

Lesson 7

## Why was Tom Sick on Monday

[ **Mark Twain** was the pen-name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born on 30 November in the year 1835 in Florida. He was a famous American humanist writer and a lecturer. He won worldwide fame for his stories of youthful adventures. His adventure stories are *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). He died on 21 April, in the year 1910 at Redding. This lesson is an extract from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. ]

Monday morning found Tom miserable. Monday morning always found him so—because it began another week's suffering at school. He groaned but Sid\* slept on, unconscious.

Tom lay thinking. Presently, it occurred to him that he wished he was sick; then he could stay away from school. He thought further about it. Suddenly he discovered something. One of his front teeth was loose. This was lucky; he was about to begin to groan, when it occurred to him that his aunt would probably pull it out and that would hurt. So he decided he would have to hold the tooth in reserve, for the present, and think of something else. Suddenly he remembered his sore toe. He eagerly drew his foot from under the sheet and held up the toe for inspection. It might work!

Tom groaned louder.

No response from Sid.

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\* Sid is Tom's brother in the novel.

Tom took a rest and then swelled himself up and gave a succession of admirable groans.

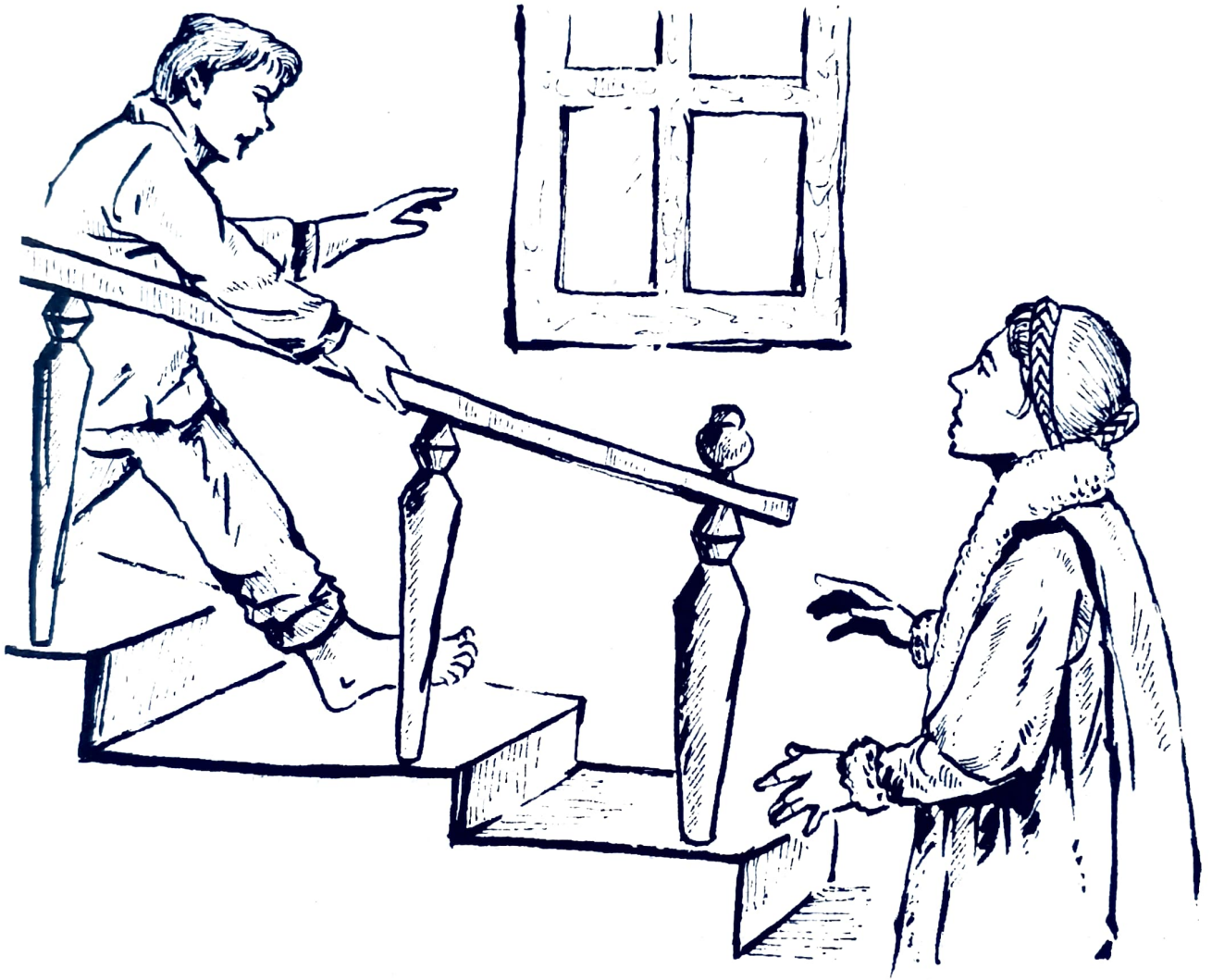
Sid snored on.

At last Tom shook him. 'Sid, Sid!' He began groaning again.

Sid yawned, stretched, then brought himself upon his elbow and stared at Tom. Tom went on groaning.

Sid said, 'Tom! say, Tom!'

There was no response.



'Here, Tom what is the matter?' He shook him and looked at his face anxiously.

Tom moaned out, 'Oh, don't, Sid. Don't bump me.'

'Why, what's the matter, Tom? I must call Auntie.'

'No-never mind. It'll be over by and by, maybe. Don't call anybody.'

'But I must! Don't groan so, Tom. It's awful. How long have you been this way?'

'Hours. Ouch! don't move, Sid. You'll kill me.'

'Tom, why didn't you wake me sooner? Oh, Tom, don't! It makes my flesh crawl to hear you.'

'I forgive you everything, Sid. (groan) Everything you've ever done to me. When I'm gone...'

Tom was really suffering now. So well was his imagination working that his groans now seemed quite genuine. Sid shivered.

'Oh, Tom, you aren't dying, are you? Don't Tom-oh, don't.'

'You can give my cat with the one eye to...'

But Sid had snatched his clothes and gone. He fled downstairs and said, 'Aunt Polly, come! Tom's dying!'

'Dying!'

'Don't wait. Come quickly!'

'Rubbish! I don't believe it!' But she fled upstairs, nevertheless, with Sid and Mary at her heels. And her face grew white, too, and her lips trembled.

When she reached the bedside, she gasped out. 'Tom, what's the matter with you?'

'Oh, Auntie, I'm...'

'What's the matter with you? What's the matter, child?'

'Oh, Auntie, my sore toe's mortified!'

The old lady sank down into a chair and laughed a little, then cried a little, then did both together.

'Tom, what a shock you gave me! Now stop this nonsense, and be sensible.'

The groans ceased. Feeling a little foolish, Tom said, 'Aunt Polly, it seemed mortified, and it hurt so much I never minded my tooth at all.'

'Your tooth, indeed. What's the matter with your tooth?'

'One of them's loose, it aches awfully.'

'Open your mouth! Well, your tooth is loose, but you're not going to die with that. Mary, get me a silk thread, and a chunk of fire from the kitchen.'

'Oh, Auntie, please don't pull it out. It doesn't hurt any more. Please, Auntie! I don't want to stay away from school.'

'Oh, you don't, don't you? So all this row is because you thought you'd get to stay home from school and go fishing? Tom, Tom, I love you so, but you seem to want to break my old heart with your outrageousness.'

By this time the dental instruments were ready. The old lady tied one end of the silk thread firmly to Tom's tooth, and tied the other end to the bed-post. Then she seized the chunk of fire and suddenly thrust it almost into the boy's face. A moment later the tooth was dangling by the bed-post.

But all trials bring their compensation. As Tom walked to school after breakfast, he was the envy of every boy he met because the gap in his upper row of teeth enabled him to spit in a new and admirable way.

## Wordnote

miserable (adj) : very unhappy

groan (v) : to make a sound to express pain

unconscious (adj) : not in the sense

presently (adv) : now

occurred (v) : happened

hold the tooth in

reserve (idiom) : set the tooth aside for future use

sore (adj) : painful

drew (v)	: pulled
response (n)	: answer
swelled (v)	: raised, lifted
succession (n)	: a series
admirable (adj)	: having qualities that can be admired
snored (v)	: breathed noisily
yawned (v)	: opened your mouth wide and breath deeply through it
stretched (v)	: pulled tight
moan (v)	: express unhappiness
bump (v)	: to hit a part of the body against something
awful (adj)	: very unpleasant
make one's flesh crawl (idiom)	: make one feel nervous
genuine (adj)	: real
snatched (v)	: took away forcibly
fled (v)	: ran away
rubbish (adj)	: nonsense
nevertheless (adv)	: inspite of something
trembled (v)	: shook
gasp out	: to speak with difficulty
cease (v)	: stop
aches (v)	: pains
chunk (n)	: a large amount
row (n)	: noise
outrageous (adj)	: very shocking
dangling (v)	: hanging
compensation (n)	: things that make a bad situation better

## EXERCISE

### Comprehension

1. Answer the following questions.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) Why did Tom find Monday morning miserable ?                                  | 1 |
| b) Why was Tom envy of every boy at school ?                                    | 1 |
| c) Why did Tom decide not to use the trick regarding the loose tooth at first ? | 1 |
| d) What did Sid tell Aunt Polly about Tom ?                                     | 1 |
| e) How did Sid react to find Tom groaning on the bed ?                          | 2 |
| f) What was Aunt's reaction to Tom's 'mortified' toe ?                          | 2 |
| g) What was Tom's compensation for losing the tooth ?                           | 2 |
| h) What did Aunt do to Tom's tooth ?  | 3 |
| i) Write a short note on Mark Twain.  | 3 |
| j) Narrate how Tom tried to stay away from school on Monday morning.            | 5 |

2. Write true or false.

$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

- a) Tom disliked Monday mornings.
- b) Sid woke up at once hearing Tom's groans.
- c) Tom was suffering a lot.
- d) Sid became anxious at Tom's condition.
- e) Aunt Polly caught Tom's trick.
- f) Tom was successful in avoiding school.

3. Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

$1 \times 4 = 4$

- a) The 'lucky' thing that Tom discovered was \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) The dental instruments Aunt Polly got together were \_\_\_\_\_.

- c) Sid was anxious because \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) Tom was envy of every boy he met because \_\_\_\_\_.

### Grammar and usage

4. Complete the following sentences using the appropriate correlatives from the box given below.

so ... that ; though ... yet ; whether ... or ; no sooner ... than ;  
both ... and

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ the picture was costly \_\_\_\_\_ we bought it.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ had he seen me \_\_\_\_\_ he fled.
- c) I like \_\_\_\_\_ painting \_\_\_\_\_ music.
- d) He worked \_\_\_\_\_ hard \_\_\_\_\_ he fell ill.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ he supports us \_\_\_\_\_ not is not at all important.
5. Correct the following sentences.
- a) Mr Smith is an European.
- b) He came today morning.
- c) One should do his duty.
- d) Please hear his advice.
- e) Stop to write.
6. Find out the clauses from the following sentences and write them separately.
- a) Rupam was singing and his sister was dancing.
- b) He is poor but happy.
- c) I know where he lives.
- d) This is the book that I bought yesterday.
- e) This is the shirt which I like.

## Vocabulary

7. Rewrite the following sentences replacing the underlined phrases with the correct words from the box below.

genuine, anxiously, imagination, inspection, seize

- a) Mark Twain's ability to form mental images or pictures helped him to narrate lively stories.
  - b) Her love for her school was not artificial.
  - c) Ruma was worriedly waiting for her friend's reply.
  - d) Aunt Polly forcibly caught Tom by his wrist.
  - e) Tom held up his toe for being inspected.
8. Make sentences using the following words and phrases.  
presently, admirable, by and by, make one's flesh crawl, nevertheless

## Composition

9. Write a leave application to the Headmaster / Principal of your school.

## Spoken activity

10. When you were younger what were the excuses you made to avoid school. Share with your friends.

## Note to the teacher

In this lesson the students should be taught the use of correlatives and separation of clauses in compound and complex sentences. The lesson may be used to create interest among the students to read classics.

