Unexpected Visitors

From: Mark Twain

The next morning they went swimming in the river.

Then they went fishing.

They cooked the fish on the fire and ate it.

It was delicious.

After breakfast they walked around the island and went swimming again.

In the afternoon they sat around the fire and ate some meat.

Suddenly Tom said, "Can you hear a strange noise? Listen!"

"What is it?" asked Joe.

"Let's go and see," said Huck.

They ran to the river.

They saw a steamboat and a lot of small boats near it.

"Every boat from St. Petersburg is out on the river," said Joe, "What's happening?"

"They're looking for a dead body," said Huck, "The same thing happened last summer when Bill Turner fell into the river and drowned."

"Who are they looking for this time?"asked Joe.

Tom thought for a moment and said, "I know! It's us! They think we drowned!"

The three boys felt like heroes and laughed.

"The people of St. Petersburg are looking for us. They're talking about us. We're famous!" said Tom happily.

This was an exciting adventure for Tom, Huck and Joe!

They felt like real pirates on Jackson's Island.

The boats and the steamboat went away.

They boys went fishing again and had fish for dinner.

Then they slept under the stars.

But Tom could not sleep.

The next morning he wasn't there.

"Where's Tom?" asked Joe.

"I don't know," said Huck.

After a few minutes Huck said, "Look! Tom's swimming in the river. He's coming to the island."

Tom told them his story.

"Last night I couldn't sleep. I thought about Aunt Polly. So I went home but no one saw me. I saw Aunt Polly and your mother, Joe, Poor Aunt Polly cried a lot. And your mother was very sad too. Everyone thinks we're dead. I heard some interesting things."

"What did you hear?" asked Huck.

"Well, there will be a funeral for us on Sunday at the church," said Tom.

Huck and Joe looked at him with big eyes.

"And now I have a great idea. Listen-"

Tom told Huck and Joe his great idea.

They liked it and laughed.

Sunday was the day of the funeral.

There were no happy faces in St. Petersburg.

Everyone in the village was in the small church.

Aunt Polly, Sid, Mary and Joe Harper's family were all dressed in black.

The Reverend said many kind words about the three boys.

The boys' families cried and cried.

Becky Thatcher cried.

Everyone cried a lot.

Suddenly there was a noise at the church door.

The Reverend looked up and stopped speaking.

Everyone in the church turned around and looked.

Their mouths opened.

The three dead boys slowly walked into the church.

Tom was first, then Joe and then Huck.

There was great silence for a moment.

Then Aunt Polly, Mary and Joe's mother ran to the boys.

They kissed Tom and Joe.

Aunt Polly cried and then she laughed.

Poor Huck did not know what to do.

No one kissed him.

He started moving away but Tom stopped him.

"Aunt Polly, it's not right. Somebody must be happy to see Huck," said Tom.

"Oh, you're right, Tom!" cried Aunt Polly and she kissed Huck.

Tom was very proud of his great idea.

Then the Reverend said, "Let us sing and be happy!"

Everyone sang and laughed.

It was a very happy day