Jackson's Island

From: Mark Twain

The next day everyone knew about poor Dr. Robinson.

The sheriff found Muff Potter's knife near the body of the doctor.

He put Muff in St. Petersburg's small jail.

Tom and Huck looked at each other.

"We saw Injun Joe kill the doctor," said Tom, "Muff didn't kill him, poor Muff!"

"I know," said Huck, "But we mustn't say anything. Remember, Injun Joe is dangerous – very dangerous. I'm sorry for Muff Potter, too."

The two boys were afraid.

"We must keep this a secret," said Tom sadly.

Tom could not forget.

At night he had bad dreams about Injun Joe and Muff Potter.

He kept the terrible secret but he was very unhappy.

Aunt Polly was worried about him.

She gave him a lot of different medicines.

But Tom did not feel better.

He was unhappy at school too.

Becky Thatcher didn't talk to him anymore.

"No one loves me," thought Tom, "What a horrible life!"

It was now summer and there was no more school.

Tom and his friend Joe Harper went to sit by the Mississippi River.

They fished, talked and looked at the boats.

One day Tom said, "Let's go do something exciting!"

"OK!" said Joe, "But where can we go and what can we do?"

"Let's run away! We can go and live on Jackson's Island. We can be pirates. A pirate's life is exciting," said Tom.

Jackson's Island was a small island in the Mississippi River.

It was about three miles south of St. Petersburg.

No one lived on the island.

"Huckleberry Finn can come with us too," said Tom, "Remember Joe, don't tell your mother, father or anyone about our adventure. Go home and bring some food. We'll meet here at midnight."

Tom and Joe were excited.

At midnight the three boys met on the river.

Tom brought some meat to eat.

Joe brought some bread and Huck brought a frying pan.

They found a small raft and they went down the river to Jackson's Island.

When they arrived on the island they made a fire and cooked some meat.

"This is fun!" said Joe.

"We're free and we can do everything we want!" said Tom.

"What do pirates do?" asked Huck.

"They go on ships and take the money. Then they go to an island and hide it in a secret place," said Tom.

The three boys were happy and slept under the stars.