

Tom Sawyer

Reading checkpoints

S0: an initial picture of understanding

An extract, two open tasks and space for answers: the initial checkpoint focuses on understanding, textual evidence and explanation. It concerns Chapter 1, before shared work on the fence scene. No answers are included.

SELECTED MATERIALS · INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH

Secondary education · English as the main language of schooling
Trial edition 1.3 · October 2026

Pages included

06.2 · Checkpoints: student edition: pages 2, 3, 4, 5.

Original page numbers and references to the complete documents are retained. This selection does not replace the full teaching package. Source pages are reproduced unchanged; only this introductory page has been added.

Explore the complete teaching package

Access for a classroom trial is arranged individually with Edwin Zschaler. The website presents selected materials; timing and conditions of use are agreed when you make contact.

CHECKPOINT | STUDENT EDITION

S0 | Beginning

Name

Class

Date

30 minutes | Individual work | Maximum 18 points

Read the extract and answer both tasks in your own words. Give relevant passages with chapter and line references, and explain what they show. You do not need to fill all the writing lines.

Work alone with these four pages. Do not use the portfolio, model answers, help from a partner or AI. Your teacher will explain beforehand which aids you may use.

- T | Text understanding:** You understand the content the task asks about correctly.
B | Textual evidence: Your references are relevant and can be checked.
E | Explanation: You explain the connection between evidence and claim.

Each task receives 0–3 points each for T, B and E. Spelling, handwriting and presentation are not assessed here.

Feedback after marking

Task	T	B	E	Total
1	/ 3	/ 3	/ 3	/ 9
2	/ 3	/ 3	/ 3	/ 9
Overall	/ 6	/ 6	/ 6	/ 18

What your answer already shows / a specific observation

The next skill to work on

S0 | CHAPTER 1 | LINES 26–52

Text extract

Word explanation: switch / rod: a thin stick.

26 A faint noise behind her made her spin round, just in time to catch a small,
27 slight boy by the tail of his jacket and prevent what was evidently an attempted
28 escape.
29 “Well, of course! I should have thought of the pantry! What have you been up to
30 in there this time?”
31 “Nothing.”
32 “Nothing? Is that so! Look at your hands—and what’s that all round your
33 mouth?”
34 “I don’t know, Aunt!”
35 “Don’t you? Well, I do. It’s jam, you rascal, and nothing else. Haven’t I told you
36 a hundred times that if you don’t leave it alone, I’ll give you a good hiding?
37 Well? Have you forgotten? Hand me that switch!”
38 The rod was already raised; the danger was immediate.
39 “Good heavens, look behind you, Aunt!”
40 The old lady spun round as though a tarantula had bitten her, instinctively
41 gathering up her skirts to get them out of harm’s way. At the same instant the
42 boy leapt out of reach, scrambled like a squirrel over the tall wooden fence and
43 vanished a moment later. Aunt Polly stared after him, speechless and
44 bewildered, then broke into a quiet laugh.
45 “Anyone who wants that boy can have him! Will I never learn? Hasn’t he played
46 enough tricks on me to teach me to watch out for him? But it’s true: there’s no
47 fool like an old fool, and you can’t teach an old dog new tricks, as the saying
48 goes. How is anyone to know what that boy is plotting when it’s something
49 different every day! The rascal knows exactly how far he can go before I get
50 angry. And he knows just as well that if he can trick me into hesitating for a
51 single minute before I strike—or even make me laugh—then the beating is
52 forgotten.

Text: Tom Sawyer, English Classroom Edition, Trial Version 1.3, PDF pp. 7–8. The numbers on the left identify the lines in that edition. The extract ends within line 52.

S0 | HOW TOM ESCAPES

Task 1

Name

Date _____

Explain how Tom escapes the immediately threatened punishment. Describe Tom's action and his aunt's response. Use relevant passages to show why this particular response enables his escape.

My answer with textual evidence

Ch. 1, lines 26–52 | T: 0–3 points | B: 0–3 points | E: 0–3 points

Task 2

Date _____

My answer with textual evidence

Edwin Zschaler | S0 | Sheet 4 of 4 | English Version 1.3 5