

8. Name the speaker: *“That’s the Lord’s mark. He don’t leave it off. He never does. Puts it somewhere on every creature that comes from His hands.”* Widow
9. Name the person spoken about: *“He still said it was ‘All right,’ but there was such a leaden dread at his heart, that the words had lost their ring, and sounded as if he had said, ‘All is lost!’”* Tom
10. Name the speaker: *“They ain’t anybody as polite as robbers—you’ll see that in any book.”* Tom

Essay: Name a characteristic or trait (e.g., courage, superstition, romance, cleverness, etc.) that defines Tom. Explain the characteristic and give three examples from the novel that demonstrate it.

Tom is a romantic boy. He is adventurous and whimsical. To be romantic means to be full of enthusiasm and wonder about new enterprises, to take risks for the sake of glory, and to focus on what is most exciting rather than what is most practical. Being romantic can get a person into trouble, but it can also allow him to do great deeds.

Tom demonstrates this characteristic in all of his adventures, even the most childish. Off in the woods, Tom pretends to play the part of Robin Hood with Joe Harper. He finds his bow and his trumpet, calling his merry men forth against Sir Guy and his henchmen. He knows the story so well that when Joe forgets how to speak as Sir Guy, Tom supplies the exact wording. Because of his romantic nature, Tom prefers the excitement of being an outlaw in Sherwood Forest for a year to the practicality of being the President of the United States forever.

Tom’s romantic nature leads him to take risks for the sake of glory. When he and Huck discover that Injun Joe has a box of treasure, Tom makes a plan to get it. He recruits Huck to stake out Injun Joe’s room at the tavern, and on one occasion Tom sneaks into the room and almost steps on the ruffian while he sleeps. Finally, Tom pieces together clues to find the real hiding place of the treasure, and he and Huck enjoy the glory and profit of it for years to come.

Tom’s adventurous ways often get him into trouble, but they also lead to great deeds. If not for Tom’s boldness, Muff Potter would probably have been executed for a crime he did not commit. Because Tom had been willing to face small degrees of danger for the sake of petty prizes, he is able to face greater dangers for the sake of Potter’s life. In a similar way, Tom’s feelings for Becky lead him to place himself in harm’s way for her sake. Tom’s romantic nature is shown by how he saves the damsel in distress both from punishment at school and starvation in a cave. Tom’s sense of romance frees him from fear and enables him to act nobly and selflessly.

All these examples demonstrate that Tom Sawyer is a romantic boy.