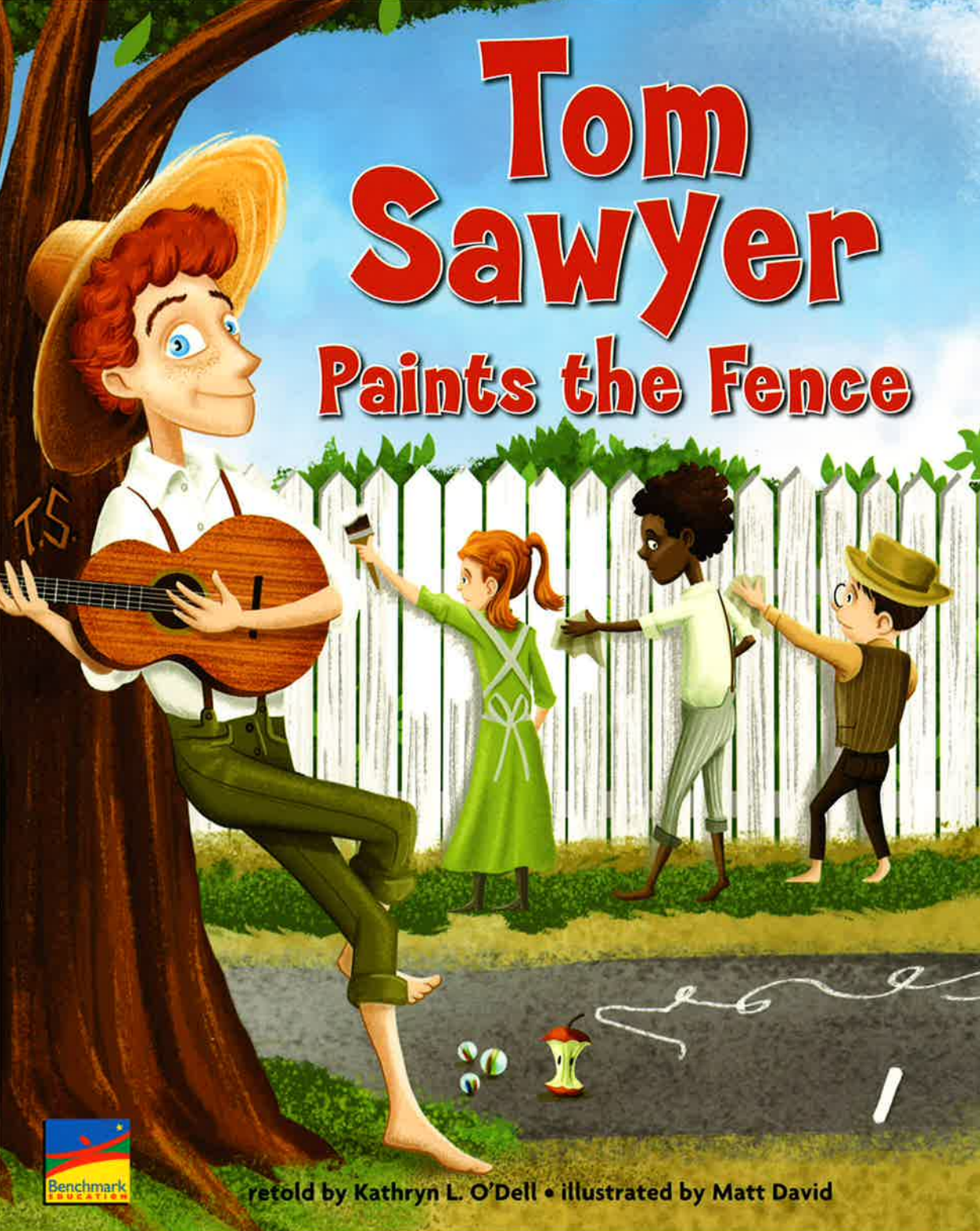
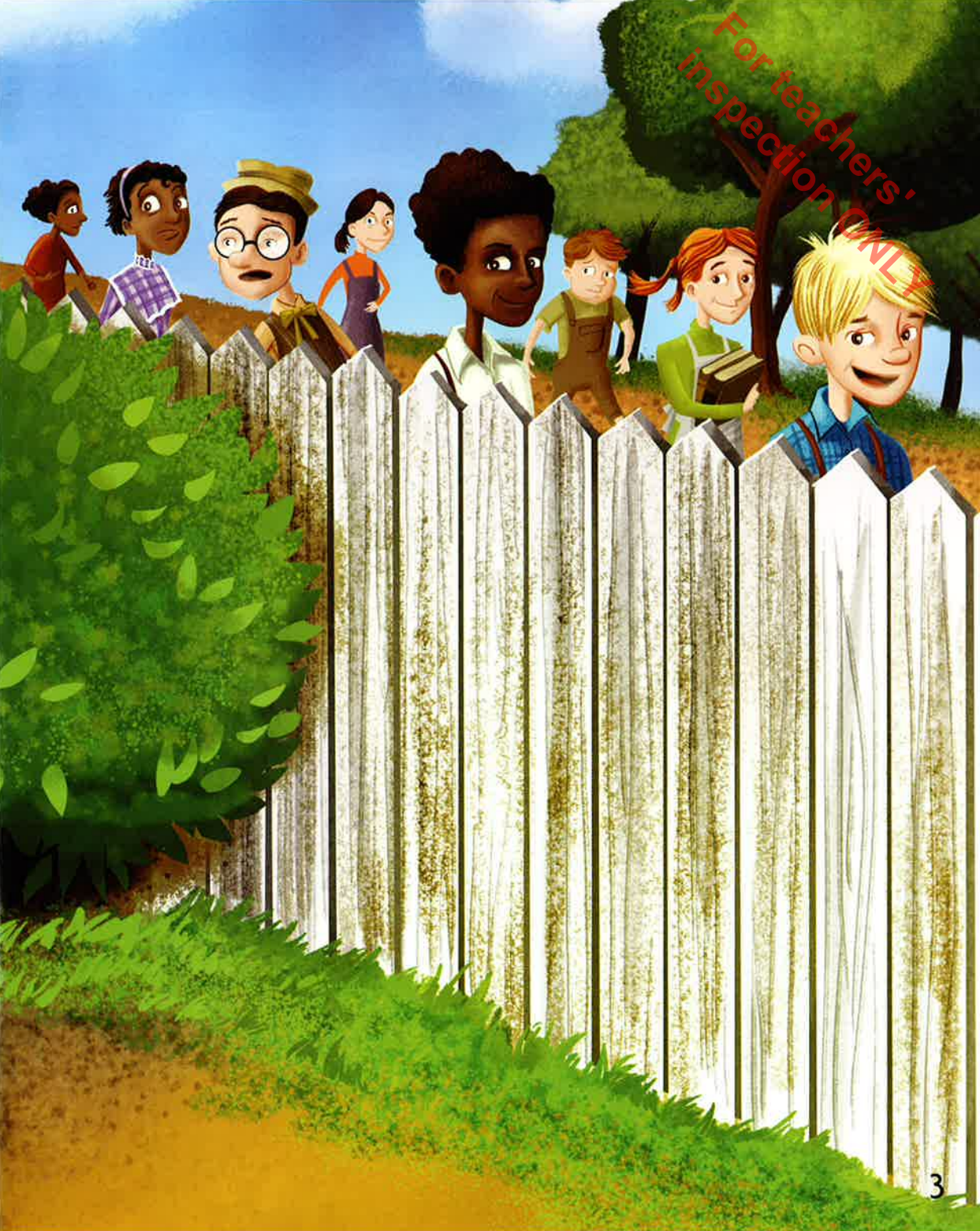


retold by Kathryn L. O'Dell • illustrated by Matt David

Benchmark EDUCATION



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"Tom! TOM!" called Aunt Polly. But no one answered. "Tom! Where are you?" she called again. "What is WRONG with him?" Aunt Polly wondered.

Tom lived with his Aunt Polly. He was an adventurous boy, and he was always getting into trouble.



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"Tom! Come here." Aunt Polly found Tom outside.

"Yes, Aunt Polly?"



"I know you didn't go to school today," said Aunt Polly, "and that's not okay. Tomorrow you are going to paint the fence."

"But Aunt Polly, tomorrow is Saturday. It's my day to play!"

"Now, Tom, you played today instead of going to school. So you can work tomorrow!" Aunt Polly wanted to teach Tom a lesson.

Saturday came, and it was a beautiful, sunny day. Tom looked at the fence. He looked at the paint. He looked at the paintbrush. He really did not want to paint the fence. His friends would be walking by, and they would make fun of him for having to work. He had to do something!



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A few minutes later, Ben walked by. Ben was eating an apple, and he was very happy. "Hello, Tom!"

Tom didn't answer. He pretended he was busy painting the fence. He pretended that he was having fun.

"Hello, Tom. So, you have to work today, huh?"

Tom said, "Maybe it is work. Maybe it's not. All I know is, it's really fun!"

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"What? You like it?" asked Ben.

Tom answered, "Like it? I love it! It's not every day that a boy gets to paint a fence."

"Say, Tom, let me paint a little," Ben said.

"No, no, Ben! I can't do that. My Aunt Polly said only I could paint the fence."

"Come on, Tom. Please. I'll give you my apple!"



Tom said, "Okay, Ben. I'll let you paint because you're such a good friend."

Tom handed Ben the paintbrush in exchange for the apple. While Ben painted the fence, Tom ate the apple.



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What happened in this story?

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Evaluate Author's Purpose

Why does the author make Aunt Polly yell, "TOM SAWYER!" at the end?