

ACT I

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FADE IN:

INT. ATTIC BEDROOM - MORNING

(SID, TOM, AUNT POLLY, MARK TWAIN)

SID IS DRESSED AND READY FOR SCHOOL, BUT TOM IS JUST PULLING ON HIS PANTS WHEN A LOUD "YEOWL" IS HEARD, O.S.. TOM MOVES QUICKLY TO THE OPEN WINDOW, RETURNS THE SIGNAL WITH A HUSHED "MEOW", THEN CALLS DOWN.

TOM

(LOUD WHISPER)

Huck?

(NO ANSWER)

Joe?...

THE VOICE OF MARK TWAIN IS HEARD, OVER:

MARK TWAIN (V.O.)

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!