



The Prince and the Pauper

Mark Twain

retold by Virginia Evans & Jenny Dooley

Level B



Express Publishing

Contents

	The Author, The Plot	4
	The Characters	6
1	<i>Changing Places</i>	8
2	<i>Troubles Begin</i>	12
3	<i>A New Life</i>	16
4	<i>The Prince and the Hermit</i>	20
5	<i>To Hendon Hall</i>	24
6	<i>Terror in the Jail-yard</i>	28
7	<i>Coronation Day</i>	30
8	<i>An important Question</i>	34
9	<i>Edward the King</i>	38
10	<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	40
	Do you know?	42
	Activities	43
	Word List	53



Cover Discussion

① *Look at the cover and read the title of the book.*

- 1 Who are the boys in the picture? What do they look like?
- 2 Do you think they live similar lives?
- 3 What do you think the book is about?
- 4 Would you like to live the life of a prince? Why (not)?

② *Now look at the blurb on the back cover.*

- 1 Does the story look interesting to you? Why (not)?
- 2 Do you think it is possible for a poor boy and a prince to be friends? Explain.
- 3 How do you think the story ends?

The Plot

It is 16th century London. Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales, is growing up in the royal palace. Tom Canty, a poor boy, lives in Offal Court, where his father makes him beg in the streets. Tom wants to live like a prince and Edward wants to play in the streets like a simple boy. When they see how much they look like each other, they decide to switch clothes – and more! But when they get separated, Edward must live in Tom's world and Tom, in the palace, must pretend to be the Prince of Wales!

Edward learns about many of the cruel laws of England from the people he meets and how unfair life is for the poor. He has many adventures as a poor boy and he swears to change the unfair laws as soon as he is King. Tom, on the other hand, has a really hard time learning how to behave like a prince!

On the day Tom is to become King, Edward tells the truth but everyone is confused. To prove who is the true King, the Lord St. John asks Edward a very important question. Will he be able to answer it? Or will poor Tom Canty take Edward's place as King? What do you think?

The Author



Mark Twain

Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born on November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri, USA. He wrote novels, essays, travel stories, newspaper articles and poetry. He also gave lectures and was very famous for his humour.

When he was a young boy he moved with his family to Hannibal, Missouri on the banks of the Mississippi River. He watched the people there and how they lived and made the characters in his stories a lot like them. The main characters in his two most popular books, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), are a lot like his childhood friends.

Twain travelled to the American West and wrote about the trip in his famous travel journal, *Roughing It*. His most important writing began with the short story, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, published in 1865. *The Prince and the Pauper* was published in 1881.

Twain was married and had three daughters, two of whom died when they were young. Twain himself died on April 21, 1910. Many people call him 'the father of American literature'.



Edward Tudor,
Prince of Wales

... is the son of King Henry VIII. He lives a rich life inside the royal palace, but has no freedom. He is a kind and fair boy, but wishes he could be free and play in the streets like a simple child.



Tom Canty

... is a common boy who looks very much like Prince Edward. He lives in one of the poorest parts of London, where his father makes him beg in the streets. He is a good boy who dreams about living like a prince.



King Henry VIII

... is the father of Edward. Even though everyone in England is afraid of him, he loves his son very much. He wants to see the Prince become King before anyone finds out that the boy is 'mad'.



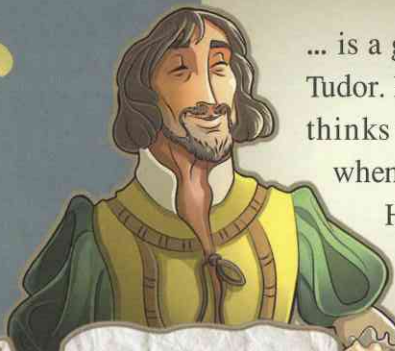
John Canty

... is the cruel father of Tom Canty. He is a wicked man who yells at Tom and beats him when the boy comes home from begging, without money.



The Lords

... are the men of the royal court who look after the Prince of Wales. They teach Tom the things he must learn to be King.



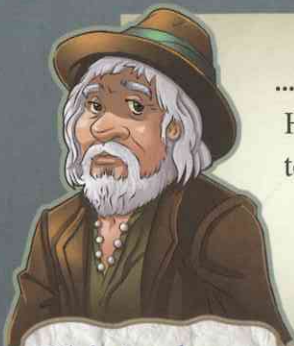
Miles Hendon

... is a good friend of young Edward Tudor. He is a very kind man, but he thinks that the young Prince is mad when Edward calls himself the King. He feels sorry for him and takes care of him as they wander through the countryside.



Hugh Hendon

... is Miles' brother who takes Miles' home and marries the woman that Miles loves. He pretends not to recognise Miles, and sends his brother and the young Prince to prison.



Old Andrews

... is a servant of Miles' father. He comes to the prison and tells Miles the things that happened when Miles was away.



Hugo

... is a thief who kidnaps Edward. He is part of a wandering gang and a friend of Tom's father, John Canty.



The Hermit

... is a mad old man who lives in the wood. He takes young Edward in and pretends to be kind to him. However, when he hears that the boy is the son of Henry VIII, he tries to kill him.



1 | Changing Places

One autumn day, two little boys were born in the old city of London. One of them was born into a poor home, to a family who did not want him. His name was Tom Canty. The other was born into a rich home. His family loved him very much, and so did all of England! For this little boy was Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales. He lived in a palace of gold and silk, and at his birth everyone sang and danced, and colourful flags flew all across the city. There was no singing or dancing for young Tom Canty, who lived in rags and dirt in Offal Court near Pudding Lane. No one cared for him and no one was happy at his coming.

Everyone in Offal Court was poor and hungry. They were all beggars like Tom. Everyday his cruel father would send him out begging, and if the boy didn't return with money, he would shout and hit him. An old priest called Father Andrew, lived near Tom. He was kind and taught the young boy how to read and write and speak Latin. He told him wonderful stories about kings and queens, princes and palaces, and magical creatures. In those sad times, Tom dreamt of the beautiful stories that Father Andrew told, and his pain went away. More than anything, Tom wanted to meet a real prince and see his jewels and robes.



One morning, Tom's father sent him out to beg as usual. The boy walked and walked all day, till he reached the shining Palace of Westminster. He ran to the gates and held the golden bars in his dirty hands. Inside the beautiful palace, walking across the grass, he saw a young Prince in fine silk robes with sparkling jewels. Tom stared with eyes wide open. His dream had come true! The guard standing at the door, however, immediately brought him back to reality. As soon as he saw the little pauper, he grabbed him and hit the boy's hand, shouting. "Get back, young beggar!"

Tom fell back in fear, but the young Prince saw what happened and ran to the gate. He turned to the guard and spoke in a commanding voice.

"Do not be cruel to the boy! Open the gate and let him in!"

The guard obeyed immediately and moved aside. Tom walked through the gate and the Prince took his hand, with a kind look on his face.

"Poor boy! You are tired and hungry. Come with me."

And so the Prince and the little pauper went inside the palace, to Edward's room. Tom had never seen so many wonderful things in his whole life! He looked and stared until the servants gave him lots of delicious food. Tom ate and ate as the young Prince talked to him about life at the palace.