

Mark Twain's  
"TOM SAWYER"

SCENE 1  
(PROLOGUE)

ON THE ATTIC BEDROOM OF AUNT POLLY'S HOUSE.

A LOUD "YEOWL" IS HEARD, O.S.. TOM RETURNS THE SIGNAL WITH A HUSHED "MEOW", THEN CALLS DOWN.

TOM: (loud whisper) Huck? (no answer) Joe?...

MARK TWAIN: Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to tell you a story about a boy who lived a great many years ago in the Mississippi Valley, not far from here. His name is Tom. Tom Sawyer. And he lived in this small house by the river with his widowed Aunt Polly and his half-brother Sid.

LIGHTS UP ON AUNT POLLY, STANDING IN THE KITCHEN BELOW. SHE CALLS UP TO THEM.

AUNT POLLY: You-u-u Tom! Sid! Time for school!

SID OBEDIENTLY HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS. ANOTHER "YEOWL" IS HEARD. HURRYING TO GET HIS CLOTHES ON, TOM STARTS TO ANSWER WITH ANOTHER "MEOW" BUT AUNT POLLY'S VOICE STOPS HIM.

AUNT POLLY: Tom! What on earth are you up to?

TOM: (Calling down to her) Nothing.

ANOTHER "YEOWL", MORE INSISTENT. TOM GRABS HIS FISHING POLE AND STARTS TO CLIMB OUT THE WINDOW AND DOWN.

AUNT POLLY: Well get a move on then!

TOM: Yes'm, I'm coming...!