

1. Tom Paints the Fence

WORKSHEET 1

COMPREHENSION

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, who wrote under the pen name Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Missouri on 30 November 1835 in a humble family. He had a difficult childhood. His family shifted to Hannibal, where he was brought up.

His father was a serious man who rarely showed affection. His mother, Jane Clemens, had a good sense of humour, which her son probably inherited. The sudden death of his father, John Clemens, forced him to take up work to support his family. He dropped out of school to become a printer's apprentice.

Then, Mark Twain worked as a typesetter in 1851, and occasionally gave articles and humorous sketches to 'Hannibal Journal'. The newspaper was owned by his brother, Orion Clemens.

He left the 'Hannibal Journal' at the age of 18 and began to work as a printer in New York City. During this time, he often went to public libraries and read a lot of books to educate himself.

His childhood dream was to become a steamboatman. He worked as an apprentice with a steamboat pilot. After two years of good training, in 1858, he became a licensed river pilot. He loved his job, but the Civil War broke out in 1861 and the river trade was very badly affected.

So, Mark Twain became a miner. However, he did not like his work and started writing for newspapers. During this time, he adopted the pen name 'Mark Twain'.

A humorous story titled 'The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County' was published in a New York weekly. It brought great fame and name to Mark Twain and he became a famous writer. His most famous novels are 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

A. Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. Samuel Langhorne Clemens wrote under the pen name

(a) Saki.

(b) George Orwell.

(c) Lewis Carroll.

(d) Mark Twain.

2. Mark Twain was born in Florida on

(a) 30 November 1934.

(b) 30 November 1835.

- (c) 30 November 1936. (d) 30 November 1937.
3. In 1851, Mark Twain worked as
- (a) a printer. (b) a typesetter.
- (c) a journalist. (d) river pilot.
4. Which humorous story of Mark Twain was published in a New York weekly?
- (a) 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'
- (b) 'The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County'
- (c) 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'
- (d) 'Life on the Mississippi'

B. Answer the following questions.

1. What work did Mark Twain take up after he dropped out of school?

2. Why did Mark Twain shift to New York City at the age of 18? How did he use his free time?

3. What was Mark Twain's childhood dream? Why did he undergo two years of training?

4. Which story by Mark Twain first brought him name and fame?

C. Give antonyms of the following words.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. death | _____ | 2. good | _____ |
| 3. loved | _____ | 4. started | _____ |

WORKSHEET 2

GRAMMAR

A. Match the subjects with their predicates.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The jet aeroplane | (a) came in through the window. |
| 2. The mice | (b) belonged to my grandmother. |
| 3. Mrs Sharma | (c) flew high in the sky. |
| 4. The ink | (d) played in the hockey park. |
| 5. The children | (e) slipped on a banana peel. |
| 6. My doctor | (f) spilled all over the paper. |
| 7. This rocking chair | (g) is a kind, old gentleman. |

B. Match the phrases with their meanings.

- | Phrases | Meanings |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. broke down | (a) broke |
| 2. get on with | (b) detect |
| 3. gave way | (c) failed |
| 4. see through | (d) conceal |
| 5. keep back | (e) agree with; be friendly with |

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Select one word from the box for each of the following groups of words.

dictionary miser orphanage veterinarian encyclopaedia spendthrift

- 1. someone who doesn't spend money _____
- 2. someone who spends too much money _____
- 3. a doctor who treats animals _____
- 4. a book in which you find word meanings _____
- 5. a book with information about everything _____
- 6. a place where children without parents live _____

B. Make sentences with the following words.

- 1. attention: _____
- 2. suggestion: _____
- 3. celebration: _____
- 4. action: _____
- 5. station: _____