

The Prince and the Pauper*

based on the novel by Mark Twain

One day in 1547 in London nine-year-old Prince Edward was walking in the palace gardens when he heard people shouting. One of the guards was beating a poor boy outside the gates. The prince told the guard to let the boy in. Then he **got the shock of his life**. The boy looked exactly like him: the same eyes, hair and build.

'What is your name, boy?'

'Tom, sir.'

The prince couldn't believe it. They even had the same ¹⁰ voice.

He asked him his age. He was nine, too.

Edward was curious.

'Tell me about yourself.'

Tom lived near London Bridge, in one small room with his ¹⁵ parents, his grandmother and his twin sisters. He slept on the floor. His father was a thief, his grandmother a beggar. Most days all he had for supper was dry bread. He sang in the streets for money and if he came home empty-handed, his father beat him.

²⁰ 'Your life sounds terrible!' said Edward.

'No! I'm as free as a bird. Every day I play with my mates. We swim in the river. We run on the sand. We shout, fight, dance and sing.'

The prince said nothing. He was thinking how rarely he had ²⁵ fun.

'What's your life like?' asked Tom.

'It's boring. I do nothing by myself. My servants **look after** me. They help me dress in the morning and undress at night. They watch me while I eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. They ³⁰ wash my face for me. If they could, they would breathe for me! I make speeches but cannot say what I think. I listen to music but cannot sing. I have lessons but cannot play. I never do anything I really want to.'

Edward talked about his family. His father was strict and ³⁵ often **told him off**. His mother was dead, but he **got on well with** his stepmother. He loved his half-sisters, Mary and Elizabeth but they were older and they hardly ever played together. Every day was the same. He felt like a child who must act like an adult.

⁴⁰ The prince looked Tom in the eyes. It was like looking in a mirror. Then he had an idea.

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Edward closed his eyes and imagined changing clothes with ⁴⁵ Tom. No one would know; they **looked** so much **alike**. He saw himself swimming in the river, running on the sand, shouting and fighting with friends.

'Well?' said the prince.

Tom smiled. Then nodded his head.

⁵⁰ A few minutes later they had changed clothes but nobody could tell.

Two very different adventures were about to begin.

Zadanie

3 Przeczytaj tekst. Które z podanych odpowiedzi A–D są zgodne z jego treścią?

1 The prince was surprised because

- A the guard was beating a boy.
- B the guard let the boy into the palace gardens.
- C the boy looked just like him.
- D the people were shouting.

2 Which sentence is true about Tom's life?

- A He lived with his parents and brothers.
- B His father was kind.
- C He was always unhappy.
- D He often enjoyed himself.

3 Why was Edward unhappy?

- A His servants always told him what to do.
- B He had to do many things he didn't enjoy.
- C He didn't have a good relationship with anyone in his family.
- D Everyone treated him like a child.

4 The prince wanted to

- A live Tom's life for a day.
- B change places with Tom forever.
- C get some nice clothes from Tom.
- D go and play with Tom by the river.

5 Which of these ideas can you find in this story?

- A The rich are happier than the poor.
- B The poor can be happy.
- C The poor don't want to be rich.
- D The rich are never happy.

4 **SŁOWNICTWO** Które wyrazy ze zwrotów wyróżnionych w tekście poprawnie uzupełniają pytania? W parach zadajcie sobie te pytania.

- 1 Have you ever looked **?** a child or someone who was ill? How difficult was it?
- 2 Tell me about a situation when you got the **?** of your life.
- 3 Tell me about two people you know who **?** alike.
- 4 When was the last time someone told you **?** Why did they do it?
- 5 Who in your family do you get **?** best with?