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Reading Notes

roundabout	a short, close-fitting jacket
truck	stuff or rubbish
dander	temper or anger
lam	to give a full beating to
old scratch	a folk name for the devil
singed cat	a person who is better than he appears
natty	neat and tidy
high feather	high spirits

Vocabulary

1. questions that were full of **guile** clever or crafty behavior
2. **unalloyed** pleasure pure; copper and zinc are pure, but brass is an alloy of them
3. **glowering** at each other looking or staring with dislike or anger
4. uncovered an **ambuscade** an ambush; lying hidden in order to attack by surprise
5. **adamantine** in its firmness too hard to cut, break, or pierce; utterly unyielding or firm

Comprehension Questions

1. Who is characterized in this chapter? Aunt Polly and Tom Sawyer
2. What does this statement mean: "I never did see the beat of that boy!"
Aunt Polly means that Tom always seems to escape her punishment.
3. Why does Tom live with his aunt? Tom's mother is dead, so her sister Polly is charged with raising Tom.
4. Describe Sid. Sid is "a quiet boy, and had no adventurous, troublesome ways."
5. What new interest makes Tom forget his troubles? He began practicing a valued novelty in whistling that he had just learned.
6. What day of the week is it? Friday

Quotations

Name the speaker and anyone spoken to or spoken about.

1. *“But old fools is the biggest fools there is.”* _____ Aunt Polly about herself
2. *“He was not the model boy of the village. He knew the model boy very well, though, and loathed him.”*
Narrator about Tom
3. *“Diligence and attention soon gave him the knack of it, and he strode down the street with his mouth full of harmony and his soul full of gratitude. He felt much as an astronomer feels who has discovered a new planet. No doubt as far as strong, deep, unalloyed pleasure is concerned, the advantage was with the boy, not the astronomer.”* _____ Narrator about Tom

Discussion Questions

1. What causes the fight between Tom and the new boy?
2. Find an example of colloquial speech in the chapter and explain what it means.
3. What motivates Tom to loathe the “model boy” of the village?
4. According to the author, what is the difference between Tom’s discovery in whistling and an astronomer’s discovery of a new planet?

Focus Passage

Find the paragraph that begins: **“Hang the boy, can’t I ever learn anything? Ain’t he played me tricks enough like that for me to be looking out for him by this time? ...”**

1. Who is speaking and to whom? _____ Aunt Polly to herself
2. Who is “the boy” being spoken about? _____ Tom
3. What is the main problem being discussed? _____ Polly thinks she is not raising Tom with enough discipline.
4. Why is the problem difficult to solve? _____ Polly’s conscience hurts her when she attempts to punish Tom.
5. What does the speaker plan that happens in the next chapter? _____ Polly plans to make Tom work on Saturday, “when all the boys is having a holiday.”