

## Tom Whitewashes

Word meanings:

1. sullen - grumpy and not wanting to talk to anyone.
2. heart sank - became very sad.
3. existence - life
4. to resist - to fight back.
5. daintily - in a delicate way.
6. absorbed - occupied
7. pleased as punch - very happy.
8. poverty-stricken - in a very poor condition.
9. dilapidated - broken down.
10. idled - did nothing.
11. bankrupt - left having no wealth.
12. to attain - to get.
13. yard - three feet measurement
14. vigour - energy.
15. ignored - paid no attention to.
16. nibbling - small bites.

---

Answer the following questions.

---

1. Describe Tom's feelings on a Saturday morning.

Ans. Usually on Saturday morning, Tom was very happy as it was a holiday. But this particular Saturday, his Aunt Polly had punished him for playing hooky from school and she had given him the task of whitewashing the fence. So Tom was very sad and seemed meaningless to him.

2. Do you think Tom envied Jim? Why?

Ans. Yes, Tom envied Jim because Jim was going to fetch water and he would play with the other children while waiting for his turn to fill the bucket.

3. Why did Jim refuse to do Tom's work for him?

Ans. Jim refused to do Tom's work for him because Aunt Polly had warned him that he would get a thrashing if he did so.

4 .How did Tom make his job look attractive to Ben?

Ans. Tom pretended that he was enjoying the work. He moved the brush daintily up and down and stepped back to check his work without paying attention to Ben.

5. What did Tom Say when Ben asked him to whitewash the fence?

Ans. When Ben asked Tom to allow him to do this work, Tom told him that the fence was very special and had to be painted very carefully. Only one in a thousand could it the right way.

6. What did Tom get in exchange for allowing Ben to do his work?

Ans . In exchange for allowing Ben to do the work, he got a full apple.

7. How does Tom manage to whitewash the fence in one day?

Ans. Tom managed to whitewash the fence in one day by selling the work to the other boys for some toys or trash.

---