

Dallas Christian  
English III Summer Reading 2017  
*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

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## About your teacher:

My name is Mrs. Winn, and I am excited for my first year teaching at Dallas Christian! I am married and I have four children: Eden, Ruby, Judah, and Asher. I enjoy spending time with my family and church family, reading, and teaching! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you! This year we are going to increase our understanding of literature through discussion and the use of literary tools. We will hone our ability to respond critically to our reading with effective essay writing. We will also improve our research skills and our ability to craft written argument.

## A Note for Parents:

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain is an American classic, and tells the story of young Tom Sawyer and his friend, Huckleberry Finn. This will give some context to our reading of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* later in the year. The story is set in the mid 1800s, and as a mischievous twelve-year-old, Tom Sawyer encounters struggles between his responsibilities and temptations, a first love, and a crime in progress. This book contains a mix of both humor and serious topics, which will make for good discussion for you and your student. Here are some things families can discuss:

- In what ways has American childhood changed? How has it remained the same?
- Is Tom Sawyer the only protagonist in this story? What other characters contribute to his favorable success?
- In what ways were the characters clever, and what ways were they foolish?
- What role did conscience play for the characters in the book? How did this affect their actions?

## Assignment:

Over the summer you will need to read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain and complete the corresponding assignment. The assignment is intended to guide your reading and focus your thoughts in preparation for the discussions, summer reading test, and writing assignments you will engage in when you return in August.

**The assignment is due on the first day of class.**

Make sure you read all the assignment directions and that you are clear on all parts. It is up to you to email me with any questions, and I strongly suggest you ask me if you have any confusion. Don't wait until August to begin this assignment. You will not be successful. Please do not plagiarize, or copy information from the internet to pass off as your own; rather, embrace academic honesty by doing your own thoughtful work. This will only benefit you in the future. **Be sure to bring your book and your written assignment on the first day of school.**

Your summer reading assignment is to annotate the text and keep a dialectical journal as you read. Please see the annotation and dialectical journal instructions on the next page for more information. You should:

- **annotate 20 passages in the text, and**
- **respond with 20 entries in your dialectical journal.**

**Be prepared to take a test over *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* upon returning to school.**

Enjoy the summer! I will see you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winn  
awinn@dallaschristian.com

## Annotation and Dialectical Journal Instructions

One way to read actively is to annotate the text. To annotate a book, you simply choose what you think is important (or what you like) and underline/highlight, and note it in the margin of the book. Annotate as you read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Reading journals, or dialectical journals, record your reaction to the book as you are reading; therefore, you determine what you want to highlight or underline, and make notes in the margins of the book. Hence, you must write in the book! You may note what a character says or does, or you may note something about the author's writing.

Your goal is to gather quotes that catch your attention and then respond to the quotes by analyzing them. You may respond to ideas by writing about a person, a setting, an event, or a theme in the text. Why did the quote pop out to you? You may choose quotes that you find particularly insightful, interesting, or even funny. Is something unusual or especially meaningful? You can also look at elements of the author's writing style (see below).

You will do your journal over *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* using quotes from throughout the book.

- **Your journal must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double spaced.**
- **Be sure to include your first and last name, class period, and my name (Mrs. Winn) in the upper left corner of your page so that you receive credit for your work.**

You will need to locate at least 20 quotes from throughout the book and write a response explaining the importance of the quote you chose. **The journal is due the first day of class.** Complete it early so your assignment is finished and ready to turn in. **Bring your book to class on the first day.**

1. Title your journal like this: Reading Journal for *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
2. Skip a line, and in proper MLA format (which includes the page number in parenthesis at the end of the quote), write out the quote.
3. Skip a line after your quote and begin your commentary (analysis). **This is not a summary of the quote, but instead an interaction with what was happening at that point in the story.** Each entry will be a paragraph containing at least 5 thoughtful and effective sentences. Some entries will have longer paragraphs than others. Do not paraphrase the author's words. Instead, reflect on and interact with each quote.
4. After your analysis, go to your next quote and repeat the process until you have responded to 20 quotes from throughout the book.

**Possible** ways to begin your commentary (analysis):

### Ideas:

I wonder if this means...

I don't understand this because...

I like/dislike this idea because...

I agree with this idea because...

This part is confusing because...

This idea makes me feel...

This quote reminds me of the character in the story who did...

I didn't expect the author to say this because...

The idea reminds me of ...

This quote is particularly effective/thought-provoking/depressing/unusual because...

This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_ will happen later.

I need to know or find out more about...

Sometimes I feel just like the author when...

The author seems to feel \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_.

I disagree with the author when he says...

### Style:

The author's diction is particularly effective here because...

The author uses imagery here when...

The tone of this part of the book is...

The attitude of the character/the author/the setting makes me feel/think...

The organization of these ideas seems...

The author's argument is...

I notice use of rhetorical appeals (ethos, logos, pathos) here...

The author supports his/her ideas by...

I like the language used in this passage because...

The author's use of figurative language is effective because...

The author uses irony in the passage about...

I like the narrative because...