

***Tom Sawyer* Timed Writes or Journal Prompts**

1. Do you consider yourself a trouble maker or “good” most of the time? Why?
2. What kind of friend are you? Describe the type of friend you are.
3. Do you think Tom was wrong to trick his friends into whitewashing the fence? Does this make him a bad friend?
4. Describe a time when you thought you were being clever and avoiding getting caught, but got caught anyway. What happened?
5. In the introduction, Jean Craighead George mentions that she and her brothers got many good ideas from Tom Sawyer. Explain a good idea this book has given you. If you tried it, how did it work out?
6. When Tom is bored in church, he brings out a pinch-bug and causes a small amount of chaos. Describe a time when you were really bored, and you did something that caused a mess or got you in trouble.
7. Tom often tries to get out of punishments when he gets caught. Do you think it’s better to confess or avoid the truth when you do something wrong you know you’ll be punished for?
8. Tom and his friends like to play make believe. Have you and your friends ever played a game of pretend? Describe it.
9. If you came back and peeked in on your own funeral, what would people be saying about you?
10. Despite his goofiness, Tom occasionally does something noble. Describe one good thing Tom does and why he does it.
11. Choose a chapter title from one of the chapters you have read so far, and explain what it means.
12. Toward the end of the book the story shifts from little episodes to a longer plot involving a murder and a treasure. Describe what happens in the murder.
13. What has been the most interesting part of the book so far?
14. Were you surprised by the book’s ending?