

The Implementation of the Philosophy of Self-Reliance as Seen through Mark Twain's the Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Atihou Ifè Paul

University of Abomey-Calavi, Bénin

*Corresponding Author: Atihou Ifè Paul, University of Abomey-Calavi, Bénin

Abstract: *The United States of America is the first economic power in the world, a confirmed democracy, and a unique nation. To reach that rank, American people have adopted some cardinal principles among which we can name the philosophy of self-reliance which is roughly speaking the ability to do things and make decisions by yourself, without needing other people to help you, you yourself are your last hope. Being self-reliant is to undertake certain responsibilities that enable people to experience independence. If you allow people to make your decisions for you is essentially giving up your independence and self-reliance. Self-reliance is an essay written in 1841 by American transcendentalist philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. This paper traces the implementation of the philosophy of self-reliance in the novel entitled The Adventures of Tom Sawyer written by the father of American Literature Mark Twain. This research aims to study the behavior of the two protagonists of that novel, I mean Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn who are the real personification of the concept of self-reliance. The methodology adopted in the context of this research revolves around data collection through many documents written about Mark Twain and his works and also about the great American Transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer depicts the adventures of a cunning, stubborn, heartbreaking, shrewd and adventurous boy called Tom Sawyer who is ten years old. Tom Sawyer lives with Aunt Polly, the sister of his mother. He dislikes school as well as Sunday School. In addition, he never learns his lessons. He is used to disturbing his fellows at church and at school. Although Tom Sawyer is a lazy boy, he is very fond of greatness. His best friend is Huckleberry Finn, the juvenile pariah of the village and son of the town drunkard. Besides, Huck is hated by all the mothers of the town because he is idle, lawless, vulgar, and bad, but at the same time, he is loved by all the children of the town. But at the end of the novel, Tom and Huck become the richest persons in the town because they have discovered the treasure-box which contains twelve thousand dollars and weighs about fifty pounds. As a consequence, Tom shall be admitted to the National Military Academy, and afterwards trains in the best law-school in the country, in order that he may be ready for either career, or both.

Keywords: *self-reliance, dependent, independent, responsibility, adventures.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The United States of America is a unique nation thanks to some cardinal concepts set up by its influential men. Among those principles, we can name the philosophy of self-reliance which is defined as the ability to do things and make decisions by yourself, without needing other people to help you. In his novel entitled The Adventures of Tom Sawyer written in 1876, Mark Twain, the father of American Literature depicts the philosophy of self-reliance through his main characters Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Mark Twain is said to be one of the best American humorists, novelists, and travel writers. Even today, he is best remembered as the author of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876) and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885). In addition, Mark Twain is widely considered one of the greatest American writers of all time. Furthermore, he is one of the most celebrated and influential American writers.

How can we define the philosophy of self-reliance in the broadest sense of the words?

Who is Mark Twain?

How does Mark Twain highlight the philosophy of self-reliance in his novel The Adventures of Tom Sawyer?

1.1. Background of the Study

The United States of America is the first economic power in the world. It also claims itself as one of the most democratic nations in the world. Before being at that level, Americans have adopted some principles known as American way of life. One of these principles is the “philosophy of self-reliance”. For instance, we are self-reliant when we take responsibility for our own physical and spiritual welfare. To be self-reliant is basically undertaking certain responsibilities that enable people to experience independence. For example, doing mere things in life such as paying your bills on time, cleaning up after yourself if you make a mess, and going to work or school on time can help you feel more responsible and self-reliant.

How can people be self-reliant in society?

Being in a committed, bonded relationship may enrich your life, feeling unable to work without another person might lead to a problem like what is called Relational Dependency which is a progressive disorder meaning that the relationship can start off healthy but one person becomes gradually more controlling of or dependent upon the other, which may lead to an unhealthy relationship. In addition, the term self-actualization is necessary for personal growth and is thought to be an essential want that motivates human behavior. As a whole, in human society, those who are independent and self-reliant typically survive and function better in life than those who are dependent on others for happiness and sustainability. You yourself are your last hope. If you rely on other people, you will be disappointed. For instance, taking control of basic tasks and life skills cannot only help you stay in control of your own life but can ultimately help to make you a happier person. Life is struggle, individual struggle. Life is the survival of the fittest.

Self-reliance philosophy is based on four fundamental principles such as: you should assume your responsibility; you should be informed; you should know your direction, that is to say where you are going; and you should make your own decisions.

- **Assuming ones responsibility:** As human being, you should assume your responsibility, your duties. For instance, you should pay your bills on time. You should take care of your children. You should be on time at any appointment. You should go to work or school on time. You should work hard. You should respect the just laws of your country.
- **Being informed:** You should be informed about what is going on around you. People affirm that information is power; as a result, having information will give you the power to make your own decisions and assert your dependence. You should try to be well-rounded and keep up with information about what is going on at your place of business or school, your state, your town, your country, and the entire world.
- **Grasping where you are going:** You should know where you are going. Everything should be planned, that is to say that you should have a sense of direction, and something should drive you. For instance, if you are a student, you should at least have an idea of what you like to do after the university and your passion about studying. You should also try to set targets for yourself. You should know your future career. Beside, you should try to set short-term, medium-term, and long-term targets. The most important thing is that you should try to be realistic about what you want to do to meet those objectives.
- **Making ones decisions:** You should make your own decisions without waiting for anybody to guide you. You should not depend on anybody to direct you to an unknown destination. If for instance, you allow people to make your decisions for you, this means simply that, you give up your independence and self-reliance. You should assert yourself and make decisions for yourself based on your dreams and targets. Although it is very important to be considerate towards other people, I think that it is not necessary to give up your ability to make your own decisions.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

My decision to examine “The Implementation of the Philosophy of Self-Reliance as seen Through Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” is not fortuitous. The objective of this work is to shed light on the life of Mark Twain and to depict the way he explores the philosophy of self-reliance throughout his novel The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The main character of the novel, Tom Sawyer, together with Huckleberry Finn are the true personification of the concept of self-reliance. These two

little boys took great risks and they overcame countless difficulties. But they believed in their dream. At the end of the novel, Tom and Huck had become the richest person in the village: "The money was counted. The sum amounted to a little over twelve thousand dollars. It was more than any one present had ever seen at one time before, though several persons were there who were worth considerably more than that in property." P. 150, chapter 35.

Tom and had become a V. I. P. (Very Important Personality) in the village: "Wherever Tom and Huck appeared, they were courted, admired, stared at. The boys were not able to remember that their remarks had possessed weight before; but now their sayings were treasured and repeated: everything they did seemed somehow to be regarded as remarkable; they had evidently lost the power of doing and saying commonplace things, moreover, their past history was raked up and discovered to bear marks of conspicuous originality. The village paper published biographical sketches of the boys" PP. 150-151, chapter 36.

1.3. Significance of the Study

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer was written by Mark Twain to show the importance of the philosophy of self-reliance. This novel is the description of that concept. Self-reliance is very important because when we achieve things on our own effort, we are very proud of ourselves, this makes more effective, it increases positive feelings about ourselves. Besides, it increases the likelihood that we shall work harder another time, particularly in challenging circumstances. Furthermore, the idea that people can rely on his or her own judgment, choices, and be free from these societal influences is to be self-reliant. Thus, according to Transcendentalism and Ralph Waldo Emerson, you would rather trust yourself. For instance in some cases, if not most or all circumstances, to trust yourself over and above what others believe. In the novel, the two protagonists, I mean Tom and Huck, they went above what other people in the village believe. They did not waste any time to pity their social plight. Both of them are under ten. Tom is living with his aunt, Aunt Polly in an uncomfortable apartment: "Tom presented himself before Aunt Polly, who was sitting by an open window in a pleasant rearward apartment, which was bedroom, breakfast-room, dining-room, and library combined. The balmy-summer air, the restful quiet, the odor of the flowers, and the drowsing murmur of the bees, had had their effect, and she was nodding over her knitting – for she had no company but her cat, and it was asleep in her lap. Her spectacles were propped up on her grey head for safety. She had thought that of course Tom had deserted long ago, and she wondered to see him place himself in her power again in this intrepid way." P. 15, chapter 3. As for Huckleberry Finn, he was a homeless boy, an errand boy, his father was a great alcohol drunkard: "Shortly Tom came upon the juvenile pariah of the village, Huckleberry Finn, son of the town drunkard. Huckleberry was cordially hated and dreaded by all the mothers of the town because he was idle, and lawless, and vulgar, and bad – and because of their children admired him so, and delighted in his forbidden society and wished they dared to be like him." PP. 33-34, chapter 6. Being in such a situation, nobody could imagine that they would become one day the wealthiest people of the village. They had chosen their own way of life and they rigorously followed it until they achieved their goal.

The main idea of self-reliance is basically Ralph Waldo Emerson's treatise on the concept of individualism. Emerson states that one must believe in their own intuition and refute the opinions of other people so that they can transcend the bounds of the physical world. One of the best ways to promote self-reliance is simply to support yourself 100% and strictly focus on your strengths and achievements. People who are self-reliant make the best of themselves and they don't in any circumstances put themselves down. They often realize that they are not perfect but they make the most of what they have at their disposal. Moreover, the most important keys to self-reliance are relying on yourself or your own powers, resources, following strictly one's own efforts, judgment, and resources. You should learn to accept responsibility for everything you undertake without depending on what other people say, do or think.

1.4. Nature of the study

There are three basic methodologies to conduct scientific researches such as: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods (Korstjens & Morser, 2017). The quantitative method is appropriate to examine the relationship between variables, predict outcomes, or seek cause and effect relationships to generalize or to a broader population (Saunders et al., 2015). The qualitative method is appropriate to

answer how and why questions by using narrative input as the primary data collection source (Yin, 2018). As for the mixed method, it is appropriate when research uses both quantitative and qualitative approaches (Fisher & Bloomfield, 2019). The quantitative method is not appropriate for this study due to the lack examination of the relation between variables, predict outcomes data collection approach. In addition, the mixed method was not appropriate because I did not intend to combine both the quantitative and qualitative approaches. As a result, the qualitative method was the most adequate for this study because I have tried to answer how and why questions by using narrative input as the primary data collection source.

1.5. Scope of the Study

My work is a social Science Research infused with American Studies methodology. It does not cover all the themes developed throughout Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. There are of course many other important themes developed in this novel. Here, I have tried to deal with the implementation of the philosophy of self-reliance only. There are many books, short stories, magazines, articles, newspapers, research works... which deal with the concept of self-reliance, but I have chosen to work on Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer to achieve my goal.

2. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Given the nature of the topic under consideration, the research method that is the most appropriate is the intensive reading of American literature documents on the one hand, and documents dealing with the concept of the philosophy of self – reliance. As a result, I have selected written materials from libraries and over the internet, which have been helpful in a variety of ways in confirming and strengthening my knowledge about the topic while enriching me with fundamental realities related to the topic.

To achieve my goal, I deploy three methods in this work such as: context, critical thinking, and historiography.

According to Andrew Lonce Godwin, context is the circumstances or events that form the environment within which something exists or takes place, a historical moment and the basic background of a literary work. (Reference Encyclopedia of American History, 1992 P. 452).

Critical thinking is disciplined criticism that combines research knowledge of historical context, and balanced judgment - evaluate, examine, analyze, formulate, and hypothesize. ((Reference Encyclopedia of American History, 1992 P. 437).

Historiography is the principles, theories, or methods of historical research or the writing of history based on scholarly disciplines such as the analysis and evaluation of source materials, the existing findings and interpretation relating to a particular historical topic, a body of historical literature. ((Reference Encyclopedia of American History, 1992 P. 568).

All these three methodologies have been used throughout this paper, particularly the part where I examine the origin of self-reliance, the behavior of both Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, the biography of Mark Twain, the main features of American literature, Mark Twain's impact on American literature and culture.

2.1. Who Was Mark Twain

Clemens, Samuel L. (Mark Twain) (1835 – 1910), Author, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in the hamlet of Florida, Missouri, and raised in Hannibal, Missouri, a thriving commercial town on the Missouri River. His father, a slave owner and justice of the peace, went bankrupt as a shopkeeper and land speculator. Young Samuel ended his formal schooling at the age of twelve and at the seventeen left home for good. His imagination, however, continued to dwell in Hannibal and along the river and ultimately created the most memorable boyhood in American literature. He served as an itinerant typesetter, a river pilot (fulfilling a boyhood ambition), a confederate irregular (for a grim two weeks) in the Civil War, and a prospector and journalist in the Nevada territory and California.

In 1865, at the age of thirty, Clemens published his first nationally recognized story, then titled "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Caliveras County." He had finally settled on his vocation, describing it in a letter to his brother Orion as "seriously scribbling to excite the laughter of God's creature." As a

sign and instrument of this new purpose he took the public identity "Mark Twain" (a pseudonym derived from the river leadsmen's call meaning twelve feet of navigable depth), although, as he soon discovered, his public identity laid claims on him to be a professional funny man that often collided with the private imperatives of Samuel Clemens.

Just turn thirty-one, he left California to seek fame and fortune in the East. His first success, *The Innocent Abroad* (1869), a humorous and satirical travel book based on a summer-long excursion to Europe and the Middle East, sold an estimated 100,000 copies in its first two years, a considerable figure for the time. A major attraction on the lecture circuit and part owner of a Buffalo, New York, newspaper, he completed his transition from sagebrush bohemianism to respectability by his 1870 marriage to Olivia Langdon, daughter of an upstate New York coal baron. They moved from Buffalo to Hartford, Connecticut, where, with Harriet Beecher Stowe as neighbor, he built for his growing family an extravagant, eye-catching mansion that was two decades of domestic happiness.

With essayist and Hartford Courant editor Charles Dudley Warner, Clemens collaborated on a topical novel, *The Gilded Age* (1873), the title of which supplied an enduring label for the post-Civil War era. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) prepared the way for his masterpiece, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), a classic of world literature. No other work has been so highly praised for its originality and brilliance—Ernest Hemingway called it "the best book we've ever had" or so widely abused, for its ironic, at times ambivalent treatment of the refractory issues of race and slavery, its use of the racial slur "nigger", and its controversial plot resolution. *Roughing It* (1872), *A Tramp Abroad* (1880), and *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) helped consolidate Clemens's reputation. He was an international literary celebrity as much at home in London, Paris, Vienna, and Berlin as in Hartford and New York.

Clemens's considerable prosperity, derived from book sales and fees from lectures and readings, allowed him to love and entertain on the scale of a merchant prince. But it also tempted him into business ventures – a publishing house and an automatic typesetting machine – that promised greater wealth but in 1894 bankrupted him. His 1889 novel, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* was a turning point in his faith in progress technology, and his confidence in himself as a writer. A later novel, the somber *Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1894), dealt once again with the subject of race and blood in America. To pay his debts and recoup his fortunes, he travelled in 1895-1896 to Australia, New Zealand, India, and South Africa on a round – the world lecture tour that also supplied material for his final travel book, *Following the Equator* (1897). His business reverses together with the death (in 1896) of his favorite daughter, Susy, had put an end to the Hartford idyll. At times he believed that his rags-to-riches, obscurity-to-fame history, which reminded his friend William Dean Howells of *The Arabian Nights*, had been only a dream; from the awakened to the reality of failure.

Restored to financial health with the aid of Standard Oil tycoon Henry H. Rogers, Mark Twain after a period of self-exile returned to the United States in 1900 and to public celebrity that continued to his death. He was as conspicuous for his cigars and white suits, shock of white hair, and Fifth Avenue promenades as for his ability to express a quotable opinion on virtually any topic. In addition to autobiography, the literary form he found most congenial in his final years was the polemic. Theses he directed against orthodox religion, Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science, William Shakespeare, imperialism, racism, lynching, and patriotism, the martial spirit, and conventional wisdom in general. Such late works as *The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg* (1900), *What Is Man?* (1906), and *The Mysterious Stranger* (published in 1916) reveal the depth of his pessimism. He died in Redding, Connecticut, at an Italianate villa built with proceeds from his serialized autobiography.

Mark Twain's life and career bridge the era of the Pony Express and the motor car, the river raft and the steam yacht, the open frontier and the modern metropolis. The twenty-nine volumes of his collected works demonstrate the latitude of the designation "author." He wrote novels, short stories, travel books, humorous and satirical sketches, social and literary commentary, essays, philosophic argument, autobiography, speeches, and polemics. Almost as many volumes have been devoted to publishing his letters, notebooks, journalism, fugitive pieces, stage plays, and poetry. What unifies this half-century-long body of work in a dazzling and dominating authorial personality together with a distinctive voice, stance, and style – at once quizzical, celebratory, lyric, vernacular, ironic, and unmistakably native – that have influenced American writing ever since.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is the story of a cunning, stubborn, heartbreaking, shrewd and adventurous boy, Tom Sawyer who is ten years old. He is living with Aunt Polly, the sister of his mother. Tom Sawyer dislikes school and Sunday school. He never learns his lessons. At school as well as at Church, he is used to disturbing his fellows. Although he is a lazy boy, he is very fond of greatness. His best friend is Huckleberry Finn, the juvenile pariah of the village, and son of the town drunkard. He is hated by all the mothers of the town because he is idle, lawless, vulgar and bad, but at the same time, he is loved by all the children of the town. Tom Sawyer falls in love with Becky Thatcher, the pretty and top society girl.

One day at night, Tom and Huck witness the murder of young Dr. Robinson by Injun Joe, an international gangster. But during the police investigation, Muff Potter is wrongly accused and arrested.

At the end of the novel, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn become the richest persons on the town because they have discovered the treasure-box which contains twelve thousand dollars and weights about fifty pounds. Tom shall be admitted to the National Military Academy, and afterwards trains in the best law-school in the country, in order that he may be ready for either career, or both.

2.2. What is Self-Reliance?

According to Oxford Dictionary, self-reliance is the fact of being able to do or decide things by yourself, rather than depending on other people for help. Throughout the novel, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn try to rely on themselves. Tom is living with Aunt Polly, but he doesn't like to receive order from her. Similarly, Huck is living by himself. He is totally free to undertake whatever he wants to do. Both of them are self-reliant mindset.

In actual fact, self-reliance is an 1841 essay written by American transcendentalist philosopher named Ralph Waldo Emerson. Self-reliance, as we can see, contains the most thorough statement of one of his recurrent themes: the want for each person to avoid conformity and false consistency, and follow his or her own instincts and ideas. It appears to be the source of one of Emerson's most famous quotations:

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines.” (Emerson, 1841).

The essay depicts the nature of the “aboriginal self on which a universal reliance may be grounded”. (Neil Baldwin 2005). Emerson foreshadows the importance of individualism and its result on a person's satisfaction in life, analyzing how life is “learning and forgetting and learning again”. (Haijing Liang, November 2014).

2.3. Origin of Self-Reliance

The philosophy of self-reliance was created by Ralph Waldo Emerson. As a result, the first hint of the concept that would become self-reliance was introduced by him as part of a sermon in September 1830 a month after his first marriage. (Robert Richardson D. Jr. 1995). His wife Ellen was suffering from tuberculosis (John McAleer 1984) and, as Emerson's biographer Robert D. Richardson Jr. stated: “Immortality had never been stronger or more desperately needed!” (John McAleer 1984).

Emerson presented a series of lectures on the philosophy of history at Boston's Masonic Temple from 1836 into 1837. These lectures were never published separately, but many of his thoughts in these were later used in “Self-Reliance” and several other essays. (John McAleer 1984). Later lectures, such as “The American Scholar” and the Divinity School Address, (Kenneth Sacks S. 2003) presented by Emerson led to public censure of his radical views, the staunch defense of individualism in the philosophy of self-reliance being a possible reaction to that censure. (Robert Richardson D. Jr. 1995).

The philosophy of self-reliance was first published in his 1841 collection, Essays; First Series, (Neil Baldwin 2005). Besides, Emerson helped start the beginning of the Transcendentalist movement in America. “Self-Reliance” is one of his most famous essays. Furthermore, Emerson wrote on “individualism, personal responsibility, and nonconformity.” (Anne Hacht 2007).

Emerson got a very large background of religious affiliations. For instance, his father was a Unitarian minister. As a result, Emerson followed in his father's footsteps to become a minister as well. His

religious practices can be viewed as unconventional and his beliefs, non-traditional. In addition, he understood that individuals are inexplicably different and ideas are constantly changing. Emerson encouraged religious individuals to “breathe new life into the old forms of their religion.” (Edward Zalta, the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

In the long run, the Transcendentalist movement was spread in New England and suggested a revolutionarily new philosophy of life. As a consequence, this new philosophy drew upon old ideas of Romanticism, Unitarianism, and German Idealism as well as the American republican tradition. (Daniel Malachuk September 1998). Some of these ideas belonged closely to the values of America at the time. These values contained nature, individualism, and reform, and can be noted in Emerson's essay.

2.4. Emerson's Themes

According to Anne Marie Hacht, Emerson's themes contain the authority of the individual. She explains that nothing has authority over the self. One special temptation is to get enlightenment in history but Emerson highlights that it can only come from individual searching. Emerson thinks that truth is inside a person and this is an authority, not institutions like religion. (Anne Marie Hacht, 2007). Emerson's essay depicts and consistently relates back to one major theme: “Trust thyself”. (Ralph Waldo Emerson 1841). Nonconformity is one of the most prevalent themes in Emerson's essay. He then says: “Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist”. (Anne Marie Hacht, 2007). Emerson advises his readers to do what they think is right no matter what others think. (Anne Marie Hacht, 2007). In her analysis of “Self-Reliance”, Haijing Liang explains how Emerson “encourages the readers to free themselves from the constraints of conformity and give themselves back to their nature”. (Haijing Liang, November 2014).

Community and solitude are another concepts which appear within the essay multiple times. Emerson depicts how the community is a distraction to self-growth, by friendly visits, and family needs. He emphasizes on the fact that more time being spent reflecting on one's self. This fact can also occur in the community through strong self-confidence. This would help the counseled to not sway totally from his beliefs in groups of people (Anne Hacht, 2007). Emerson highlights “but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841).

2.5. What Is Spirituality in the theme of Emerson?

The idea that truth is within one's self, is specifically a recurring theme in the essay of Emerson. Emerson supports that reliance upon institutionalized religion hinders the ability to grow mentally as an individual. (Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841).

2.6. What is the theme of Individualism in Emerson's Essay?

One of the themes which is often proposed within “Self-Reliance” is individualism. As a result, Emerson foreshadows the ultimate form of happiness is obtained when a person learns and practices an individualistic lifestyle based on their own values. (Herman Melville,1981). Emerson states: “Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841).

2.7. What Is the Ambiguity between Originality and Imitation in Emerson's Essay?

The trouble between originality and imitation is most of the time an oscillating theme in the essay. Emerson foreshadows that: “Envy is ignorance, imitation is suicide.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841). Toward the end, Emerson decides to encourage society by urging: “Insist on yourself; never imitate.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841).

2.8. Another Important Aspects of Self-Reliance

This part deals with powerful tips about A Self-Reliant Mindset, three action Steps to a Self-Reliant Mindset, and nine ways to have a Self-Reliant Mindset.

We should keep in mind that Self-Reliance is not just for homesteaders and “preppers”. It depicts the fact that anyone can benefit from it. It is rather a matter of relying more on yourself. Your success is

not tied to others. You are responsible for your own successes. You are more independent. It does not mean that you have to put an end to social contact and any kind of help, but bear in mind that you can stand on your own will give you the confidence to succeed in every area of your life.

2.8.1. Three Action Steps to a Self-Reliant Mindset

- Check and brainstorm your dependencies. Identify the people that you are dependent on. These people for instance don't need to go, but it is very important to take steps to make yourself feel safe if they are not available.
- The second action is that you should list your values. You should think about your core values. What are the core values that you should dear, regardless of the gossiping of jealous people. I think these are important aspects of self-reliance.
- The third action is the fact of taking responsibility for a weakness. This means that you should consider any weaknesses that you can encounter. After you have identified a few weaknesses. You should take into account a mere way to fix them.

2.8.2. Nine Ways to have a Self-Reliant Mindset.

In actual fact, self-reliance is the key to happiness. Since you can rely on yourself, you don't need anyone else's approval or permission to be happy. You may have happiness in your company and within your own abilities. Here are the nine ways to cultivate a self-reliant mindset and empower yourself for a happier life.

- Believe in yourself: you should feel more self-reliant, the first step is to believe that you can do it. You should believe that you can do it on your own. Otherwise, you will not be able to become more self-reliant.
- You should recognize your dependencies: you should identify who and what you depend on. This is not a time to make major changes. You should recognize your dependencies. You will be able to identify your dependencies and determine what you want to learn.
- You Should Accept Responsibility: If you want to become more independent, you must accept responsibility. For instance, you are responsible for the consequences of your actions. You should take responsibility for what you do, and not look to others to fix it.
- You can think for yourself: You should avoid groupthink and think for your own purposes. You don't need to take a contrarian stance on all issues. Nevertheless, it is very important that you fully understand and believe the topics you discuss. Moreover, you should not be influenced by others if you take a position on something.
- You should be your authentic self: You should know your own values, and the beliefs that you hold dear. It would be a great idea to act in ways that reflect these values. You should not try to be different in order to impress others. You must be happy in your skin if you want to be more independent.
- Take Control of your Life: If you turn to others for help in making decisions, you cannot be self-reliant. For instance, we are aware that making decisions can be stressful. You are ultimately responsible for making the right decisions while it is helpful to have someone else's opinion. In addition, you are the only one who must live with them.
- Take care of yourself: You should take care of yourself because self-reliance is a big part of being self-reliant. It is very important to take care of your mental and physical health. Poor mental and physical health can almost guarantee your dependence on others.
- Be lifelong learner: You should be a lifelong learner. If for instance, your goal is to become self-reliant, it is essential to continue learning although you may not be able to learn everything. You should keep learning to be accustom to the changing world and acquire your own wants.
- Find out what you want: You should endeavor to find out what you really need. The most important question is what are you looking for in life? If you really want to become more independent, you should know where you are going. What is the point in being self-reliant if you do not set your own goal?

2.9. General Summary of the Novel, the Adventures of tom Sawyer

The novel is an imaginative and mischievous boy named Tom Sawyer who lives with Aunt Polly and his half-brother, Sid, in the Mississippi River of St Petersburg, Missouri. After playing hooky from school on Friday and dirtying his clothes in a fight, as a result, Tom is made by Aunt Polly to whitewash the fence as a punishment on Saturday. First of all, Tom is greatly vexed by having to forfeit his day off. Nevertheless, Tom then cleverly persuades his friends to trade him small treasures for tickets given out in Sunday school for memorizing Bible verses and uses the tickets to claim Bible as a prize. However, he loses much of his glory when, in response to a question to show off his knowledge, he incorrectly answers that the first two disciples of Jesus-Christ are David and Goliath.

In the long run, Tom falls in love with Becky Thatcher, a new girl in town – a lovely little blue-eyed creature with yellow hair plaited into two long tails, white summer frock, and embroidered pantalettes, and persuades her to get “engaged” to him. Their romance collapses when she learns that Tom has been engaged before to a girl named Amy Lawrence. After being shunned by Becky shortly, Tom accompanies Huckleberry Finn, the son of the town drunk, to graveyard at night to try out a “cure” for warts. At the graveyard, they witness the murder of young Dr. Robinson by the American “half-breed” Injun Joe. Scared, Tom and Huck runaway and swear a blood oath not to tell anybody what they have seen. Injun Joe blames his companion, Muff Potter, a hapless drunk, for the crime. Potter is wrongly arrested, and Tom’s anxiety and guilty begin to grow.

After this event, Tom, Huck and Tom’s friend Joe Harper runaway to an Island to become pirates. While frolicking around and enjoying their newfound freedom, the boys become aware that the community is sounding the river for their bodies. Tom sneaks back home one night to observe the commotion. After a brief moment of remorse at the suffering of his loved ones, Tom is struck by the idea of appearing at his funeral and surprising everyone. Tom persuades Joe and Huck to do the same. Their return is met with great rejoicing, and they become the envy and admiration of all their friends.

When he goes back to school, Tom gets himself back in Becky’s favor after he nobly accepts the blame for a book that she has ripped. Very soon, Muff Potter’s trial begins, and Tom overcome by guilt, testifies against Injun Joe. Potter is acquitted, but Injun Joe flees the courtroom through a window. When summer arrives, Tom and Huck go hunting for buried treasure in a haunted house. After venturing upstairs, they hear a noise below. Peering through holes in the floor, the two boys see Injun Joe enter the house disguised as a deaf and mute Spaniard. Injun Joe and his companion, an unkempt man, plan to bury some stolen treasure of their own. From their hiding spot, Tom and Huck wriggle with delight at the prospect of digging it up. By an amazing coincidence, Injun Joe and his partner find a buried box of gold themselves. But when Injun Joe and his partner see Tom and Huck’s tools, they suddenly become suspicious that someone is sharing their hiding place and carry the gold off instead of burying it.

Huck begins to shadow Injun Joe every night, looking for an opportunity to nab the gold. Meanwhile, Tom goes on a picnic to McDouglas’s cave with Becky and their classmates. That same night, Huck sees Injun Joe and his partner making off a box. He follows and overhears their plans to attack the Widow Douglas, a kind resident of St Petersburg. By running to fetch help, Huck foretells the violence and becomes an anonymous hero. Tom and Becky get lost in the cave, and their absence is not discovered until the following morning. The men of the town then start searching them, but to no avail. At that moment, Tom and Becky run out of food and candles and begin to weaken. The horror of the situation increases when Tom, looking for a way out of the cave, happens upon Injun Joe, who is using the cave as a hideous. Finally, just as the searchers are about to give up, Tom finds a way out. As a result, the town celebrates and Judge Thatcher, Becky’s father, locks up the cave. Injun Joe, trapped inside, starves to death. Then a week later, Tom takes Huck to the cave and they find the box of gold, the proceeds of which are invested for them. The Widow Douglas adopts Huck, and, when Huck attempts to escape civilized life, Tom then promises him that if he returns to the Widow, he can join Tom’s robber band. Reluctantly, Huck agrees.

2.10. Characters and Characterization of the Novel

Tom Sawyer: he is Aunt Polly’s nephew, Sid’s half-brother and Mary’s cousin. He is the novel’s protagonist and a mischievous boy with an active imagination who spends most of his time in the

novel getting himself, and often his friends, into and out of trouble. Despite his mischief, Tom has a good heart and a strong moral conscience. As the novel progresses, he begins to take more seriously the responsibilities of his role as a leader among his schoolfellows.

Aunt Polly: she is Tom's aunt and guardian. Aunt Polly is a simple, kindhearted woman who struggles to balance her love for her nephew with her duty to discipline him. She generally fails in her attempts to keep Tom under control because, although she worries about Tom's safety, she seems to fear constraining him too much. Above all, Aunt Polly wants to be appreciated and loved.

Huckleberry Finn: Huck is the son of town drunk. He is a juvenile outcast who is rejected by respectable society and adored by the local boys, who envy his freedom. Like Tom, Huck gradually replaces Tom's friend Joe Harper as Tom's sidekick in his escapades.

Becky Thatcher: she is Judge Thatcher's pretty, yellow-haired daughter. From almost the minute she moves to town, Becky is the "adored unknown" who stirs Tom's lively romantic sensibility. Naïve at first, Becky soon matches Tom as a romantic strategist, and the two go to great lengths to make each other jealous.

Joe Harper: he is Tom's very close friend and frequent playmate. Joe Harper is a typical best friend, a convention Mark Twain parodies when he refers to Tom as "two souls with but a single thought." Though Joe Harper mostly mirrors Tom, he diverges from Tom's example when he is the first of the boys to succumb to homesickness on Jackson Island. As the novel progresses, Huck begins to assume Joe's place as Tom's companion.

Sid: Sid is Tom's half-brother. He is a goody-goody who enjoys getting Tom into trouble. He is mean spirit but presents a superficial show of model behavior. He is thus the opposite of Tom, who is warmhearted but behaves badly.

Mary: she is Tom's sweet, almost saintly cousin. Mary holds a soft spot for Tom. Like Sid, Mary is well behaved, but unlike him, she acts out of genuine affection rather than malice.

Injun Joe: he is a top violent, villainous man who commits murder, becomes a robber, and plans to mutilate the Widow Douglas. Injun Joe's predominant motivation is revenge. Half Native American and half Caucasian, Injun Joe has suffered social exclusion, probably because of his race.

Muff Potter: he is a hapless drunk and Injun Joe's friend. Muff Potter is kind and grateful towards Tom and Huck, who bring him presents after he is wrongly jailed for Dr. Robinson's murder. Muff Potter's naïve trust eventually pushes Tom's conscience to the breaking point, compelling Tom to tell the truth at Muff Potter's trial about who actually committed the murder.

Dr. Robinson: he is a respected local Physician. Dr. Robinson shows his more sordid side on the night of his murder. He hires Injun Joe and Muff Potter to dig up Hoss William's grave because he wants to use the corpse for medical experiments.

Mr. Sprague: he is the minister of the town.

Widow Douglas: she is a kind-hearted, pious resident of St Petersburg whom the children recognize as a friend. She is very kind to Huck even before she learns that he saved her life.

Mr. Jones: he is a Welshman who lives with his sons near the Widow Douglas' house. Mr. Jones responds to Huck's alarm on the night that Injun Joe intends to attack the Widow and he cares of Huck in the aftermath.

Judge Thatcher: he is Becky's father, the country judge. A local celebrity, Judge Thatcher inspires respect of all the townspeople. He takes responsibility for issues affecting the community as a whole, such as closing the cave for safety reasons and taking charge of the boys' treasure money.

Jim: he is Aunt Polly's young slave.

Amy Lawrence: she is Tom's former love. Tom abandons Amy when Becky Thatcher comes to town.

Ben Rogers: he is also one of Tom's friends, whom Tom persuades to whitewash Aunt Polly's fence.

Alfred Temple: he is a well-dressed new boy in town. Like Amy Laurence, Alfred Temple gets caught in the crossfire of Tom and Becky's love games, as Becky pretends to like him in order to make Tom jealous.

Mr. Walters: he is the somewhat ridiculous Sunday school superintendent. As he aspires to please Judge Thatcher, Mr. Walters rewards Tom with a Bible, even though he knows that Tom has not earned it.

Mr. Dobbins: he is a schoolmaster. He seems a slightly sad character: his ambition to be medical doctor has been thwarted and has become a heavy drinker and the butt of schoolboy pranks.

2.11. The Implementation of the Philosophy of Self-Reliance throughout the Novel, the Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Self-Reliance is the central theme developed by Mark Twain in his novel entitled *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn are the two protagonists of this novel who symbolize the real meaning of the concept of self-reliance. For instance, Tom Sawyer who lives with Aunt Polly is a total self-reliant boy. He does not rely on anybody. He does only what comes from his mind. Huckleberry Finn, the close friend of Tom, shares the same point of view with him. He is ready to follow Tom in all his adventures. The two boys took great risks in the novel. They were together in the graveyard at midnight for instance, where they witnessed the murder of young Doctor Robinson by Injun Joe. In addition, during the trial of Muff Potter who was wrongly jailed and accused of being the murderer of young Doctor Robinson, Tom testified openly against Injun Joe: "Thomas Sawyer, where were you on the seventeenth of June, about the hour of midnight? Tom glanced at Injun Joe's iron face, and his tongue failed him." P. 111. Besides, in their quest for the treasure box in the forests, the two boys suffered a lot. They took a great risk. They toiled: "It seemed hours since Tom had disappeared. Surely he must have fainted, maybe he was dead, maybe his heart had bust under terror and excitement. In his uneasiness Huck found himself drawing closer and closer to the alley, fearing all sorts of dreadful things, and momentarily expecting some catastrophe to happen that would take away his breath. There was not such to take away, for he seemed only able to inhale it by thimblefuls, and his heart would soon wear itself out, the way it was beating. Suddenly there was a flash of light, and Tom came tearing him: 'Run!' said he, 'run for your life!' P. 127

Self-reliance in actual fact, is the fact of relying on his own efforts, not on other people. You should work hard to achieve your own goals by yourself. At the end of the novel, Huck, the son of a great alcohol drunkard, has become very rich through his own effort. Huck did not need the help of Widow Douglas to be educated, for instance: "The widow said she meant to give Huck a home under her roof and have him educated; and that when she could spare the money she would start him in business in a modesty way. Tom's chance was come.

He said: 'Huck don't need it. Huck's rich'. P. 158.

The above passage is a clear episode of the true meaning of the philosophy of self-reliance. Both Tom and Huck have become the wealthiest person of the town: "The money was counted. The sum amounted to a little over twelve thousand dollars. It was more than any one present had ever seen at one time before, though several persons were there who were worth considerably more than that in property." P. 159. Tom's future is going to be brilliant due to his personal commitment: "Judge Thatcher hoped to see Tom a great lawyer or a great soldier someday. He said he meant to look to it that Tom should be admitted to the National Military Academy, and afterwards trained in the best law-school in the country, in order that he might be ready for either career, or both." P.160

3. CONCLUSION

Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is the implementation of the philosophy of self-reliance invented by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Self-reliance is merely a matter of relying more on yourself. In other words, it means that your success is not tied to others. You are more independent. You yourself are your last hope. To be more précised self-reliance is the idea that one can rely on his or his own judgment, choices, and be free from these societal influences. As a result, according to Transcendentalism and Emerson, self-reliance is better to trust yourself. In some circumstances, if not most or all circumstances, to trust yourself over and above what others believe.

Self-reliance recommends nine important keys such as:

- Believe in yourself. To feel more self-reliant, the first step is to believe that you can do it.
- Recognize your dependencies
- Accept responsibility
- You can think for yourself
- Be your authentic self
- Take control of your life
- Take care of yourself
- Be a lifelong learner
- Find out what you want.

In the novel, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn symbolize the personification of the concept of self-reliance. The last chapter of the novel depicts their success: "Wherever Tom and Huck appeared, they were courted, admired, stared at. The boys were not able to remember that their remarks had possessed weight before;....." P.159-160

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