



## THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER: AMERICAN LIFE IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY

**Nesipbayeva Saodatxan Quanishbay qizi**

*PhD researcher of the Karakalpak State University*

[saodatnesipbaeva@gmail.com](mailto:saodatnesipbaeva@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is more than just a story about a mischievous boy. It gives readers a picture of life in a small American town during the 1800s. Through Tom Sawyer's adventures, Twain shows us the everyday experiences, values, and struggles of people at that time. This paper explores how Twain uses humor, storytelling, and vivid characters to reflect the culture and society of 19th-century America.*

**Keywords:** *Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer, American society, childhood, 19th century, social values, humor.*

### Introduction

Mark Twain, born Samuel Clemens, is one of the most well-known American writers. His novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, published in 1876, is set in a small town on the Mississippi River and is based on Twain's own childhood. Although the book is often read by children, it contains deep messages about society, growing up, and human behavior. **Tom Sawyer: Embodiment of Youth and Rebellion**

Tom Sawyer is the main character of the story. He is clever, curious, and often gets into trouble. He hates rules and tries to avoid work whenever he can—like when he tricks other boys into painting a fence for him. He also dreams of adventure and often pretends to be a pirate, a robber, or a hero.

Although Tom seems playful and careless, he slowly learns about responsibility and bravery. For example, when he and his friend Becky get lost in a cave, he stays calm and finds a way out. These moments show his growth from a mischievous boy to someone more mature.

Twain uses the story to show what life was like in a small American town before the Civil War. People went to church, believed in superstitions, and had strong ideas about right and wrong. Twain describes school, family life, religious customs, and social events in great detail. He also shows how people behaved differently depending on their class, age, and background.

Characters like Aunt Polly (Tom's guardian), Huck Finn (a poor boy living outside society), and Injun Joe (the villain) represent different parts of the community. Each character adds to the rich picture of life at that time.

### Twain's Use of Humor and Critique





## MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

Mark Twain often uses humor and irony to make serious points. He shows how adults sometimes act foolishly or unfairly, even while trying to teach children how to behave. He also points out the unfair treatment of people like Huck Finn, who is judged because of his background, and Injun Joe, who is treated as dangerous partly because of his identity.

Through these stories, Twain gently criticizes society's rules and values. He invites readers to think about the difference between what people say is right and what is truly fair.

Themes: Freedom, Growth, and Society

One of the main ideas in the book is the tension between freedom and rules. Tom wants to explore the world on his own terms, but he also learns that being part of a community means caring for others. Twain shows that growing up is not just about following rules, but about understanding what is right and wrong for yourself. Another important theme is how society expects people to behave. Twain suggests that sometimes these expectations are helpful, but other times they are unfair or limiting.

### Conclusion

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is more than a children's book. It is a thoughtful and often funny look at American life in the 1800s. Through Tom's adventures, Mark Twain shows us the joys and challenges of growing up in a society full of rules, traditions, and contradictions. His storytelling helps readers understand not only the past but also the timeless questions of freedom, responsibility, and human nature.

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