

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Audition Readings Men

Reverend Sprague, Sin, the darkest fact in God's universe! Sin, the tool of Lucifer! Sin, which has the power to shake Heaven to its very foundation! What does it really mean, the word "sin?" Jezebel knew. And Bathsheba. And even *Tom Sawyer, leave your brother alone! And don't fidget!*

(he takes a breath)

... And so, my friends, I say unto you: Trust in the Lord. And the light of salvation will fill your house, and the sound of redemption will ring in your ears, *and if you yawn one more time, Tom Sawyer, I will sew your lips together! Amen!*

It is now my pleasure to introduce the two newest members of our congregation: Judge Josiah Thatcher and his daughter, Rebecca.

I have asked Judge Thatcher to announce the winner of this year's Bible Prize.

Reverend Sprague, Welcome to McDougal's Cave, one of the greatest natural wonders in the United States. Now before we begin, let me remind you of two important rules. First, we have assigned each of you a partner, and you must stay with that partner at all times. Second, never lose sight of this torch not for an instant! If you cannot see this torch, the consequences are unthinkable. When I ring this bell *(he does)* you will reassemble here immediately. Finally, let me remind you that inside this cave are hundreds of passages, pools of black water, and hidden ravines from which many a good climber has fallen to his death! Lives have been lost, and children have perished..... Now go, enjoy yourselves!

INJUN JOE – (picking up a shovel) It's a night of evil. It rides on the backs of the spirits. (starting to Dig) I've been thinking, doc. This body snatchin' of yours could get me in mighty big trouble so I'm afraid I'm going to have to charge you an extra five dollars. (Doc Robinson complains) oh you will pay and more of I say and do you know why? Because five years ago, when I come to your house asking for somethin' to eat, you had me put in jail for a vagrant. You think I'd forget'? Huh? Do ya?! It's been that way my whole life. You call me Trash you call me half-breed but when you need some bad deed done, it's always me that you turn to. Good old Injun Joe. Thanks to me your hands stay clean. Well the price of clean hands just went up.

Lanyard Bellamy - *(addressing the Judge)* Bellamy for the prosecution your honor, Mayor Lanyard Bellamy. *(preparing to make his statement)* Your honor, if I may recapitulate briefly for the sake of our distinguished jury, we have thus far introduced evidence first, in regard, to the murder weapon, found at -the scene of the crime, *(He holds up Muff's knife)* that it was sold to the accused, Muff Potter, in November of last year by our own Mr. Hartley Wood. *(HARTLEY stands and waves.)* You may sit down Mr. Woods. Second, that the body of Doctor James Robinson was riddled with no less than four stab wounds to the back, and was consistent with a time of death near midnight on the night May 7. And third, that on that very night when our friend, Dr. Robinson, was brutally murdered, the accused Muff Potter was seen lurking near the St. Petersburg graveyard. *(interrupted by the judge)* Yes, your honor. The State now calls Injun Joe to the stand.

Judge Thatcher - Thank you, Reverend Sprague. It gives me great pleasure to award this year's Prize to the child who has memorized the most Scripture over the past twelve months. As you know, each Bible Ticket represents the memorization of two hundred verses of Scripture - and I will start the contest with the number seven. Who has earned seven Bible Tickets in the past year? I see quite a few hands. What about eight? Good. And nine? It's getting close ... and ten?! Does anyone have ten yellow Bible Tickets? *(Sid Raises his hand)* Good for you, boy. Congratulations. *(Tom Speaks up)* What is that Tom. You have eleven, *(not sure he heard correctly)* Eleven?... All right, all right Sid, let's count them up. *(counting)* ... nine, ten, eleven tickets! We have a winner! *(handing off his prize)* Here's your Bible, Tom. Well done. *(Tom Goes to Leave)* Wait, whoa, now hold it, boy, we're not done with you yet. No, sir. We would like you, Tom, to honor this grand occasion by sharing with all of us some of your vast knowledge of the Mighty Scripture. Maybe you could Recite us a few verses? Or just tell us this: What do you like best about the Bible? What's your favorite part?

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Audition Readings boys

Tom Sawyer Dag fetch it, Huck! Don't ya want to read some day? Just look'ee here. *(He shows Huck his books)* Now this here is Robin Hood. That's my favorite. And here's King Arthur. That there's an H. just like in Huck. Only here the H is for "Hamlet." I read this last night. It's powerful good. *(warms up to telling the story)* Now, Hamlet's this chap who lives in Denmark which I think is in Sweden where they got all the Dutch. Anyway, his Uncle Claude murders his Pap by stickin' poison down his ear, then Uncle Claude marries Hamlet's mama! *(sees Hucks expression)* Yes his mama, It's the gospel! Then Hamlet, he kills Uncle Claude with a poison sword, and then his mama chokes on her liquor and keels over. *(thinking about it)* and Criminy, that wasn't even the saddest part... Then Hamlet's girl friend dies, and her pap dies, and her brother dies and then he dies Then his two best friends die too. *(Saying their names thoughtfully)* Rosenberg and Silverstein.

Tom Sawyer - ... I love you, Becky. There. I said it. I've been thinkin' it ever since I met ya... Honest! *(hearing her answer)* You have to?! Really?! *(she nods)* Oh, Becky! This must be how Robin Hood felt when he first saw Maid Marian. How King Arthur felt when he first saw Guinevere. How Paris, France must a' felt when he first saw Helen of Troy. Hey! I think we should get engaged! Right now! *(she is reluctant and unsure)* Come on... It's easy, Becky. First, you hold hands,. *(looks into her eyes)* and then you kiss each other. On the mouth, if possible. Can you say that again... My Name... I love when you same my name.

Huck Finn - Tom! Hey, Tom! Am I glad to see you! ... No I haven't found a place with twenty-two rooms yet or a cross! Boy I Sure would like to find that treasure though.... But that ain't it, now just listen! ... I got some real bad news. *(steeling himself)* Injun Joe is back.... I spotted him'bout an hour ago, slinkin' around in Widow's Woods. *(upset that Tom doesn't believe him)* Yes I'm sure it was him! I was ten feet away from him. It was just dumb luck he didn't see me. I thought I should tell ya so you can be prepared. I mean he could climb right through your window at night and hack the guts outa you! Heck no I'm not scared. Yes I stood up in court but my guess is that since you're the one that testified and got him in trouble, you're the one he really wants to kill. *(let's that sink in)* well.... I'll see ya later. *(leaves)*

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Audition Readings Women

AUNT POLLY - *(off)* Tom Sawyer, do I hear you talkin' or workin' out there -?! *(she enters and sees the Judge)* Oh. I beg your pardon. *(hearing him introduce himself)* Oh yes, Judge Thatcher. And this must be your daughter, Rebecca. I heard that you just moved to town. Oh Josiah is it... I'm Polly. *(motioning to Tom)* And this is the Prince of Darkness, Tom. Since You're new in town perhaps you and your wife can join us some evening for supper. Oh.... I am sorry to hear of your wife's passing. *(Thinking to herself)* So you're a bachelor then. *(caught in thought)* oh nothing. So I hear you will also be joining Reverend Sprague as deacon of the church. I hope to see you this Sunday at services. We'll good bye, nice to meet you. *(to Tom)* Next time young man you will speak with you are spoken to.

Widow Douglas – Huck Finn, I've been watching you, young man. For quite some time. I believe you knew my late husband. You know he used to talk about you. He used to say that there was a lot of good in you. *(Huck starts to leave and she calls to stop him)* Huck.... I've been thinking about this for a long time. How would you like to have some place to live? A proper home. My home. *(And he starts to leave again.)* Would you stop walking away! You must have a very pressing engagement... Fishin' ? Well the fish can wait. Now listen. With my husband gone there are things that still need doing around the house, haulin' in water, chopping fire wood. You'd eat three times a day. I'd get you some clothes. Shoes. A new hat. *(a thought comes to her)* Can you read? Yes books... I didn't think so... Do you want to read? I can teach you. ... Now what do you say? You'd be doing me a favor.

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Audition Readings Girls

Becky Thatcher - Oh hi Tom, thought we might practice the Reel for the picnic_ tomorrow. I've been working on the steps. Do you want to practice? What? You don't want to go any more... But Tom ... You invited me. And we're doing the Reel. We've been talking about it for weeks. You have other things on your mind right now. *(offended)* Oh. Well. Then maybe I should just go anyway and dance the Reel with Joe Harper. *(Tom starts to talk but she cuts him off)* Before!..... Tom! ... You were engaged before? To Amy Lawrence?! Tarnation, how could you! She has freckles! You told me you don't like freckles. *(not believing what she is hearing)* you don't like them now... but you did like them? Well fine! Then maybe you should just go to the picnic with *her!* Then I can go with Joe Harper. He is quite a handsome boy. Maybe the handsomest boy in the whole town. *(she pulls the doorknob out of her purse)* *Here!* Here's your doorknob! Give this to Amy Lawrence. You Benedict Arnold! *(She goes)*

Amy Lawrence – *(opening up a small diary)* Just listen! *(reading from the book)* "Love, A Dream, by Lemuel Dobbins, Schoolmaster." *(the girls laugh, then shush themselves)* "I dream of fame, I dream of fire, I dream of_ lakes_ and hills and dew, I dream of all that ...men desire And lo, I dream of you." I can't believe that Mr. Dobbins wrote that? But if he did.... I'd marry him! Yes it's his... I opened Mr: Dobbins' desk to look for some ink, and there it was. *(The school bell rings.)* Oh no..... Quick! put it back! *(she goes to return the book and is stopped by Mr. Dobbins. She hides the book behind her back.)* Oh, Mr. Dobbins how are you. Nice weather we are having. No, nothings wrong. What's behind my back?... nothing.... See *(she shows one hand empty. then puts it behind her back. Then bring out the other hand to show it empty and accidentally drops the book with a loud thud.)* We'll how did that get there?