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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



The Prince and the Pauper

by Mark Twain

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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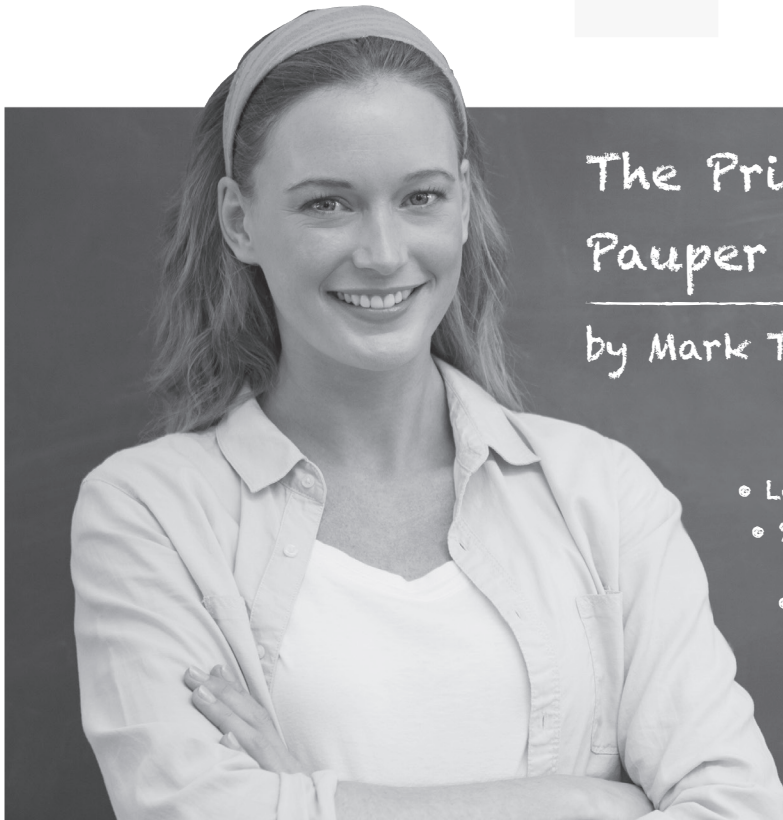
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Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. understand the literal events in the story and enjoy the comic adventures.
2. read selected passages of dialect aloud and understand their meaning.
3. define “irony” and point to at least five examples from the novel that illustrate this definition.
4. discuss the development of the following concepts in the novel:
 - The king’s and Tom’s “rite of passage”
 - Man’s inhumanity to man
 - Individual sympathy in conflict with the laws and expectations of one’s culture
 - Society’s judgment of others based on physical appearance
 - The cruelty/oppression of laws and punishments in sixteenth-century England
5. discuss the literary devices used in this novel and how they enhance the plot.
6. note and discuss these objects of Twain’s satire:
 - Sentimentality (being influenced more by emotion than reason) and gullibility (being easily tricked, cheated, or fooled)
 - The average man
 - The traditions of sixteenth-century royalty
 - Romantic literature with its mournful subject matter in poetry and in ridiculous plots in novels
 - A code of honor that results in needless bloodshed
7. relate the themes to modern-day life.
8. infer ideas and events that are not directly stated.

Questions for Essay or Discussion

1. Explain why this novel is sometimes seen as a “rite of passage” story.
2. Consider the life situations and personalities of Tom and the king at the beginning of the novel, what ordeals they undergo, and how they survive at the end.
3. Define the term “irony” and cite five examples from the novel that support your definition.
4. By citing incidents from the novel, demonstrate that a major theme is “man’s inhumanity to man.”
5. Trace the development of Tom’s attitude on being royalty. What is his initial attitude, and how does it change?
6. Explain why the king wanted to swap places in the first place and why he could not simply switch back.
7. Prove the following thesis by citing passages or incidents from the novel: Hasty assumptions based on physical appearance can change the outcomes in a person’s life.
8. In what ways does Tom have to adapt to the hardships of the prince’s life? In what ways does the prince have to adapt to the hardships in Tom’s life? Who helps each boy adjust and how?
9. List as many points of contrast as you can between Tom and the prince.
10. A work of literary art is frequently described as a book that has something important to say and says it with great artistry. What important comments on the human experience does this book make?
11. Identify passages from the novel in which Twain satirizes the average man, human gullibility, and romantic literature.
12. Explain the idea, “Be careful what you wish for; you might get it,” as it relates to this novel.

The Prince and the Pauper

Note: All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics edition of *The Prince and the Pauper*, copyright 2007.

Chapter I

VOCABULARY

lapped – enfolded, enveloped
paupers – extremely poor people
revellers – partygoers

1. Describe the reaction of the Canty family to Tom's birth.

2. Describe the reaction of the royal family to the birth of Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales.

Chapter VII

VOCABULARY

constitutional – basic, essential
discomposure – agitation, uneasiness
divan – a type of sofa
eccentricity – a peculiarity, strangeness
gauntlets – steel-plated gloves worn with a suit of armor
greaves – armor for the legs
martial – relating to the military
panoply – the full armor of a warrior or soldier
resignedly – wearily, tiredly
ruff – a type of collar worn during the 16th and 17th centuries
tribulation – distress, suffering
unheedfulness – carelessness
vagaries – whims, capricious notions or ideas
wainscoting – a type of paneling on the walls of a room

1. Why does Twain describe all the prince’s servants in so much detail?

2. What simple acts make Tom happy?

3. Explain the incident about Tom’s unwillingness at first to scratch his own nose.

2. What literary term is demonstrated in the quote describing the decaying heads on London Bridge?

3. What literary term is demonstrated when Hendon, talking to himself, describes his dedication and concern for the king?

4. How does Miles Hendon describe his brother Hugh, and what does the description foreshadow?

5. Why is Miles Hendon away from his home?

6. What request does Hendon make in response to the Edward's offer of a reward?
