

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain

What is logical about Tom's argument even if the supernatural premise is not?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The cross defeats the ghost theory
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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 XXXIII
START	Lookyhere, Huck, what fools we're making of ourselves! Injun Joe's ghost ain't a going to come around where there's a cross!
END	I reckon we'll climb down there and have a hunt for that box.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ts-04

THE MOVE

Reason consistently inside a mistaken belief system

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Tom's belief in ghosts may be false, but his reasoning inside that belief is consistent: if the cross repels ghosts, then a ghost should not guard treasure near a cross. The passage separates validity of reasoning from truth of premises.

MARK

Box the supernatural premise Tom accepts about crosses and ghosts. Underline the conclusion he draws from it. Write VALID LOGIC? beside the connection and TRUE PREMISE? beside the belief it depends on.

NOTICE

- What assumption must be true for Tom’s argument to work?
- Does the conclusion follow logically from that assumption?
- How can reasoning be consistent even when its starting belief is mistaken?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What is logical about Tom's argument even if the supernatural premise is not? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What is logical about Tom's argument even if the supernatural premise is not? 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's conclusion follows consistently from his supernatural premise: if a cross repels ghosts, a ghost should not remain near it. The reasoning can be valid even if the starting belief is false.
EVIDENCE	State the premise about the cross and the conclusion Tom draws from it.
WATCH FOR	Do not confuse valid reasoning with a true premise. The point is the difference between logic and factual accuracy.
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.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What is logical about Tom's argument even if the supernatural premise is not?

START ANCHOR	Lookyhere, Huck, what fools we're making of ourselves! Injun Joe's ghost ain't a going to come around where there's a cross!
END ANCHOR	I reckon we'll climb down there and have a hunt for that box.

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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** - Box the supernatural premise Tom accepts about crosses and ghosts. Underline the conclusion he draws from it. Write **VALID LOGIC?** beside the connection and **TRUE PREMISE?** beside the belief it depends on.
2. **NOTICE** - What assumption must be true for Tom's argument to work? Does the conclusion follow logically from that assumption? How can reasoning be consistent even when its starting belief is mistaken?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What is logical about Tom's argument even if the supernatural premise is not?
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.