

## Superstition as Seen in Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

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### Abstract

*This research aims to find out how superstitions are revealed in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and how the impact of superstitions on the main character, by applying qualitative research where data is collected in the form of words and quotes from novels, books, dictionaries, and journals to strengthen the research. The researcher collected data using two types of sources, namely primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are taken from the novel itself and secondary sources are taken from books, dictionaries, and relevant journals. In analyzing the data, the author uses an objective approach whose research is solely based on intrinsic criteria. The results of this research show that there are four categories of superstition revealed in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, namely believing in superstitious rituals, believing in magic, believing in urban legend, and believing in amulets. In addition, this research also shows that superstition brings positive and negative impacts on Tom Sawyer the main character in the story. The positive impact found is that superstition can provide a sense of security and cause obedience to Tom Sawyer. While the negative impact is that superstition makes Tom sacrifice himself and brings disappointment because what Tom expects does not match the reality that occurs.*

**Keywords:** Superstition; Adventures; Tom sawyer; Literature

### INTRODUCTION

The issue of superstition has always been a pro and con among the public because there are those who believe and those who do not believe. According to Chen & Young (2018) Superstition is an illogical belief or habit caused by things that cannot be explained scientifically or as a result of wrong ideas. In this modern era, some people still believe in superstition even though it cannot be explained by reason. Belief in good and bad luck has always been the reason why some people choose to keep believing in superstition. Nikulina & Нікуліна (2020) stated that superstition is a belief in certain things that occur in a way that cannot be explained by reason or science and can bring good or bad luck. Based on the above opinion, it can be concluded that superstition is a belief that does not make sense and is believed to bring someone good luck or bad luck.

In everyday life, some people often associate a superstition with decision-making and can even become more afraid or more confident to do something. This is corroborated by the opinion Acar (2014) which stated that belief in superstition

can affect the decisions a person makes in everyday life and can affect their attitude. One example that we can see is when the number 13 is not used in the elevator number panel because it is considered to bring bad luck. Previous research from Singh (2021) stated that the number 13 can influence people in designing a hotel. Some hotels eliminate the 13th floor while others choose to keep adding the 13th floor to gain more profit from consumers who are curious about mystical things. The same thing was also stated by Pourmorshed (2016) who state that 13 is an unlucky number and its use is prohibited by many hotel rooms, elevator floors, airplanes and other public buildings around the world. Based on the above, the researcher sees that belief in superstition has a big impact on human life because it can affect a person's attitude and actions.

Superstition is a belief originating from ancestors that are presented in the form of stories of unclear origin and cannot be proven scientifically (Mauliana, 2018). Stories about superstition do not only exist in the real world but also in the world of literature. Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is one example of a literary work that has superstitious value in it. The novel tells the story of an adventurous and superstitious boy. Tom Sawyer as the main character in the novel always fails in every superstition he believes in because none of them have ever become reality.

The main problem in this research is that belief in superstition impacts a person's decision-making and behavior (Acar, 2014). This needs to be studied because Tom's behavior and decision-making changed as a result of being influenced by superstition. In addition, no previous research has examined the impact of superstition on behavior and decision-making, especially as seen in Tom's character in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The purpose of this research is to find out how superstitions are revealed in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and how the impact of superstitions on the main character by using an objective approach.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### ***Definition of Literature***

Definition of Literature According to Wuntu (2016) a literary work that has affective properties is a force that can touch the deepest feelings which then produce perfect awareness because it succeeds in becoming a generator of human consciousness. Meanwhile, Tampi et al., (2018) state that literature is a reflection or expression of human life that contains truth and beauty. Literature can also be described as the result of imitation of real life through the process of imagination. Sabudu (2020) stated that Literature is a reflection of social or personal phenomena that occur in society and is presented interestingly. Based on the above opinions, the researcher concludes that literature is an expression and reflection of social or personal phenomena that contain beauty and truth and can be a generator of human consciousness. Literature is not just a work that is written as beautifully as possible to gain a profit or just for entertainment but literature is a work that has certain values that can be useful for human life.

### ***Understanding of Superstition***

According to Huque & Chowdhury (2007) superstition is defined as an unreasonable belief in a particular event and cannot be explained scientifically.

Meanwhile, Lakshmikanth & Hema (2016) stated that superstition is a belief in things that are irrational and without evidence. Based on the above definitions, it can be concluded that superstition is an illogical belief in certain events that cannot be explained scientifically and cannot be proven. When someone believes in a superstition they can explain exactly what happened to others but the explanation is beyond reason and without strong evidence.

### **Classification of Superstition**

Wang et al., (2012) classifies superstitions into several parts, namely:

#### **1. Believing in Superstition Rituals**

Superstitious rituals are defined as actions that are unusual, persistent, rigid, and thought to have a positive effect when in fact there is no causal relationship between the action and the outcome of an event.

#### **2. Believing in Magic**

Magic is defined as an activity that aims to influence other people physically and mentally in a way that cannot be seen by the naked eye and from a distance and can harm or cause the loss of life of others (Surya et al., 2020)

#### **3. Believing in Urban Legend**

According to Brunvand in Wang et al., (2012) Urban legend is defined as fictional folklore that uses an ironic twist to warn people of potential danger. The urban legend is also defined as an often lurid story that is based on hearsay and widely circulated as truth (Webster, n.d.).

#### **4. Believing in Amulets**

Amulets are defined as objects that are believed to ward off and cure various diseases and come in various forms (Arni, 2015).

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This research uses qualitative methods. Bogdan and Taylor in Rodiah & Triyana, (2019) define qualitative methods as procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from individuals and behaviors that can be studied. Based on the above define, all data that will be taken in this research do not use numbers, diagrams, or formulas but in the form of words and quotes. This research collect data from excerpts of the novel itself, books, dictionaries, and relevant journals both national and international that can provide explanations and can be a reference to support this research.

### **Data Collection**

Data collection is divided into two categories, namely the primary source and the secondary source. The primary source is the novel itself and the secondary source is taken from several books, dictionaries, national journals, and international journals related to the title through internet browsing. This is based on Griffith (2011) opinion which stated that two types of evidence relevant to essays on literature are evidence from primary sources, namely the literary work itself, and secondary sources consisting of facts or opinions outside the work itself. The procedures carried out in analyzing the novel include reading and understanding the novel, collecting and selecting data sources related the topic, writing important things related to the topic, analyzing the novel, and finally making conclusion.

## **Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses a qualitative method by applying an objective approach in analyzing the novel data. According to Abram (2014) the objective approach deals with a literary work as something independent of extrinsic relationship, namely the poet, the audience and the surrounding world. In contrast, this approach describes a work of literature as a standalone work of literature and is explained and judged solely based on intrinsic criteria. Based on this opinion, it can be concluded that an objective approach is an approach that focuses on the work itself and does not involve extrinsic elements in analyzing it. In this study, the objective approach is used to examine how superstitions are revealed in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and how superstitions impact the main story in the novel.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

To answer the research questions of how is the superstition revealed in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and how is the impact of superstition toward the main character, the researcher will apply classification of superstition based on Wang et al., (2012).

### ***Superstition in Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***

#### ***Belief in Superstitious Rituals***

Superstitious rituals are actions that are unusual, persistent, rigid, and considered to have a positive effect when in reality there is no causal relationship between the action and the outcome of an event (Womack, 1992). In connection with the statement above, Tom's belief in superstitious rituals in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* can be seen when Tom meets Huck on the way to school. They talk about the most efficacious wart medicine according to their respective versions. Tom thought that spunk-water was the most effective remedy for warts, while Huck thought that dead cats were the most effective remedy for warts.

The information that spunk-water can cure warts is already known to Huck. He then explained to Tom how to cure warts using spunk-water based on the information he heard. According to Tom what Huck explained was still not quite right and would not work, so he explained in detail the more appropriate use of spunk-water to cure warts. Here's the quote:

“Aha! Talk about trying to cure warts with spunk-water such a blame fool way as that! Why, that ain't a going to do any good. You got to go by yourself to the middle of the woods, where you know there's a spunk-water stump, and just as it's midnight you back up against the stump and jam your hand in and say:  
Barley-corn, barley corn, injun-meal shorts,  
Spunk-water, spunk-water, swaller these warts,  
And then walk away quick, eleven steps, with your eyes shut, and then turn around three times and walk home without speaking to anybody.  
Because if you speak the charm's busted.” (Twain, 1986, p. 47-48).

Apart from using spunk-water, Tom also sometimes cures his warts using bean. Tom told Huck that he had a lot of warts caused by playing with frogs too much. According to Tom, all of his warts were successfully removed by using a bean seed that was given certain words. Huck has tried the same thing. Tom then asked

Huck how he used the beans and filled in what was missing. After completing Huck's explanation of how to use pea seeds to treat warts, Tom next asks Huck about how to cure warts with a dead cat. Here's the quote:

“Buy say – how do you cure ‘em with dead cats?”

“Why, you take your cat and go and get in the graveyard, long about midnight, where somebody that was wicked has been buried; and when it’s midnight a devil will come, or maybe two or three, but you can’t see ‘em, you can only hear something like the wind, or maybe hear em’ talk; and when they’re taking that feller away, you heave your cat after ‘em and say, “Devil follow corpse, cat follow devil, warts follow cat. I’m done with ye! That’ll fetch any wart.” (Twain, 1986, p.48)

After hearing Huck's explanation, Tom came to believe that dead cats were one of the elixirs that could cure warts. Tom even asks Huck to allow him to participate in the ritual of curing his warts with the dead cat. Huck allowed it and their conversation ended with an agreement to carry out the plan on Saturday midnight. Based on the quotations above, it can be seen that Tom believes in superstitious rituals and has carried them out. Tom believed that spunk-water could cure warts. Apart from that, Tom also said that sometimes he uses a bean to cure his warts. Tom performs an unusual action and thinks it has a positive effect even though there is no causal link between his action and his warts.

### ***Believing in Magic***

Magic is defined as the belief in things that can be controlled by mystical or supernatural powers (Evans, 1976). Magic is also defined as an activity that aims to influence other people physically and mentally in ways that cannot be seen with the naked eye and from a distance and harm or cause the loss of life of others (Surya et al., 2020). In relation to the statement above, Tom's belief in magic can be seen when Tom believes Huck's explanation that cat carcasses can cure warts. Tom believed Huck's words after knowing that the information was received by Huck from a witch. Here is the quote:

“Sounds right. D’you ever try it, Huck?

No, but old Mother Hopkins told me.

Well, I reckon it’s so, then, becuz they say she’s a witch.

Say! Why, Tom, I know she is. She witched pap. Pap says so his own self. He came along one day, and he see she was a witching him, so he took up a rock, and if she hadn’t dodged he’d a got her. Well, that very night he rolled off’n a shed wher’ he was a layin’ drunk, and broke his arm.

Why, that’s awful. How did he know she was a witching him?

Lord, Pap can tell, easy. Pap says when they keep looking at you right stiddy, they’re a witching you, specially if they mumble. Becuz when they mumble they’re a saying the Lords’ Prayer backards” (Twain, 1986, p. 48-49).

Tom's belief in magic can also be seen when Tom wants to find his lost marbles. He digs into the ground under a fallen log using Barlow's knife. The knife fell on a piece of wood that appeared to be hollow. Tom then placed his hand on the wood while chanting a spell and hoping that his lost marbles would be found again. But unfortunately, the lost marbles were not found. After thinking for a long

time, Tom finally concluded that the spell didn't work because it had been interrupted by a witch. Here is the quote:

“Then he tossed the marble away pettishly, and stood cogitating. The truth was that a superstition of his had failed here, which he and all his comrades had always looked upon as infallible. If you buried a marble with certain necessary incantations, and left it alone a fortnight, and then opened the place with the incantation he had just used, you would find that all the marbles you had ever lost had gathered themselves together there, meantime, no matter how widely they had been separated. But now this thing had actually and unquestionably failed. Tom's whole structure of faith was shaken to its foundations. He had many a time heard of this thing succeeding, but never of its failing before. It did not occur to him that he had tried it several times before, himself, but could never find the hiding-place afterwards. He puzzled over the matter some time, and finally decided that some witch had interfered and broken the charm” (Twain, 1986, p. 62).

Furthermore, Tom's belief in magic is also seen when he and Huck go looking for treasure. They look for treasure under the dead tree at the Still-House intersection and under the old tree behind Cardiff Hill by digging one by one. From the digging, Tom and Huck found no treasure at all. The incident made Tom again think that it was the witch who had made them unable to find treasure. Based on the above quotations, it can be seen that Tom strongly believes in magic. He repeatedly assumed that the magician had disturbed him. He even immediately believed Huck's words about a cat carcass that could cure warts after knowing that Huck got the information from a witch.

### ***Believing in Urban Legend***

According to Brunvand in Wang et al., (2012) Urban legend is defined as fictional folklore that uses an ironic twist to warn people of potential danger. The urban legend is also defined as an often lurid story that is based on hearsay and widely circulated as truth (Webster, n.d.). Concerning the above statement, Tom's belief in urban legend in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* can be seen when Tom and Huck go looking for treasure. After the process of searching for treasure under the dead tree at the Still-House intersection and under the old tree behind Cardiff Hill did not produce any results, Tom decided to go looking for treasure in a haunted house. As Tom and Huck were getting ready to head to the haunted house, Tom suddenly canceled their plans. Tom canceled it because it was Friday, he believed that doing something on Friday could bring bad luck. Here is the quote:

“Tom was impatient to go to the haunted house; Huck was measurably so, also, but suddenly said:

Look here, Tom do you know what day it is?

Tom mentally ran over the days of the week and then quickly lifted his eyes with a startled look in them:

My! I never once thought of it, Huck!

Well, I didn't, neither, but all at once it popped on to me that it was Friday.

Blame it; a body can't be too careful, Huck. We might a got into an awful

scrape, tackling such a thing on a Friday.

Might! Better say we would! There's some lucky days, maybe, but Friday ain't.

Any fool knows that. I don't reckon you was the first that found it out, Huck." (Twain, 1986, p. 159-160)

From the quote above, it can be seen that Tom strongly believes in the urban legend that have been circulating in the community that Friday is a day that brings misfortune. Tom's fear of these rumors made him decide not to look for treasure on that day.

### **Believing in Amulets**

Amulets are defined as objects that are believed to ward off and cure various diseases and come in various forms (Arni, 2015). Amulets are also considered to have the power to protect their owners from danger (Sakina, 2021). Concerning the above statement, Tom's belief in amulets in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* can be seen when Tom decides not to swim again after finding out his amulet has been lost. Here is the quote:

"Then Joe and Huck had another swim, but Tom would not venture, because he found that in kicking off his trousers he had kicked his string of rattlesnake rattles off his ankle, and he wondered how he had escaped cramp so long without the protection of this mysterious charm. He did not venture again until he had found it, and by that time the other boys were tired and ready to rest" (Twain, 1986, p. 107).

From the quote above, it can be seen that Tom strongly believes in an amulet. Although he wondered why he didn't experience muscle spasms when swimming without wearing the amulet, Tom still didn't dare to swim again until the amulet was found. Tom rejects the reality of what happened and still believes the amulet is his protector.

### **The Impact of Superstition toward the character of Tom Sawyer**

#### **Positive Impact**

##### **Giving a Sense of Security**

As a superstitious person, Tom protected himself by wearing an amulet. While on Jackson Island, Tom played to his heart's content with Huck and Joe. They played chase, jumped into the water, sprayed water on each other's faces, drowned each other, swam, lay down, buried themselves with sand, and played circus and marbles. They played many games and Tom was not afraid at all, especially when playing in the water. The amulet that Tom wore on his ankle made him feel safe when swimming. Tom believed that his amulet, which was a series of grocery snake tail tips, could prevent him from muscle spasms when swimming.

When they got bored of playing the circus, Huck and Joe went swimming again while Tom didn't dare to join them anymore. Tom, who initially felt safe while swimming, is now afraid to swim again when he finds out that his amulet has disappeared, as seen in this quote "Then Joe and Huck had another swim, but Tom would not venture, because he found that in kicking off his trousers he had kicked his string of rattlesnake rattles off his ankle" (Twain, 1986, p. 107). Through this quote, it can be seen that the amulet worn by Tom on his ankle can provide a sense of security because when the amulet is lost, Tom no longer dares to go swimming with his friends.

### **Generating Obedience**

Tom was not a good role model for the children in his village because he liked to skip school and often violated his aunt's prohibitions. But when it comes to superstitions, Tom is a very obedient child. Tom is more obedient to the superstitions he believes in than he is to Aunt Polly. This can be seen when Tom tries to cure his warts with the Water of Courage. Very obediently, Tom carried out the ritual of healing his warts with the Water of Courage step by step without adding or subtracting the rules of use. Here is the quote:

“Aha! Talk about trying to cure warts with spunk-water such a blame fool way as that! Why, that ain’t a going to do any good. You got to go by yourself to the middle of the woods, where you know there’s a spunk-water stump, and just as it’s midnight you back up against the stump and jam your hand in and say:

Barley-corn, barley corn, injun-meal shorts,

Spunk-water, spunk-water,swaller these warts,

And then walk away quick, eleven steps, with your eyes shut, and then turn around three times and walk home without speaking to anybody.

Because if you speak the charm’s busted” (Twain, 1986, p. 47-48).

Tom's adherence to superstition is unquestionable as he always follows exactly every rule of the superstitions he believes in. In contrast, Tom often broke his aunt's rules even though he knew he would be punished. One of Tom's disobedience can be seen when he stole Aunt Polly's jam as seen in this quote "Well, I know. It's jam, that's what it is. Forty times I've said if you didn't let that jam alone I'd skin you. Hand me that switch" (Twain, 1986, p. 7-8). Through the quotes above, it can be seen that Tom is very obedient in following every rule of the superstition he believes in. Meanwhile, he breaks every rule of his aunt without any fear of being punished. Tom is more obedient to superstitions than the people who take care of him.

### **Negative Impact**

#### **Sacrificing oneself**

Tom's adherence to superstition led him to sacrifice himself. In this case, sacrifices his sleep, his desires, and his pleasures. Tom does not mind waking up in the middle of the night and going back to sleep when the night is almost over, to perform a wart healing ritual using a cat carcass. Tom is willing to sacrifice his sleep for the superstition he believes in. Here is the quote:

“The clock chimed eleven, but he did not hear it. And then there came, mingling with his half-formed dreams, a most melancholy caterwauling. The raising of a neighbouring window disturbed him. A cry of ‘Scat! You devil! and the crash of an empty bottle against the back of his aunt’s wood-shed brought him wide awake, and a single minute later he was dressed and out of the window and creeping along the roof of the ‘ell’ on all fours. He ‘meow’d’ with caution once or twice as he went; then jumped to the roof of the wood-shed, and thence to the ground. Huckleberry Finn was there, with his dead cat. The boys moved off and disappeared in the gloom. At the end of half an hour they were wading through the tall grass of the graveyard.” (Twain, 1986, p. 65-66)



Besides sacrificing his sleep, Tom also sacrificed his desires for superstition. As living creatures, humans always have various desires ranging from wanting to be rich, wanting to be successful, wanting to buy new things, wanting a vacation, and so on. To realize their desires, humans will do various ways and will face various obstacles so that their desires are immediately obtained. As the main character in this story, Tom desires to find a treasure as seen in this quote "There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy's life when he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for hidden treasure. This desire suddenly came upon Tom one day" (Twain, 1986, p. 152).

In the process of searching for treasure, Tom encountered an obstacle. Tom's desire to find treasure was hampered by superstition. Tom, who was initially excited to search for treasure, suddenly abandoned his plan after learning that it was Friday. Tom's belief that Friday could bring misfortune made him decide to cancel the search for treasure on that day, as seen in this quote "All we got to do is to look might sharp and keep out of it. We'll drop this thing for today, and play" (Twain, 1986, p. 160).

Not only did Tom sacrifice his sleep and desires, but he also sacrificed his pleasure because of superstition. When Tom and his friends escaped to Jackson Island, he had plenty of opportunities to play to his heart's content because there was no one to stop him. There he played chase, jumped into the water and sprayed water on each other's faces, buried each other, lay down and buried himself with sand, and played circus and marbles. But unfortunately, all the pleasure had to stop because of a superstition. Tom, who loved swimming, could no longer swim with his friends after learning that his amulet had disappeared. Tom decided to swim again if the amulet was found, but when the amulet was found his friends stopped swimming as seen in this quote "He did not venture again until he had found it, and by that time the other boys were tired and ready to rest" (Twain, 1986, p.107). This quote shows that superstition made Tom sacrifice his fun by not swimming again with his friends.

#### ***Bringing about a sense of disappointment***

Disappointment is a feeling of unhappiness, discomfort, and unpleasantness when someone or something does not turn out as expected. The greater the expectation, the greater the disappointment. Tom's great belief in superstition led him to have high expectations that the superstitions he believed in would come true. But unfortunately, what he expected did not match the reality. This was seen when Tom wanted to find his lost marble.

At that time Tom believed that "if you buried a marble with certain necessary incantations and left it alone a fortnight, and the opened the place with the incantation he had just used, you would find that all the marbles you had ever lost had gathered themselves together there, in the meantime, no matter how widely they had been separated" (Twain, 1986, p. 62). But unfortunately, the reality did not match what Tom expected because when the vault was opened there was only one marble. The missing marbles were not in the vault as shown in this quote:

"He wen to a rotten log near at hand, and began to dig under one end of it with his Barlow knife. He soon struck wood that sounded hollow. He put his hand there, and uttered this incantation impressively: What hasn't come here, come! What's here, stay here! Then he scraped away

the dirt, and exposed a pine shingle. He took it up and disclosed a shapely little treasure-house whose bottom and sides were of shingles. In it lay a marble. Tom's astonishment was boundless! He scratched his head with a perplexed air, and said: Well, That beats anything! Then he tossed the marble away pettishly, and stood cogitating" (Twain, 1986, p. 61-62)

The quote above shows that Tom was disappointed with reality because he never expected that the superstition he believed in would not be what he expected. He had always heard that the spell always worked and never failed but in reality, it really didn't happen because it didn't produce anything.

## CONCLUSION

After conducting the research, the author concludes that the superstitions revealed in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* are in four categories: believing in superstitious rituals, believing in magic, believing in urban legend, and believing in amulets. The superstitious rituals revealed in the story are shown when Tom tries to cure his wart disease in an unusual way, namely by using spunk-water, peanut seeds, and a cat carcass. Each superstition has its procedures and all of these things are done by Tom appropriately.

Furthermore, Tom's belief in magic is revealed when Tom believes Huck's explanation about a cat carcass that can cure warts after knowing that Huck got the information from a magician. In addition, Tom's belief in magic is also revealed when Tom wants to find his lost marbles. Tom cast a spell to find his lost marbles but the spell did not work. The failure made Tom think that the magician had disturbed him when he cast the spell so the spell did not work. Not only that but Tom's belief in magic was also revealed when he went searching for treasure. In the process of searching for the treasure, Tom experienced many difficulties and again he blamed the magician for disturbing him so that he could not find the treasure.

Besides believing in magic, Tom also believes in Urban Legend and amulets. This was revealed when Tom canceled his plan to find treasure after learning that it was Friday. Tom believed in the rumors circulating in the community that Friday is a day that brings misfortune. Tom's belief in the rumor made him postpone the search for treasure on that day and choose to continue it on another day. Next, Tom's belief in amulets was revealed when Tom wore an amulet on his ankle. He believed that the amulet could protect him and prevent him from muscle spasms while swimming.

The superstitions that Tom believes in have both positive and negative impacts on him. The positive impact is that superstitions can provide a sense of security and engender obedience. Tom wears an amulet on his ankle because he is very afraid of experiencing muscle spasms while swimming. The amulet that Tom wore on his ankle made him feel safe and not afraid to swim. Then, Tom who is famous for his ignorance instantly becomes obedient when it comes to a superstition. Tom was more obedient to the superstitions he believed in than his aunt.

Not only does superstition have a positive impact, but it also has a negative impact on Tom's life. The negative impact is self-sacrifice and disappointment. The superstitions that Tom believes in make him sacrifice himself in this case sacrificing his sleep, his desires, and his pleasure. Superstitions make Tom have to wake up in the middle of the night and go back to sleep when the night is almost over, which

results in Tom oversleeping and being scolded by his aunt. Superstition also made Tom postpone his desire to find treasure. Tom's belief in superstition makes him unhesitatingly sacrifice his sleep, his desires, and his fun. Furthermore, another negative impact is that superstitions can lead to disappointment. Tom's great belief in superstition makes him have high expectations that every superstition he believes in will actually come true. But unfortunately, what Tom expected did not match the reality.

After conducting this research, the author suggests to readers include the novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* as one of the reading lists because the story is interesting and provides many life lessons. Through this study, the researcher also advises readers not to expect too much or depend on something that cannot be explained by reason or science and has not been proven to be true so as not to be disappointed and be able to think more logically in responding to something. The researcher also hopes that students of the Department of English Education Universitas Negeri Manado, can consider the novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* to be used as an object of literary research because in this novel there are still many things that can be studied besides superstition.

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