**First Encounter with Huck**

From: Mark Twain

Tom and Huck

The next day was Sunday.

Tom wore his clean Sunday clothes – he hated this!

Tom, Sid and Mary always went to Sunday school on Sunday morning.

But Tom was not a good student and never listened to the teacher.

After Sunday school Tom and his family went to church.

This Sunday he had a big black beetle in his pocket.

When the Reverend started speaking, Tom took the black beetle out of his pocket.

He put it on the floor.

There was a little dog in the church.

It saw the beetle and wanted to play with it.

Suddenly the beetle bit the dog's nose.

The little dog barked and everyone looked at it.

It jumped and ran after the black beetle.

It ran all about the church barking and making a lot of noise.

The people in the church laughed silently.

Their faces were red.

The Reverend continued talking but no one listened to him.

Tom was happy because he had an interesting morning in church.

On Monday morning Tom did not want to get up.

"Get up immediately, Tom, and get ready for school!" Aunt Polly cried.

On his way to school he met his friend Huckleberry Finn.

Huck's father drank whiskey all the time and did not work.

Huck had no mother and no home.

He lived in the streets and did not go to school.

His clothes were old and dirty.

He went fishing and swimming when he wanted.

Huck was happy.

All the mothers of the village hated him because he was lazy and used bad language.

All the children of the town liked him very much. They admired him.

"Hello, Huckleberry! What's that?"

"It's a dead cat," said Huck.

"What will we do with it?" asked Tom.

"I want to take it to the graveyard after midnight," Huck said, "A dead cat can call ghosts out of their graves."

"Really?" asked Tom.

"Well, old Mrs. Hopkins told me. She's a witch and she knows about these things," said Huck.

"Can I come with you?" asked Tom.

"Of course! Or are you afraid of ghosts?" asked Huck.

"Afraid of ghosts! Of course not!" said Tom. "Come and call me at my window at eleven o'clock tonight."