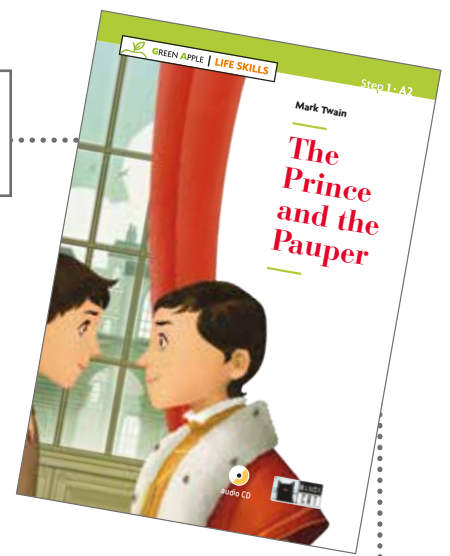


READING ACTIVITY

1/4

THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

Read the excerpt from Chapter One of *The Prince and the Pauper* and then do the exercises.



TOM CANTY

Two boys were born on the same day in London in the year 1537. Tom Canty was born to a family of paupers. They lived in a small room near Pudding Lane, a poor neighborhood near the River Thames. When Tom's father saw the baby he was not happy. "Now we have another child to look after, and we don't have any money!" he said angrily. The other baby was Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales¹. His father was Henry VIII, King of England. They lived at Westminster Palace in London. King Henry VIII had two daughters, from two different marriages, Mary and Elizabeth, but he really wanted a son. He wanted an heir to the Tudor throne of England. His third wife, Jane Seymour, gave him a son, Prince Edward. When King Henry VIII saw the baby he was very happy and said, "My son is born! Let's have a big banquet and fireworks!"

All of England was happy.

At the age of ten, Tom Canty was a beggar² on the streets of London. Poor Tom didn't have any shoes and his clothes were old and dirty.

He lived with his mother, father, grandmother and two sisters, Bet and Nan. The children slept on the cold floor and they were always hungry. Tom's father, John Canty, never worked.

"Go out and beg!" he told Tom. "And bring home lots of money."

Sometimes people were sorry for Tom and gave him some money. But other times they didn't give him anything. When he didn't bring any money home, John Canty hit him and Tom cried.

Tom thought, "I don't want to be poor forever. I want to learn to read and write. I want to know about the world."

Father Andrew was Tom's friend. He was a kind, old priest who lived nearby.

One day Tom said, "Can you help me, Father Andrew? I want to read and write. And I want to speak good English, like important people."

Father Andrew smiled at Tom and said, "Of course I can help you. Come to my room early in the morning."

Father Andrew taught Tom to read and write. He told him stories about brave knights, kings and castles. Tom learned quickly and soon read Father Andrew's books. At night he dreamed about castles, knights, princes and their adventures.

1 Prince of Wales : the oldest son of the King of England is always called 'the Prince of Wales'.

2 beggar : a very poor person who asks for money on the street



READING ACTIVITY

2/4

EXERCISES

1 Choose the correct answer – a, b, or c.

1. Tom Canty and Edward Tudor

- a. were good friends.
- b. lived in Pudding Lane in London.
- c. were born on the same day in 1537.

2. Mary and Elizabeth were

- a. Edward's sisters.
- b. Tom's sisters.
- c. the King's cousins.

3. Tom didn't have

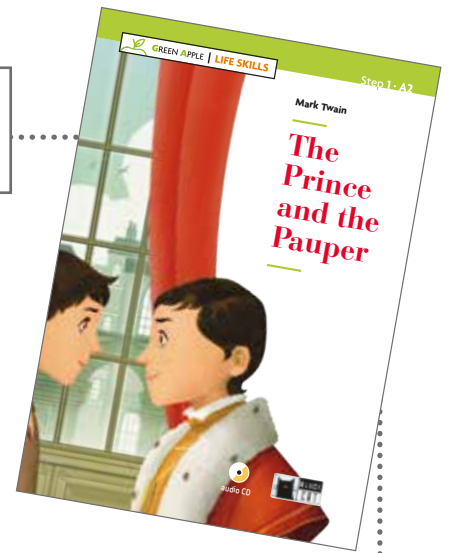
- a. any clothes.
- b. any shoes.
- c. any family.

4. John Canty sent Tom

- a. to school.
- b. to beg on the streets.
- c. to play near the River Thames.

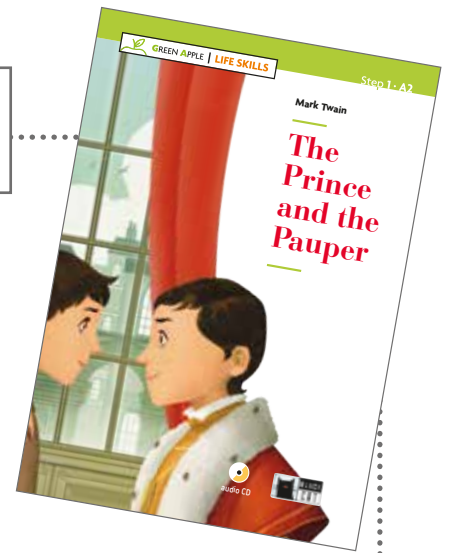
5. Father Andrew was a priest

- a. and a friend of King Henry VIII.
- b. and he gave Tom some money.
- c. and he taught Tom to read and write.



READING ACTIVITY

3/4



2 Choose the correct word in italics.

1. Tom's father was very *happy/very unhappy* when his son was born.
2. Jane Seymour was *Prince Edward's mother/Tom Canty's mother*.
3. Tom lived in a small room with *Father Andrew/his family*.
4. John Canty hit his son when *he didn't go to school/he didn't bring any money home*.
5. At night Tom dreamed about *castles and knights/his friends on the River Thames*.

