

British literature

Beowulf - the oldest epic poem 1st c./
 Geoffrey Chaucer 1340 - 1400: *The Canterbury Tales*
 William Shakespeare 1564 - 1616: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*,
Richard III, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As you like it*, *The Winter's Tale*, *That time of year*
 - dramatist, son Hamnet /died at the age of 11/, daughters Susanna, Judith, theatre Globe
 /London's chief theatre/

Novel

Daniel Defoe 1660 - 1731: *Robinson Crusoe*
 Johnatan Swift 1667 - 1748: *Gulliver's Travels*
 19th century
 Walter Scott 1771 - 1832: *Ivanhoe*
 Charles Dickens 1812 - 1870: *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Pickwick Papers*

Turn of the century

Oscar Wilde 1856 - 1900: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
 Rudyard Kipling 1865 - 1936: *The Jungle Book* /Mowgli/

20th century

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1859 - 1950: *Sherlock Holmes stories*
 Between wars
 George Orwell 1903 - 1950: *The Animal Farm*
 Agatha Christie 1890 - 1976: detective stories

20th century drama

George Bernard Shaw: *Pygmalion*

After WWII

Samuel Becket 1906 - 1989: *Waiting for Godot*

Children's literature

Charles Perrault: *Sindbadrela* 1697 - first printed fairy-tale, translated from French/
 Romanticism 18th c./

Grimm's stories

Lewis Carol: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* 1866/

Victorian Era

Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Treasure Island*

Mark Twain: *Tom Sawyer*

James F. Cooper: *The Last of the Mohicans*

Edwardian era

J. M. Barrie: *Peter Pan* 1904/

A. A. Milne: *Winnie the Pooh* 1926/

Famous fairytales: Yogi Bear, Robin Hood, Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow
 white, The Frog Prince, Hansel and Gretel, Kumpelstücken

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain, a great American storyteller, wrote this book over a hundred years ago, but as a book about childhood, it has never been bettered.

Tom Sawyer lives with his Aunt Polly in St Petersburg, a town on the Mississippi. He's a clever boy, too clever for his aunt. He hates school and goes swimming instead. He steals sugar and is always fighting with the other boys. Aunt Polly sometimes gets angry with him and has to punish him.

Tom Surprises Aunt Polly

Saturday morning was fresh, and the world was full of happy life. The flowers and trees were beautiful that morning. Tom wanted to go swimming, but he came out of the house looking sad. He had a brush in one hand and a bucket in the other. The bucket contained a lot of whitewash and Tom had to use it on the fence. He looked unhappily at the fence. It was thirty yards long and nine feet high. Life was looking grey for Tom.

He put the brush into the whitewash and then moved the brush across the wood. It made a white mark, but it was a very small mark. He picked up his brush again. Soon Ben Rogers appeared. He was eating an apple and he was quite happy.

"Tom!" he cried. "What are you doing? You're in trouble, my boy! You're working!"
 Tom painted another part of the fence and said nothing. Then he stood back like an artist and looked at the white paint.

"Tom!" Ben cried again.
 "Why are you working? I'm going for a swim. But you don't want to come, do you? You want to work!"
 Ben laughed loudly.

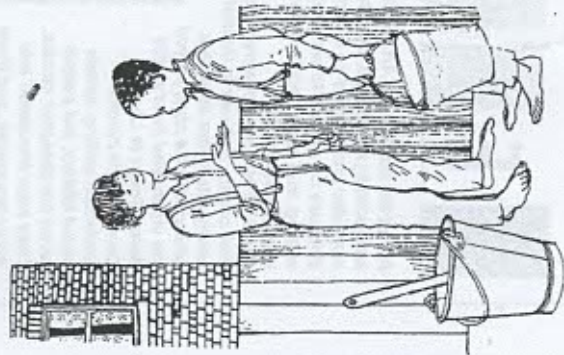
Tom looked at the boy quietly, and then said,

"What's work? Why do you call it work? It suits me!"

"What?" Ben was astonished.

"Do you like it?"

"Why not? A



boy doesn't often get a chance like this. You've never whitewashed a fence, have you?"

This changed Ben's ideas. Tom's brush moved smoothly over the wood, and Ben watched it.

"Say, Tom!" Ben said. "Let me whitewash a little!"
 Tom almost agreed, but he said, "No, Ben, I have to paint this fence well, I must do it myself with a great care."

"Oh, let me do just a little!"

"No, Ben. If you do it, you'll make a mistake. You can't paint it well."

"I won't make a mistake. And I'll give you an apple." Tom gave Ben the brush. Tom's face was sad, but his heart was glad. Ben worked hard and was soon very hot. Ben had done enough, and he went away. But other boys came along. They laughed at Tom when they saw him. But soon they were whitewashing the fence. Of course, they had to pay Tom for this great pleasure.

They gave him twelve marbles and some blue glass from a bottle. He received some dead animals and some bits of string, a tin soldier and a key. The key did not open anything, of course. He also got a dog's collar, but no dog. He had a lazy time, too, and no work. And the fence soon had three coats of whitewash on it.

This extract was taken from a Longman Readers book and was published with permission from Longman Publishers.

If you are interested in this book or other stories, please contact:

Bohemian Ventures,

Dělnická 13, 107 00 Praha 7.

- 1) hate [hæt] - nenávidět, 2) get angry with [æŋgri] - zlobit se (na koho),
- 3) punish [pənɪʃ] - trestat, 4) brush [brʌʃ] - štětec,
- 5) bucket [bʌkɪt] - kbelík, 6) whitewash [waɪtwɒʃ] - roztok na bílení,
- 7) fence [fens] - plot, 8) appear [ə'piə] - objevit se,
- 9) artist [ɑ:tɪst] - umělec, 10) suit [su:t] - vyhovovat,
- 11) hole [həʊl] - rozštěpení, 12) marble [mɑ:bl] - kulička,
- 13) bit of string [bɪt əv sprɪŋ] - kousek drátku, 14) key [keɪ] - klíč