

Identifying Plot

ELA4R1

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Fence
From *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Saturday morning was come, and all the summer world was bright and fresh, and brimming with life. There was a song in every heart . . . there was cheer in every face and a spring in every step.

Tom appeared on the sidewalk with a bucket of whitewash and a long-handled brush. He surveyed the fence, and all gladness left him and a deep sadness settled down on his spirit. Thirty yards of board fence nine feet high. Life to him seemed hollow, and existence but a burden. Sighing, he dipped his brush and passed it along the topmost plank; repeated the operation; did it again; compared the small streak with the far-reaching continent of fence, and sat down on a tree-box discouraged.

1. What is the main *conflict*, or problem, in the story?

- (A) Tom did not know how to sing.
- (B) Tom needed another bucket.
- (C) Tom's brush was not long enough.
- (D) Tom did not want to paint the fence.

2. What might he decide to do next?

- (F) spend all day painting the fence
- (G) try to get someone else to paint the fence
- (H) ask for more instructions on painting the fence
- (J) spread paper to keep the paint from dripping

3. In the story, the mood changes from _____ to _____ as the plot unfolds.

- (A) cheerful to sad
- (B) cheerful to glad
- (C) sad to hollow
- (D) sad to cheerful

