

CHARACTERS:

- Narrator
- Aunt Polly
- Tom Sawyer
- Jim
- Ben Rogers
- Bill Fisher
- Johnny Miller



Narrator:

It is Saturday morning and Tom wants to go outside and play.

Aunt Polly:

Tom! You must paint the fence before you can play.

Narrator:

Tom sighs and starts painting the fence. Jim enters. He is going to get water for Aunt Polly.

Tom:

Jim, I will get the water, if you paint the fence.

Jim:

No Tom, I have to get the water.

Tom:

Are you afraid of Aunt Polly? She won't hurt you. She only talks about it. You should not be afraid of her. Jim, I will give you one of my toys and show you where I hurt my foot if you paint the fence.

Narrator:

Jim takes the toy and looks at Tom's foot then runs away. Tom sighs and starts painting again.

Tom:

Soon the other boys will come and laugh at me because it is Saturday and I have to paint the fence.

Narrator:

Tom looks in his empty pockets.

Tom:

I don't even have enough to buy help.

Narrator:

Tom stops suddenly.

Tom:

I have an idea!

Narrator:

Tom starts painting seriously. Ben Rogers enters eating an apple and making noises like a big riverboat.

Ben:

Ding-Dong-Dong! Turn her! Slow her! Stop!

Narrator:

Ben stops next to Tom. Tom continues painting and does not look at Ben.

Ben:

Hello Tom! You are in trouble!

Narrator:

Tom continues to paint seriously and looks carefully at his work.

Ben:

Hello Tom. You have to work, don't you?

Tom:

Oh, Ben! Is that you? I didn't see you.

Ben:

I'm going swimming. Don't you wish you could go swimming? But you have to work.

Tom:

What do you mean, I have to work?

Ben:

Painting a fence is work!

Tom:

For some it may be work, but its fine for Tom Sawyer!

Ben:

Do you mean that you enjoy it?

Tom:

Enjoy it? Does a boy have the chance to paint a fence every day?

Narrator:

Ben stops eating his apple and watches Tom paint.

Ben:

Tom, let me paint a little.

Narrator:

Tom pauses and thinks.

Tom:

No, Ben. Aunt Polly wants this fence to be perfect. If it was the fence behind the house, you could help. But this fence must be done very carefully. There is not one boy in a thousand who can do it well.

Ben:

Oh Tom, let me try! Only a little. I'll be careful. Tom, I'll give you a part of my apple.

Tom:

No, Ben. I'm afraid...

Ben:

I'll give you all of my apple!

Tom:

Okay, but you have to be careful!

Narrator:

Ben gives Tom the apple and Tom gives the brush to Ben slowly. Ben starts painting the fence. Tom sits down and starts eating the apple. Bill Fisher enters and watches Ben paint the fence.

Bill:

Hello Tom and Ben, don't you wish you could play? But you have to work!

Tom:

No, Bill. This is more fun.

Bill:

Painting a fence is fun?

Tom:

Yes, Bill. It isn't every day a boy has the chance to paint a fence.

Narrator:

Bill stops and watches Ben paint.

Bill:

Tom, let me paint the fence.

Tom:

No, Bill. I'm sorry but this fence must be painted very carefully.

Bill:

Please Tom? I will give you my cat with one eye!

Tom:

Okay, but you must be very careful!

Bill:

I will!

Narrator:

Bill gives Tom a cat and Tom gives Bill a paint brush. Bill starts painting the fence with Ben. Johnny Miller enters and sees Bill and Ben painting the fence.

Johnny:

I'm going to play. Don't you wish you could play?

Bill and Ben (together):

No, Johnny. We're doing something more fun than playing.

Johnny:

Painting a fence is fun?

Bill and Ben (together):

Yes, it is!

Tom:

But not just anyone can paint this fence.

Johnny:

I can paint it! Please Tom, let me paint the fence.

Tom:

I'm sorry Johnny. Aunt Polly said it must be done perfectly.

Johnny:

I'll give you this piece of broken blue glass!

Narrator:

Johnny holds up a piece of broken blue glass. Tom thinks for a moment.

Tom:

Okay, but you have to paint very carefully.

Narrator:

Johnny gives Tom a piece of broken blue glass and Tom gives Johnny a paint brush. Johnny begins to paint with Bill and Ben. Tom smiles at his new treasures: an apple, a cat with one eye, and a piece of broken blue glass.

Tom:

I wish I had more to paint!