

TOM SAWYER: MOVIE VERSION

**Study Guide compares the novel *TOM SAWYER* by Mark Twain to the movie *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938)* starring Tommy Kelly, May Robson, Walter Brennan, Victor Jory, Jackie Moran and Philip Hurlic. Directed by Norman Taurog.
Produced by David O. Selznick.**



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SAMPLE TOM SAWYER: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *TOM SAWYER* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Mark Twain

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938)* starring Tommy Kelly, May Robson, Walter Brennan, Victor Jory and Philip Hurlic. Directed by Norman Taurog. Produced by David O. Selznick.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ Characters: ★★☆☆☆ Setting: ★★☆☆☆

Structure: ★★☆☆☆ Symbols: ★★☆☆☆ Theme: ★★☆☆☆

THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1

OPENING SCENE: Tom and Jim ride on the back of a wagon through the streets of St. Petersburg. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Tom and Jim go swimming in the river. (**ERROR:** In the book Tom does not go swimming with Jim) Tom Sawyer's Aunt Polly is looking for him. (**ACCURATE**) Jim distracts Aunt Polly with a discussion of which wood he should chop while Tom sneaks in the house. (**ERROR:** Not in the book)

At the dinner table Aunt Polly suspects that Tom has skipped school to go swimming. (**ACCURATE**) Aunt Polly feels Tom's wet hair. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Tom dodges Aunt Polly's close questioning. (**ACCURATE**) Sid says Tom should read the Bible more. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Aunt Polly examines Tom's collar which is sewn on. (**ACCURATE**) Sid points out that Tom's collar is sewn with black thread, not the white thread used by Aunt Polly. (**ACCURATE**) Tom threatens Sid for telling on him and runs out the door. (**ACCURATE**)

OMISSIONS: Aunt Polly catches Tom as he comes out of the pantry with jam on his face. Aunt Polly has told him not to eat the jam. She prepares to punish Tom with a switch. Tom escapes, climbs over a fence and disappears. Aunt Polly laughs to herself. She does not have the heart to whip her dead sister's child whom she is trying to raise. She observes that Tom does not like work, but she will continue to do her duty to raise him right.

Tom skips school. He helps Jim, an African-American boy, chop wood before supper. Jim chops while Tom entertains him with stories of his adventures. Tom's younger half-brother Sid picks up the wood chips. Sid is quiet and does not have adventurous ways.

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QUIZ

This quiz compares the movie *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1938) starring Tommy Kelly, May Robson and Walter Brennan to the novel *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

- ___ 1. In the movie and the book Tom gets other boys to whitewash a fence by telling them that
- a. painting the fence is fun
 - b. they will get jobs if they learn to paint
 - c. painting the fence builds muscles
 - d. they will be paid for painting
- ___ 2. In the movie Tom gives Jim a trinket not to tell about Tom's whitewashing scheme. In the book Tom gives Jim a
- a. bell
 - b. spur
 - c. marble
 - d. yo-yo
- ___ 3. In the movie and the book Tom tries to impress Becky Thatcher with his
- a. gymnastics
 - b. singing
 - c. poetry
 - d. boxing

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