fence becomes desirable
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter II
START	Like it? Well, I don't see why I oughtn't to like it. Does a boy get a chance to whitewash a fence every day?
END	Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and that Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ts-01

THE MOVE

Track persuasion through scarcity and performance

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Tom never argues that whitewashing is enjoyable. He changes Ben's desire by acting as though the task is rare, difficult, and privileged. Scarcity and performance do the persuading, so the work becomes desirable without its nature changing.

MARK

Underline Tom's words and actions that make whitewashing look selective or difficult. Circle Ben's reactions as his attitude changes. Star the moment Ben begins asking for access instead of mocking the work.

NOTICE

- What facts about whitewashing remain unchanged throughout the exchange?
- Which part of Tom's performance makes Ben reinterpret the same task?
- Why is making something scarce more persuasive here than directly praising it?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Tom make work desirable without ever arguing that whitewashing is fun? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Tom make work desirable without ever arguing that whitewashing is fun? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Tom changes desire by changing the social meaning of the task. He treats whitewashing as rare, difficult, and privileged, making Ben want access without ever arguing the work itself is fun.
EVIDENCE	Use Tom's performance of concentration, his reluctance to let Ben try, and Ben's switch from mockery to bargaining.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Tom convinces Ben with words alone. Scarcity and performance do most of the persuasive work.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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How does Tom make work desirable without ever arguing that whitewashing is fun?

START ANCHOR	Like it? Well, I don't see why I oughtn't to like it. Does a boy get a chance to whitewash a fence every day?
END ANCHOR	Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and that Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline Tom's words and actions that make whitewashing look selective or difficult. Circle Ben's reactions as his attitude changes. Star the moment Ben begins asking for access instead of mocking the work.
2. NOTICE - What facts about whitewashing remain unchanged throughout the exchange? Which part of Tom's performance makes Ben reinterpret the same task? Why is making something scarce more persuasive here than directly praising it?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Tom make work desirable without ever arguing that whitewashing is fun?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.