

The Prince and the Pauper



Mark Twain

retold by Virginia Evans & Jenny Dooley



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Edward Tudor,
Prince of Wales

... is the son of King Henry VIII. He lives a rich life inside the royal palace, but has no freedom. He is a kind and fair boy, but wishes he could be free and play in the streets like a simple child.



Tom Canty

... is a common boy who looks very much like Prince Edward. He lives in one of the poorest parts of London, where his father makes him beg in the streets. He is a good boy who dreams about living like a prince.



King Henry VIII

... is the father of Edward. Even though everyone in England is afraid of him, he loves his son very much. He wants to see the Prince become King before anyone finds out that the boy is 'mad'.



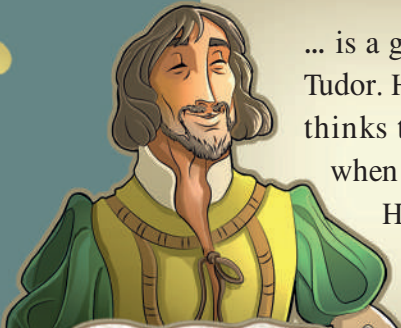
John Canty

... is the cruel father of Tom Canty. He is a wicked man who yells at Tom and beats him when the boy comes home from begging, without money.



The Lords

... are the men of the royal court who look after the Prince of Wales. They teach Tom the things he must learn to be King.



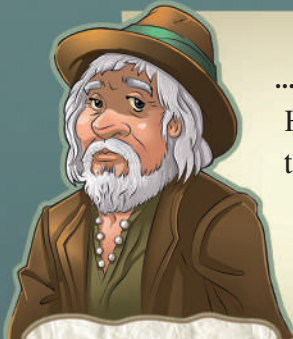
Miles Hendon

... is a good friend of young Edward Tudor. He is a very kind man, but he thinks that the young Prince is mad when Edward calls himself the King. He feels sorry for him and takes care of him as they wander through the countryside.



Hugh Hendon

... is Miles' brother who takes Miles' home and marries the woman that Miles loves. He pretends not to recognise Miles, and sends his brother and the young Prince to prison.



Old Andrews

... is a servant of Miles' father. He comes to the prison and tells Miles the things that happened when Miles was away.



Hugo

... is a thief who kidnaps Edward. He is part of a wandering gang and a friend of Tom's father, John Canty.



The Hermit

... is a mad old man who lives in the wood. He takes young Edward in and pretends to be kind to him. However, when he hears that the boy is the son of Henry VIII, he tries to kill him.



1 | Changing Places

One autumn day, two little boys were born in the old city of London. One of them was born into a poor home, to a family who did not want him. His name was Tom Canty. The other was born into a rich home. His family loved him very much, and so did all of England! For this little boy was Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales. He lived in a palace of gold and silk, and at his birth everyone sang and danced, and colourful flags flew all across the city. There was no singing or dancing for young Tom Canty, who lived in rags and dirt in Offal Court, near Pudding Lane. No one cared for him and no one was happy at his coming.

Everyone in Offal Court was poor and hungry. They were all beggars like Tom. Everyday his cruel father would send him out begging, and if the boy didn't return with money, he would shout and hit him. An old priest, called Father Andrew, lived near Tom. He was kind and taught the young boy how to read and write and speak Latin. He told him wonderful stories about kings and queens, princes and palaces, and magical creatures. In those sad times, Tom dreamt of the beautiful stories that Father Andrew told, and his pain went away. More than anything, Tom wanted to meet a real prince and see his jewels and robes.



One morning, Tom's father sent him out to beg as usual. The boy walked and walked all day, till he reached the shining Palace of Westminster. He ran to the gates and held the golden bars in his dirty hands. Inside the beautiful palace, walking across the grass, he saw a young Prince in fine silk robes with sparkling jewels. Tom stared with eyes wide open. His dream had come true! The guard standing at the door, however, immediately brought him back to reality. As soon as he saw the little pauper, he grabbed him and hit the boy's hand, shouting.

"Get back, young beggar!"

Tom fell back in fear, but the young Prince saw what happened and ran to the gate. He turned to the guard and spoke in a commanding voice.

"Do not be cruel to the boy! Open the gate and let him in!"

The guard obeyed immediately and moved aside. Tom walked through the gate and the Prince took his hand, with a kind look on his face.

"Poor boy! You are tired and hungry. Come with me."

And so the Prince and the little pauper went inside the palace, to Edward's room. Tom had never seen so many wonderful things in his whole life! He looked and stared until the servants gave him lots of delicious food. Tom ate and ate as the young Prince talked to him about life at the palace.



Among everyone's cheers, Tom turned to Edward and cried out.

"Now, my King, take your clothes back and give me my rags."

Edward smiled. He turned to Tom and spoke in wonder.

"My poor boy, how did you remember where I hid the Seal, when I could not?"

Tom was quick to answer.

"I went to look at what it was after you left. I used it every day but I didn't know what it was. Each time when I finished, I put it back where you had left it."

Edward was curious.

"What did you use it for?"

Tom's answer was totally unexpected.

"To crack nuts!"

Everyone laughed at these words, and had no doubt that Tom could not be the King of England. When they all became quiet, it was time for the coronation ceremony to start again. Edward put on his royal robe and sat on the throne. This time the Archbishop placed the crown on top of the real King's head, and all of London cheered and applauded!

The Prince and the Pauper

Edward, Prince of Wales, has all the riches in the world but dreams of playing in the streets like a simple boy. Poor Tom, on the other hand, only dreams of princes and palaces. When the two boys meet and change places, they both get some big surprises. Can poor Tom rule England? Can Edward live the life of a pauper? Hard to say, but they certainly have the adventures of a lifetime in Mark Twain's classic tale.

COMPONENTS

- Reader
- Audio CD with answer key



Level A Level B Level C Level D

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