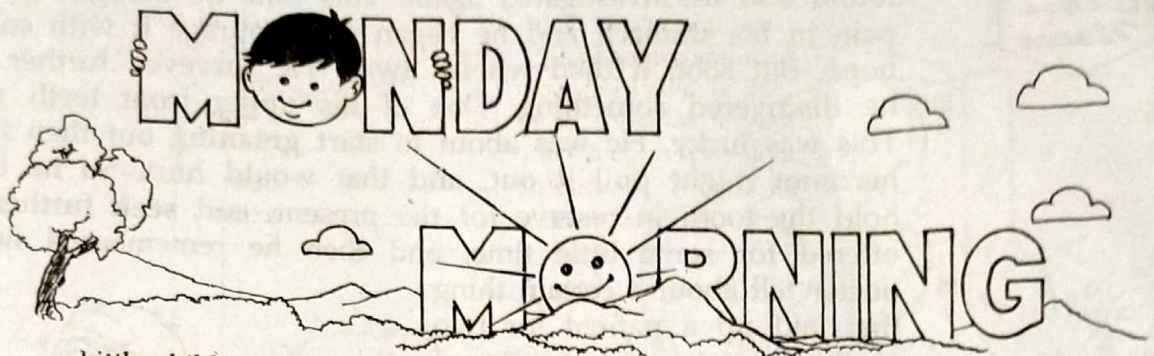


# B



Little children often want to stay home from school. We often see little kids with shining morning faces going unwillingly to school. Some of them are even seen crying when they are bundled off in their school rickshaws or vans. It is something very natural because little kids don't want to leave the safe and cosy lap of their mothers. But some children carry this habit even when they grow older. They always want to stay home from school. They invent all sorts of excuses and lies. They start playing truant as well. How do you think parents and guardians should deal with such children? What would you do if you had such a child in your family? Discuss it with your partner.



## Class Notes

Now read this story:

Here you shall read an account of the mischievous activities of an eight year-old boy, Tom Sawyer, who lived with his Aunt Polly. His sister Mary and brother Sid also lived there. Tom was very mischievous and Aunt Polly had great trouble in making him behave. In this piece we shall see how Tom tries some tricks to stay home from school and how at last he fails in all his attempts.

Monday morning found Tom Sawyer miserable. Monday morning always found him so, because it began another week's slow suffering in school. He generally began that day with wishing that there had been no holiday on Sundays; it made going into captivity again even more unpleasant.

- 5 Tom lay thinking. He wished he was sick because he could then stay home from school. He surveyed his **system**. No **ailment** was

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**system** : our body as a whole, including its internal organs and processes.  
**ailment** : illness, especially a slight one.



found and he investigated again. This time he thought he had some pain in his stomach and he began to encourage it with **considerable** hope. But soon it died wholly away. He surveyed further. Suddenly he discovered something. One of his upper front teeth was loose. This was lucky. He was about to start **groaning** but then he thought his aunt might pull it out, and that would hurt. So he decided to hold the tooth in reserve for the present, and **seek** further. Nothing offered for some little time, and then he remembered hearing the doctor tell about a certain thing that laid up a patient for two or three weeks and threatened to make him lose one of his toes. So the boy eagerly drew his **sore** toe from under the sheet and held it up for inspection. But now he did not know the necessary **symptoms**. However, it seemed well **worthwhile** to **chance** it, so he **fell to** groaning with considerable spirit.

But, Sid slept on, unconscious.

Tom groaned louder. He began to feel that there was actual pain in his toe.

No result from Sid.

Tom was **panting** with his **exertions** by this time. He took a rest and then started groaning again.

35 Sid **snored** on.



considerable	: great in amount or degree.
groan	: make a deep sound when in pain.
seek	: search; look for something.
sore	: painful; hurting when touched.
symptoms	: signs in the body that indicate an illness.
worthwhile	: rewarding enough to justify the effort that is spent.
chance	: risk.
fell to	: began.
panting	: breathing with short quick breaths.
exertions	: great efforts.
snore	: breathe roughly and noisily while sleeping.





### Class Notes

Tom was angry. He said, 'Sid! Sid!' and shook him. The course worked well, and Tom began to groan again. Sid **yawned**, stretched, then brought himself up on his elbow, and began to stare at Tom.

Sid said, 'Tom! Say, Tom!'

40 No response.

'Say, Tom! Tom! What is the matter, Tom?' And he shook him, and looked in his face anxiously.

Tom moaned out: 'Oh, don't Sid. Don't **joggle** me.'

'Why, what's the matter, Tom? I must call Auntie.'

45 'No, never mind. It'll be over by and by, maybe. Don't call anybody.'

'But I must! Don't groan so, Tom. I feel **awful**. How long have you been this way?'

'Hours. Ouch! Oh, don't stir me so, Sid; you'll kill me.'

50 'Tom, why didn't you wake me sooner? Oh, Tom, don't cry. It **makes my flesh crawl** to hear you. Tom, what is the matter?'

'I forgive you everything, Sid. (Groan) Everything you've ever done to me. When I'm gone .....'

**yawn** : take a deep breath with the mouth wide open, as when sleepy or bored.

**joggle** : stir; move or shake slightly.

**awful** : terrible; extremely bad.

**makes my flesh crawl** : makes me feel nervous and frightened.



'Oh, Tom, you aren't dying, are you? Don't Tom .....

'I forgive everybody, Sid. (Groan) Tell them so, Sid .....

55 But Sid had gone. He flew downstairs and said, 'Oh, Aunt Polly, come, Tom is dying!'

'Dying!'

'Yes, Auntie. Don't wait — come quick.'

'Rubbish! I don't believe it.'

60 But she fled upstairs nevertheless, with Sid and Mary at her heels. Her face grew white, and her lips trembled. When she reached the bedside, she gasped out:



'You Tom! Tom! What's the matter with you?'

'Oh, Auntie, I'm .....

65 'What's the matter with you? What's the matter with you, child?'

'Oh, Auntie, my sore toe is killing me!'

The old lady sank down into a chair and laughed a little, then cried a little, then did both together.

70 Aunt Polly said, 'Tom, what a shock you gave me! Now you shut up that nonsense and climb out of your bed.'

gasped out : spoke in a breathless way.



The groans ended and the pain disappeared from the toe. The boy felt a little foolish, and he said: 'Aunt Polly, my toe hurt so much that I forgot about my tooth at all.'

'Your tooth! What's the matter with your tooth?'

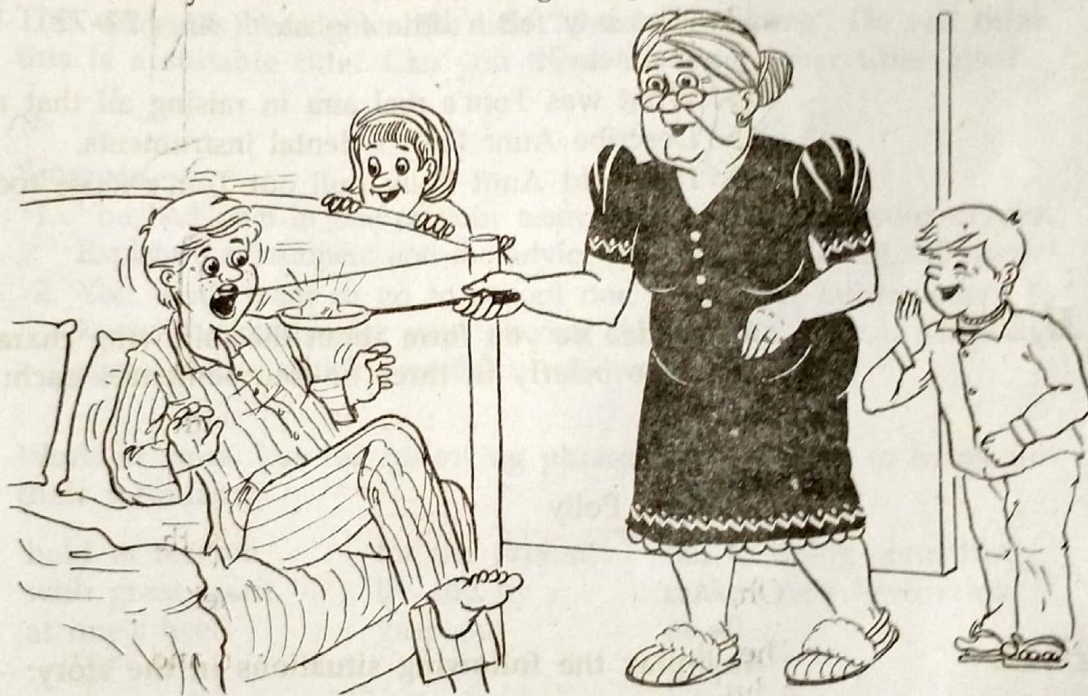
75 'One of them's loose, and it aches awfully.'

'**There, there!** Now don't begin that groaning again. Open your mouth — well — your tooth is loose, but you're not going to die of that. Mary, get me a silk thread, and a **chunk** of fire out of the kitchen.'

80 Tom said, 'Oh, please Auntie, don't pull it out. It doesn't hurt any more. Please don't Auntie. I don't want to stay home from school.'

'Oh, you don't, don't you? So all this **row** was because you thought you'd get to stay home from school and go a-fishing? Tom, Tom, I love you so, and you try every way to break my poor old heart.'

85 By this time the dental instruments were ready. The old lady tied one end of the silk thread to Tom's tooth and the other to the bedpost. Then she seized the pan of burning coals and suddenly thrust it almost into the boy's face. The tooth hung **dangling** by the bedpost now!



'Now that your tooth is out, Tom, you should go to school,' said Aunt Polly.

90 'You should not have frightened me like this.'

there, there! : used to comfort a small child.  
chunk : thick solid piece.  
row : loud noise; uproar.  
dangling : hanging or swinging loosely.