

Name: _____

Making predictions

Making predictions is using information from a story to determine what will happen next.

Tom and Jim

Tom appeared on the sidewalk with a bucket of whitewash and a long-handled brush. He surveyed the fence, and all gladness left him and a deep **melancholy** settled down upon his spirit. Thirty yards of board fence nine feet high. Life to him seemed hollow, and **existence** but a **burden**. Sighing, he dipped his brush and passed it along the topmost plank; repeated the operation; did it again; compared the insignificant whitewashed streak with the far-reaching continent of unwhitewashed fence, and sat down on a tree-box **discouraged**.

Jim came skipping out at the gate with a tin pail, and singing Buffalo Gals. Bringing water from the town pump had always been hateful work in Tom's eyes, before, but now it did not strike him so. He remembered that there was company at the pump. White, mulatto, and negro boys and girls were always there waiting their turns, resting, trading playthings, quarrelling, fighting, and **skylarking**. He remembered that although the pump was only a hundred and fifty yards off, Jim never got back with a bucket of water under an hour—and even then somebody generally had to go after him. Tom said:

"Say, Jim, I'll fetch the water if you'll whitewash some."

Jim shook his head and said: "Can't, Tom. Old misses, she told me I got to go an' get this water and stop fooling round with anybody. She say especially Tom - if you going to ask me to whitewash, an' so she told me to tend to my own business—she don't allow me to tend to whitewashing."

"Oh, never you mind what she said, Jim. That's the way she always talks. Gimme the bucket—I won't be gone only a minute. SHE won't ever know."

"Oh, I dare say, Tom. Ole misses, she'd tar de head off'n me. Indeed she would."

"SHE! She never licks anybody—whacks 'em over the head with her thimble—and who cares for that, I'd like to know. She talks awful, but talk don't hurt—anyways it don't if she don't cry. Jim, I'll give you a marvel. I'll give you a white alley!"

Jim began to waver.

(Abstract: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Part 1. Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens))

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Questions:

1. What was Tom's doing? Who directed Tom to do that?

2. What was Tom's opinion about what he was doing?

3. What did Tom wish to do instead?

4. What did Tom ask Jim? Why didn't Jim do what Tom was asking?

5. The passage ended as "Jim began to waver". Do you think this is an indication that Tom will get his way? Why do you say this?
