



## Gold Seal Lesson

<b>Author(s):</b> Elizabeth Pierce			<b>Lesson Title:</b> <i>Tom Sawyer-Who Makes These Laws?</i>			
<b>Grade Span</b>			<b>ICLE Application Model</b>			
K-4	5-8	9-12 X	A	B	C	D X

### Instructional Focus:

#### Reading

Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations

#### Writing

Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

#### Listening

Students listen for a variety of purposes appropriate to the grade level

#### Speaking

Students speak for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

### Performance Task

The student reads *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. While reading, the student takes notes on laws that characters in the book seem to be breaking according to today's governing standards. Once the list is compiled (see "Picture, Chart, or Graph file name(s)" for a partial list), the student calls the police department and asks an officer if these laws are, in fact, violations, misdemeanors, felonies, not laws at all, or laws created by other jurisdictions. The student researches how laws are made and the structure of the US government, including executive, judicial and legislative branches. The student computer generates a research paper on how laws are made. The student discusses how laws are put into action based on peoples' belief systems. The student also compares and contrasts the laws in effect during Mark Twain's writing of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and in effect today and explains the evolution of public opinion that has brought these laws into effect. The student cites examples from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and cites information derived from his or her research to support his or her comparison/contrast. In a separate opinion paper, the student projects 100 hundred years into the future and explains a law or laws that may be in effect that do not exist now. The student supports his or her opinion based on a logical flow of public opinion that he or she thinks would evolve. The student presents his or her opinion(s) in an oral presentation and asks for questions and comments. All students must be respectful of each other's opinions.

### ICLE Essential Skills

Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. (ela 1)

Gather information from a variety of sources, including electronic sources, and summarize, analyze, and evaluate its use for a report. (ela 3)

Identify, collect and/or select pertinent information while reading. (ela 5)

Prepare and deliver individual speeches by gathering information, rehearsing, making eye contact, speaking loudly enough, delivering information in a well-organized fashion, and appealing to the needs of the target audience. (ela 10)

Draft a report that engages an audience and is concise, clear, well-organized, accurate, and informative. (ela 12)

Understand the nature and purpose of and be able to word process a variety of formats including essays, business letters, memos, instructions, policy statements, technical proposals, user manuals, lab reports, etc. (ela 30)

Write a report on a topic that uses several sources of information and correctly document those sources. (ela 36a)

Ask questions of others that encourage them to participate, elaborate, and contribute to understanding topics under discussion. (ela 48)

Understand and use a variety of organizational formats such as compare/contrast, cause/effect, inductive/deductive, most important to least important, and least important to most important. (ela 50)

**Scoring Guide:**

Score each of the following characteristics on a scale of 4 to 0, where 4 = surpasses expectations; 3 = high quality performance; 2 = satisfactory quality performance; 1 = minimum quality performance; 0 = does not meet expectations.

**CHARACTERISTICS  
CRITERIA  
SCORE**

• **Takes Notes on Laws Seemingly Broken**

- Identifies at least five potential laws broken in the reading
- Characters are clearly identified
- Notes are clear and concise

\_\_\_\_\_

• **Interviews Police Officer on Laws**

- Conversation is productive
- Asks about laws and states repercussions (if any)
- Is able to identify jurisdiction laws are created and enforced by

\_\_\_\_\_

• **Researches How Laws are Made and Structure of US Government**

- Makes proper use of technology using at least two internet sites
- Uses other various sources for research
- Identifies executive branch
- Identifies judicial branch
- Identifies legislative branch

\_\_\_\_\_

• **Writes Research Paper**

- Incorporates how laws are made
- Refers to peoples' belief systems as the impetus to law making
- Paper compares and contrasts laws in effect during Mark Twain's era and laws in effect now
- Cites examples from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- Cites supportive information
- Applies the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing, spelling
- Presents information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience
- Uses editing and revising skills to improve effectiveness and accuracy

\_\_\_\_\_

• **Writes Opinion of Future Law(s)**

- Expresses opinion clearly
- Substantiates opinion with facts
- Opinion is logical
- Defines a position on a topic and writes persuasively to persuade a specific audience
- Applies the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing, spelling
- Presents information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience
- Uses editing and revising skills to improve effectiveness and accuracy

\_\_\_\_\_

• **Gives Oral Presentation**

- Expresses opinion clearly
- Substantiates opinion with facts
- Opinion is logical
- Gives oral presentation that is clear and is understood by the audience
- Makes eye contact, speaks loudly enough, delivers information in a well-organized fashion, and appeals to the target audience's need to know
- Is open to questions and comments

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring Guide continued...**

- **Technology**
- Makes proper use of technology
  
- **Task Management**
- Manages time wisely
- Manages communication with institutions in a timely and courteous fashion
- Cooperates with others as needed

**Keywords**

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
<b>Reading</b> Comprehension Fluency In context Independent Reading Research Integration	<b>Algebra</b>	<b>Earth Science</b>
<b>Writing</b> Citation Compare/Contrast Composition Creative Writing Note Taking Integration Word Processing	<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Life Science</b>
<b>Communications</b> Discussion Interviewing Listening Oral Presentation	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Literature</b> American Literature Comparative Literature Fiction Non-Fiction Point of View Integration	<b>Calculus</b>	<b>Physics</b>
<b>Other</b> Law Civics Government Civil Law Penal Law Department of Environment Conservation The Humane Society of the United States US Coast Guard Executive Branch Judicial Branch Legislative Branch Legislation Police	<b>Trigonometry</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>Other</b>	

**Picture, Chart, or Graph file name(s):**

A Partial List of Laws Seemingly Broken in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (varies with state and community).

1. Teacher hitting student – This is a gray area. If this was one citizen hitting another citizen and bodily injury was caused, then the “hitter” could be charged with assault. If no bodily injury were caused, then the hitter would be charged with harassment. Since the citizen is a teacher, it is unlikely that the teacher can be charged on a criminal level because he or she can defend that he or she was trying to maintain a safe environment for the classroom. The teacher can be charged civilly, though.
2. Huck and Tom skipping school – There is no law of truancy from school. Schools have truancy guidelines, but the police cannot arrest a student for truancy. A continually truant student can be taken to family court, however, on a PINS (Person In Need of Supervision) Order.
3. Tom sneaking out at night – Very few communities have curfew laws.
4. Going to the cemetery with Huck – Both can be charged with “Simple Trespassing.”
5. Digging up a body – This is a crime. The officer I spoke with didn’t know what the name of the crime was.
6. Dr. Robinson hits Injun Joe – This was one citizen hitting another citizen and bodily injury was not caused. Dr. Robinson could then be charged with harassment, a simple misdemeanor.
7. Injun Joe killing Dr. Robinson – This is murder. This was not “Murder 1” because it was not pre-meditated. Most likely, had Injun Joe been caught, he would have been charged with Murder with a “Depraved Indifference to Human Life.”
8. Injun Joe framing Muff Potter with Dr. Robinson’s murder – Framing someone for a crime is not a crime unless you swear under oath or sign a document that what you are saying is the truth. A lie under oath is Perjury.
9. Tom and Huck concealing Dr. Robinson’s murder – This is not a crime.
10. Injun Joe making a false report to the police that Muff Potter killed Dr. Robinson – Framing someone for a crime is not a crime unless you swear under oath or sign a document that what you are saying is the truth. A lie under oath is Perjury.
11. Muff Potter is put in jail even though he is innocent – “False Imprisonment” is not a criminal offense because the police feel that they are acting in the best interest of the community given the evidence. Once Muff Potter is released, though, he can file civil charges.
12. Tom gives Peter (the cat) medicine – There are cruelty to animal laws created and enforced by The Humane Society of the United States.
13. Tom, Huck and Joe sail a raft on the Mississippi River – There are waterway laws created and enforced by the United States Coast Guard.
14. Tom, Huck and Joe fish without a license – There are conservation laws created and enforced by the Department of Environmental Conservation.
15. Tom, Huck and Joe tamper with turtle eggs – Turtle eggs are protected by laws created and enforced by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Turtles are an endangered species.
16. Tom, Huck and Joe fake their deaths allow a false funeral to proceed – This is not a crime.
17. Huck has access to tobacco – Juvenile access to tobacco is prohibited under the Public Health Law and is enforced by the local police.
18. Tom breaks a written contract with Huck that he won’t tell about what they saw in the cemetery – This is a law that falls under Business/Civil Law and Tom is liable.
19. Injun Joe attempts revenge on the Widow Douglas – The revenge that Injun Joe was going to carry out and was not successful with was “Attempted Murder.” This is a crime under the penal system.
20. Tom and Huck find money and do not turn it in to authorities – This is not a crime unless you know who the money belongs to because there is identification with the money. If you find a wallet WITHOUT money in it, but it has the person's identification in it and you fail to turn it in and the authorities find out that you have the wallet, this is a crime. If the money Huck and Tom found was stolen and they knew that it was stolen, they could be charged with “Possession of Stolen Property.” This is a crime under the penal system.