Click below to listen to chapter four of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

Jackson's Island

The next day everyone **knew** about poor Dr Robinson. The sheriff **found** Muff Potter's knife near the body of the doctor. He **put** Muff in St Petersburg's small jail.

Tom and Huck looked at each other. "We **saw** Injun Joe kill the doctor," said Tom, "Muff didn't kill him. Poor Muff!"

"I know," said Huck, "But we mustn't say anything. Remember, Injun Joe is dangerous - very dangerous. I'm sorry for Muff Potter, too." The two boys were afraid.

"We must keep this secret," said Tom sadly.

Tom could not forget. At night he had bad dreams about Injun Joe and Muff Potter. He **kept** the terrible secret but he was very unhappy. Aunt Polly was worried about him. She **gave** him a lot of different medicines. But Tom did not feel better. He was unhappy at school too. Becky Thatcher didn't talk to him anymore.

"No one loves me," thought Tom, "What a horrible life!"

It was now summer and there was no more school. Tom and his friend Joe Harper went to sit by the Mississippi River. They fished, talked and looked at the boats. One day Tom said, "Let's go do something exciting!"

"OK!" said Joe, "But where can we go and what can we do?"

"Let's run away! We can go and live on Jackson's Island. We can be pirates. A pirate's life is exciting," said Tom.

Jackson's Island was a small island in the Mississippi River. It was about three miles south of St Petersburg. No one lived on the island.

"Huckleberry Finn can come with us too," said Tom, "Remember, Joe, don't tell your mother, father or anyone about our adventure. Go home and **bring** some food. We'll **meet** here at midnight." Tom and Joe were excited.

At midnight the three boys **met** on the river. Tom **brought** some meat to eat. Joe brought some bread and Huck brought a frying pan.

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They **found** a small raft and they went down the river to Jackson's Island. When they arrived on the island they **made** a fire and cooked some meat.

"This is fun!" said Joe.

"We're free and we can do everything we want!" said Tom.

"What do pirates do?" asked Huck.

"They go on ships and take the money. Then they go to an island and hide it in a secret place," said Tom. The three boys were happy and **slept** under the stars.

The next morning they went swimming in the river. Then they went fishing. They cooked the fish on the fire and ate it. It was delicious.

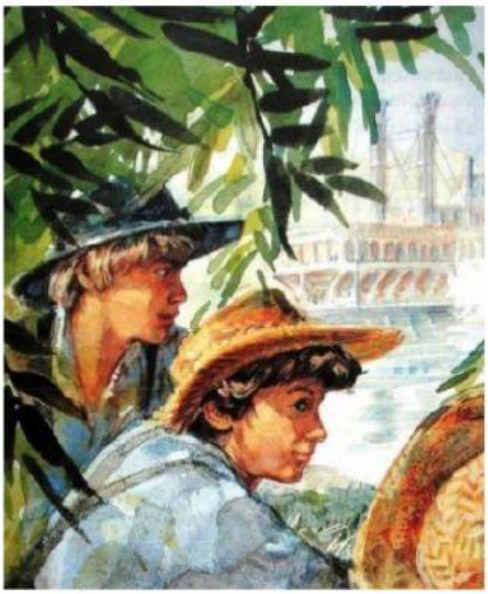
After breakfast they walked around the island and went swimming again. In the afternoon they sat around the fire and **ate** some meat. Suddenly Tom said, "Can you hear a strange noise? Listen!"

"What is it?" asked Joe.

"Let's go and see," said Huck.

They **ran** to the river. They saw a steamboat and a lot of small boats near it.

"Every boat from St Petersburg is out on the river," said Joe, "What's happening?"



"They're looking for a dead body," said Huck, "The same thing happened last summer when Bill Turner fell into the river and drowned."

"Who are they looking for this time?" asked Joe.

Tom thought for a moment and said, "I know! It's US! They think we drowned!"

The three boys felt like heroes and laughed.

"The people of St Petersburg are looking for us. They're talking about us. We're famous!" said Tom happily.

This was an exciting adventure for Tom, Huck and Joe! They **felt** like real pirates on Jackson's island. The boats and the

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steamboat **went** away. The boys went fishing again and had fish for dinner. Then they slept under the stars. But Tom could not sleep.

The next morning he wasn't there.

"Where's Tom?" asked Joe.

"I don't know," said Huck.

After a few minutes Huck said, "Look! Tom's swimming in the river. He's coming to the island."

Tom **told** them his story.

"Last night I couldn't sleep. I **thought** about Aunt Polly. So I went home but no one **saw** me. I saw Aunt Polly and your mother, Joe. Poor Aunt Polly cried a lot. And your mother was very sad too. Everyone **thinks** we're dead. I heard some interesting things."'

"What did you hear?" asked Huck.

"Well, there will be a funeral for us on Sunday at the church," said Tom. Huck and Joe looked at him with big eyes. "And now I have a great idea. Listen -"

Tom told Huck and Joe his great idea. They liked it and laughed.

Sunday was the day of the funeral. There were no happy faces in St Petersburg. Everyone in the village was in the small church. Aunt Polly, Sid, Mary and Joe Harper's family were all dressed in black. The Reverend said many kind words about the three boys. The boys' families cried and cried. Becky Thatcher cried. Everyone cried a lot.

Suddenly there was a noise at the church door. The Reverend looked up and **stopped** speaking. Everyone in the church turned around and looked. Their mouths opened. The three dead boys slowly walked into the church. Tom was first, then Joe and then Huck.

There was great silence for a moment. Then Aunt Polly, Mary and Joe's mother **ran** to the boys. They kissed Tom and Joe. Aunt Polly cried and then she laughed. Poor Huck did not know what to do. No one kissed him. He started moving away but Tom stopped him.

"Aunt Polly, it's not right. Somebody must be happy to see Huck," said Tom.

"Oh, you're right Tom!" cried Aunt Polly and she kissed Huck.

Tom was very proud of his great idea.

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Then the Reverend said, "Let us sing and be happy!" Everybody sang and laughed. It was a very happy day.

Choose the correct answer.

1. What happened to Muff?
   - ☐ He left the country.
   - ☐ He was put in jail.
   - ☐ He ran away and hid in a cave.
2. Why was Tom unhappy at school?
   - ☐ Becky Thatcher didn't want to talk to him.
   - ☐ The teacher gave him too much homework.
   - ☐ He missed Huck.
3. Who was Joe Harper?
   - ☐ Sid's friend
   - ☐ Huck's cousin
   - ☐ Tom's friend.
4. What exciting plan did Tom have?
   - ☐ to go fishing
   - ☐ to run away and live on an island as pirates
   - ☐ to go on a steamboat ride
5. When did the boys meet by the river?
   - ☐ at lunchtime the next day
   - ☐ at midnight the same day
   - ☐ at midnight the following day
6. How did they travel on the the river?
   - ☐ by steamboat
   - ☐ by canoe
   - ☐ by a small raft
7. What did Huck bring to the river?
   - ☐ a frying pan
   - ☐ bread
   - ☐ meat
8. Where did they sleep on the island?
   - ☐ in a cave
   - ☐ under the stars
   - ☐ on the beach
9. Why were there so many boats on the river?
   - ☐ They are looking for Injun Joe.
   - ☐ They are all fishing.
   - ☐ They think the boys have drowned.

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10. Where did Tom go in the night?
    - ☐ He swam to the village to find out what was happening.
    - ☐ He snuck to the beach and sailed the raft back.
    - ☐ He looked for treasure on the island.
11. What did he tell the boys?
    - ☐ He said he found treasure on the shore.
    - ☐ He said he found Injun Joe hiding in the bushes.
    - ☐ He said the villagers thought they were dead, but he had a plan.
12. Who was the funeral for?
    - ☐ Dr Robinson
    - ☐ Muff
    - ☐ The boys

Find the verbs in the past tense in this Wordsearch. (for example. to meet someone – Yesterday, I **met** someone.)

1. to meet
2. to say
3. to give
4. to keep
5. to know
6. to bring
7. to think
8. to eat
9. to put
10. to feel
11. to find
12. to go
13. to tell
14. to run
15. to sleep
16. to see

B	X	Q	S	L	E	P	T	S	P	T	R	W	K	F	A
X	S	X	W	B	K	N	E	W	X	F	M	Y	E	R	O
X	X	R	C	S	R	B	R	O	U	G	H	T	P	S	B
H	L	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	Q	W	I	Y	T	A	L
J	G	I	I	T	E	S	U	V	I	A	A	O	X	I	V
T	U	L	C	O	I	Y	M	I	X	A	G	O	N	D	Q
N	J	P	N	L	L	M	I	D	V	T	F	O	U	N	D
H	X	E	T	D	R	D	N	K	Z	E	S	A	W	Y	N
U	E	Y	Z	Z	E	O	E	B	Q	G	C	X	D	R	X
G	O	X	J	F	E	L	T	U	F	A	Q	W	B	J	D
P	F	M	E	T	G	D	O	K	W	V	Z	M	V	L	L
O	C	W	S	L	K	K	C	H	J	E	J	B	J	T	K
J	L	T	W	E	N	T	R	A	N	R	R	I	F	Q	E
O	E	I	Q	T	E	K	Z	N	N	S	J	O	N	X	H
J	Q	T	G	Q	M	W	H	G	I	Q	Y	W	F	X	O
S	Y	G	H	Z	Q	P	U	T	T	A	A	G	C	I	X

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