

The cover features a central yellow rounded rectangle with a dashed blue border. Two blue birds are perched on the top edge, and two butterflies (one blue, one red) are on the sides. The text 'My English Reader' is written in orange, and 'Class-V' is on a purple brushstroke at the bottom right.

My English Reader

Class-V

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Introduction

Ever Wondered Why Teachers Get Headaches?

Read the following cartoons.



Now Guess:

- Discuss why teachers get a headache while dealing with children?
- Do you create any problem for your teacher?



A.1. Read what some of the children have to say about their school life.



I like going to school but I get angry with myself when I make mistakes in my school-work because I'm careless. Sometimes, when I know the answer, I still get it wrong.

Akanksha, age 10 yrs



I like my teachers but sometimes they get unnecessarily angry. That irritates me.

Bharat, age 11 yrs



School is like one big punishment. I have to get up early and get scolded by others all the time.

Rajan, age 12 yrs



My parents are always telling me I'm not getting enough marks at school. They want me to get better score. In the end, I always have to say, 'all right, stop talking about it and let me study!' It's only in school where I am real friends with my teachers.

Roopali, age 11 yrs



School is a wonderful place to be in. I participate in a lot of competitions. Our teachers are sweet. The life is cool. Ha, Ha!

Sachin, age 9¹/₂ yrs

Work with your partner. Write down what you like or dislike about your school life.

A.2. Now read the following story.

Monday Morning Blues

Monday mornings always found Tom Sawyer miserable—because with it began another week’s slow suffering in school. Tom lay in bed and thought, ‘If I were sick, I could stay away from school and go fishing.’ He thought further about it. But despite all his attempts to detect some symptoms, he could not find anything wrong with himself. His hopes began to fail. Suddenly he discovered something. One of his upper front teeth was loose. He decided to use it as an excuse for not going to school. He was about to start **moaning**. He remembered that if his aunt came to know, she would pull it out and that would hurt. So he decided to use the tooth as an excuse some other day. He went back to thinking of some other way to fake illness. He remembered hearing the doctor describe an illness that had caused a patient to lose a finger. The boy eagerly drew his sore toe from under the sheet and held it up for inspection. It seemed worthwhile to chance it, so he fell **groaning** on the bed.

But Sid, who lay in the next bed, slept on. Tom groaned louder, but no result from Sid. Finally he got up, shook Sid hard and then went back to his bed groaning. Sid yawned, stretched, then brought himself upon his elbow with a snort and began to stare at Tom. Tom went on groaning.



moaning/groaning: different kinds of sounds expressing pain/suffering

‘Tom, what’s going on?’ asked Sid, frightened by the noise Tom was capable of producing.

No response.

‘Hey, Tom, Tom, what is the matter, Tom?’

Tom moaned out, ‘Oh, don’t Sid, don’t joggle me.’

‘But I must. Don’t groan like that, Tom, it’s awful. How long have you been groaning this way?’

‘Hours. Oh! don’t Sid, I’m dying.’

‘No, Tom, you ain’t dying! It makes my flesh crawl to hear you. What is the matter? I must call aunty.’

‘I forgive you everything, Sid,’ said Tom in a fresh bout of groans. ‘When I’m gone, you give my window sash and my cat with one eye to that new girl who’s come to the town and tell her...’ But Sid had flown downstairs and informed Aunt Polly, ‘Come quick, aunty, Tom’s dying!’

‘What rubbish! I don’t believe it!’

But the poor lady hurried upstairs with Sid and Mary at her heels. Her face grew white and her lips trembled.

‘What’s the matter with you, Tom?’ she cried.

‘Oh, aunty, my toe!’

‘What is the matter with your toe?’

‘Oh, aunty, my sore toe is going to fall off.’

The old lady sank down in a chair with relief. She laughed a little, then cried a little, then did both together. This made her feel better. She said, ‘Tom you really did frighten me. Now you stop this non-sense and get out of your bed.’



Tom felt foolish at his act now that he was caught. He said, ‘Aunty, my toe hurt so much that I wasn’t worried about my tooth at all.’

‘What’s the matter with your tooth?’

‘Well, one of them’s loose and it aches awfully.’

‘Open your mouth and let me see,’ said his aunty. ‘Yes, it is loose all right but you’re not going to die because of that. Mary, get me a silk thread, and a chunk of fire out of the kitchen.’

Tom said, ‘Oh, please aunty, don’t pull it out, it doesn’t hurt me any more. Please don’t, aunty. I don’t want to stay home from school.’



‘Oh, you do, don’t you? So all this drama was because you thought you’d get to stay home from school and go fishing? Tom, Tom, I love you so much but I’m very unhappy with you. You seem to try every way you can to break my old heart with your **outrageousness**.’

By this time the dental instruments were ready. The old lady fastened one end of the silk thread to Tom’s tooth with a loop and tied the other to the bedpost. Then she seized the chunk of fire and suddenly thrust it almost into the boy’s face. The tooth hung dangling by the bedpost now.

–by Mark Twain
(simplified)

outrageousness: shocking behaviour



A.3. Tick (✓) the appropriate answer.

- (i) Tom Sawyer did not want to get up on Monday mornings because—
- it meant going back to school.
 - he wanted to work at home.
 - he did not like Mondays.
 - none of these.
- (ii) Tom began to groan loudly because—
- his tooth was loose.
 - his feet hurt.
 - his toe was sore.
 - none of these.
- (iii) Aunt Polly was angry with Tom because—
- she did not like Tom.
 - she knew he was telling a lie.
 - she was being unkind to him.
 - none of these.
- (iv) Aunt Polly asked for a silk thread because—
- she wanted to sew a torn shirt.
 - she wanted to tie it around Tom's toe.
 - she wanted to take out Tom's tooth.
 - none of these.

A.4. Mark the following statements with a (✓) if true and a (X) if false.

- (i) Tom held up his toe for inspection because he wanted to make sure that he could use it as an excuse for not going to school.
- (ii) Tom was groaning loudly because he wanted to tell everyone that he was enjoying himself.
- (iii) The dental instruments that Aunt Polly used were a silk thread and a chunk of fire.
- (iv) Aunt Polly loved Tom a lot.
- (v) Tom felt foolish because his act was caught.



A.5. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.

- (i) ‘Well, one of them’s loose and it aches awfully.’
 - (a) Who is the speaker?
 - (b) What is loose?
- (ii) ‘It makes my flesh crawl to hear you. What is the matter?’
 - (a) Who is the speaker?
 - (b) ‘makes my flesh crawl’—what does it mean?
 - (c) What is the matter?

A.6. Life Skills

Why do you think Tom did not like going to school? If you were Tom’s friend, how would you counsel/convince him to attend the school regularly?

A.7. Work with your partner. Find words from the story whose synonyms are given below.

- (i) crying in pain *m* _ _ _ _ _
- (ii) pretend *f* _ _ _
- (iii) terrible *a* _ _ _ _ _
- (iv) excitedly *e* _ _ _ _ _
- (v) efforts *a* _ _ _ _ _

A.8. Aunt Polly told Tom, ‘You always break my heart’. The word ‘break’ can be used in many ways when it is succeeded by words like up, down, into, out, etc.

Discuss with your partner (or look up a dictionary) and try to understand what the expressions in the Aid Box mean. Then fill in the blanks in the sentences given on the next page. You will have to alter the expressions slightly.

AID BOX

break down

break into

break out

break up

break open



- (i) On his way to the office, Mr Pal's car _____. There was no one to help him.
- (ii) The robbers _____ the safe and escaped with a lot of money.
- (iii) 'Let's _____ for lunch. We'll meet again after an hour at the same place,' the Principal announced.
- (iv) The thieves _____ the house at night when everyone was fast asleep.
- (v) The Municipal Corporation swung into action when they heard that malaria had _____ in the city.

A.9. Some pairs of words look so similar that they get confused with each other. Four such pairs are given below.

lay, laid

farther, further

lose, loose

heel, heal

Discuss the meanings of these words with your partner and fill in the blanks appropriately.

- (i) The wound took a long time to _____.
- (ii) I think this point needs _____ discussion.
- (iii) The mother gently _____ the baby on the grass.
- (iv) Where did you _____ that beautiful pen of yours?

A.10. Imagine Tom could not attend the school because he had to go to the dentist to get his tooth extracted. He needed to send an application to the Principal to get a leave. Help Tom write an application for leave.

The Principal

Sabath-Sunday School

St. Petersburg

15 April 20__

Subject: Application for leave

Sir

Yours obediently

Tom Sawyer

A.11. Have you ever been to a dentist? Read what some of the children have to say about their experiences.

It is awful sitting in the dentist's chair. I tremble when he tries to look inside my mouth.

Akash



Whenever the date for my visit to the dentist is due, I either pretend to have a terrible stomach ache or tell my parents that I am very busy with my studies ...

Manpreet



Uh! Oouch! These are the only words I remember when I visit my dentist. The very thought of visiting him scares me.

Monica



Now write down in the space below how you feel when you have to go to a dentist. Do you look forward to it? Give a reason for your answer.

B

B.1. Shruti and Rohan are best friends. They are always together. Read what they have to say about each other.



Rohan is my best friend. We share a lot of things. Our classmates are jealous. They call me 'Rohan's tail' but I Don't Care.

Shruti and I sit together in the class. If I like her company, why should others tease us? Whether they call me her tail or her mine, it doesn't matter. We'll always be friends.



Do you fight with your friends? Discuss with your partner and write some reasons why you sometimes get angry with your friends. First read what Ritwik has to say.

I get very angry when my friends take my things without asking me.



I get angry when...	I also get angry...

- B.2.** Now read the following story about Swaminathan who gets very angry with his friends for something. Is he able to solve his problem or does it lead to another fight?

▶ The Tale of a Tail

When Swaminathan entered the V-Grade classroom, a giggle went round the benches. He walked to his seat hoping that he might not be the cause of the giggling. But his classmates continued to laugh. He looked at himself and then around the classroom. His eyes travelled up to the blackboard. His face turned red. On the board was written in huge letters, 'Tail'. Swaminathan ran to the blackboard and rubbed it off with his hands. He slowly turned around. His friend Shankar's head was bent over his notebook and Pea was busy, unpacking his bag. Swami felt very embarrassed. Without a word, he approached Pea and gave him a fierce slap on his cheek. Pea burst into tears and swore that he did not do it. Swaminathan cast a sly look at Shankar, who was absorbed in some work. Swaminathan turned to him and slapped his face also.



Soon there was a **pandemonium**. Shankar, Swaminathan and Pea, rolling over each other tearing, scratching and kicking one

pandemonium: a situation in which there is a lot of noise and confusion

another. The bell rang. Just then Rajam, Somu and Mani entered. The teacher came in and stood aghast. He could do little more than look on. He was the old Tamil *Pundit*, the most composed teacher in the school. Somu and Mani parted the fighters with great difficulty. Somu said, 'Sir, please let us go out. We do not want to disturb the class.' The teacher started to answer but Mani had already gone out, pushing Swaminathan and Pea before him. Somu followed him with Shankar.

All the friends came to a lonely spot in the field adjoining the school. There was silence for a while and then Mani said, 'What is wrong with you, you little rogues?' The three started to speak at once. Swaminathan's voice was the loudest: 'He, Pea wrote—Tail—Big Tail—on the blackboard— big—.' 'No—I didn't, you—' screamed Pea.



'The other two wrote it,' cried Swaminathan pointing at Shankar.

'Rascal! Did you see me?' howled Shankar.