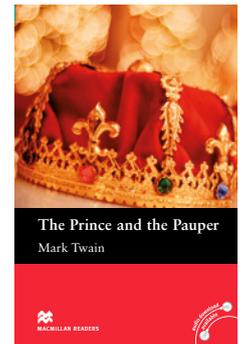


The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

ABOUT THE STORY

Set in England in 1547, *The Prince and the Pauper* tells the story of two boys from very different backgrounds: Tom Canty, a poor boy, and Edward Tudor, a rich prince. The two boys meet and decide to swap clothes and live as the other one for a little while. Both of them find it difficult: the prince discovers that life is very difficult for the poor people of England, and Tom doesn't like the strict rules of the palace. In the end, they meet again and swap back to their original lives. In the extract below, the two boys meet for the first time. The prince starts asking Tom questions about his life and family.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Twain (real name Samuel Longhorne Clemens) was born in 1835 in the US. One of his first jobs was sailing riverboats up and down the Mississippi River in the southern US, a place that features in many of his stories. He is best known for his two novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which tell the stories of two boys growing up by the Mississippi River. *The Prince and the Pauper*, published between those two books in 1882, was very different – it was his first attempt at historical fiction. At the time, it was not very popular, although today it is one of his best known books.

4G

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Chapter 2 Tom meets the prince

My mother and my sisters are very kind,' said Tom.

'I have got sisters, too,' said the prince. 'They are called Lady Elizabeth and Lady Mary. I have also got a cousin called Lady Jane Grey. Lady Elizabeth and Lady Jane

5 are very nice but Lady Mary is not. She gets very angry with her servants. Do your sisters get angry with their servants?'

'They haven't got any servants,' replied Tom.

'Then who helps them to get dressed?' asked the prince.

10 'We all get dressed ourselves and we don't have many clothes,' said Tom. The prince did not understand. How could people get dressed themselves? A servant always helped him.

15 'You can have one of my servants,' he said 'I will also give you and your sisters lots of new clothes. Do not thank me. It is nothing.'

'That is very kind of you, sir,' said Tom.

'You speak very well. Where do you go to school?' the prince went on.

20 'I don't go to school,' Tom said 'A good man called Father Andrew taught me to read and write.'

The prince smiled. 'I have got a teacher as well,' he said 'Tell me about your home. Are you happy there?'

Tom thought about Offal Court.

25 'Yes,' he said 'Sometimes there are puppet shows and plays in the street. I play with my friends and sometimes we play a game where we hit each other with wooden swords for fun.'

'That sounds wonderful!' the prince said.

30 'In summer,' continued Tom, 'we go swimming in the river. We also dance and we play in the mud.'

'Excellent!' replied the prince happily. 'I'd really like to wear your clothes, see a puppet show, play with friends and swim in the river! Sometimes I get very bored here.'

35 'Well,' said Tom, 'I'd really like to dress like a prince!'

'Really?' said the prince 'Well, we'll swap clothes! I'll wear your clothes and you can wear mine!'

A few minutes later, Tom was wearing the prince's expensive clothes and the hat with purple feathers. The prince was wearing Tom's dirty old rags.

40 'Look in the mirror,' said the prince. Tom looked and he was very surprised.

'We have got the same eyes,' continued the prince, 'We have got the same hair. We have even got the same face!'

45 It was true. The two boys looked exactly the same. They were like twins.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

kind (line 1): behaving in a way that shows you care about other people and want to help them

servant (line 6): someone who cooks, cleans or works in another person's home

puppet (line 25): a small model of an animal or person that you move with your hand

sword (line 28): a weapon with a long sharp blade that you fight with

mud (line 31): very soft, wet earth

rags (line 40): clothes that are old, torn and dirty

twins (line 46): two children born at the same time to the same mother



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Before reading

1a You are going to read an extract from a story by a writer called Mark Twain. Complete the names of his three most famous novels with the words in the box.

Adventures (x2) • Huckleberry Finn
Pauper • Prince • Tom Sawyer

- 1 The of
- 2 The of
- 3 The and the

1b Read the *About the author* section to check your answers.

2 The extract is about two boys who have very different lives. Read the *About the story* section. In pairs, discuss what differences there might be between the boys' lives then. Make notes in the table.

Tom Canty	Edward Tudor
a poor boy	a rich prince

3 Who do you think has a better life, Tom or Edward? Why?

While reading

1 Now read the extract. Are any of your ideas in Before reading, exercise 2 mentioned?

2 Read the extract again. Tick [✓] the topics the two boys talk about.

family food clothes
 school free time

3 Decide if each sentence refers to Tom (T), the prince (P) or both (B).

- 1 He has sisters.
- 2 His sisters are kind.
- 3 Only one of his sisters is kind.
- 4 He dresses himself.
- 5 A servant dresses him.
- 6 He has a teacher.
- 7 He can read and write.
- 8 He does fun things with his friends.
- 9 He gets very bored.

4 What other similarities between Tom and the prince can you find in the extract?

5 Now look back at the extract and read what they say about getting dressed (lines 9–15). In pairs, discuss these questions.

- 1 How does Tom get dressed?
- 2 How does the prince get dressed?
- 3 Why doesn't the prince understand what Tom is saying?

After reading

1 Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- 1 Who do you think has the best life? Why? Is your answer the same as in Before reading, exercise 3?
- 2 Do you think it is better to be poor, but happy and with lots of friends, or rich, but lonely and bored? Why?

2 Now work in pairs. It is the current year. One of you is a prince or princess and the other is a normal person. Make notes about your life.

Where you live:

.....

Food:

.....

Friends:

.....

Free-time activities:

.....

Clothes:

.....

Money:

.....

3 Imagine you meet by accident. Write the conversation that you have comparing your lives. Then role-play the conversation.