

CHAPTER 29

Summary

Hendon is released from the stocks, and he and Edward are set free. Miles considers going to London to ask help from the king. He remembers Sir Humphrey Marlow, a friend of his father's, and hopes to get help from him. Hendon asks Edward where they're going, out of respectful concern that the boy may not want to go back to London. The king answers, "To London!" and Hendon is surprised. As the two cross London Bridge again, a decaying head falls at their feet. They are surrounded by Londoners who fight, drink, and celebrate for Coronation Day.

Question to reflect on

1. Why is it ironic that Miles is going to get help from the king in London?

CHAPTER 30

Summary

Tom has finally learned to enjoy his royalty. His whipping boy Humphrey is making a profit and giving orders is becoming more familiar. Tom orders special clothes and triples the servant staff. He still fights against unjust laws and develops skill at giving fearful looks to dissenters. When his "sister" Mary reminds him sternly of how full Henry VIII's prisons used to be, he commands her to pray to remove the stone that was her heart. Tom recalls the true king and his own family at times, but largely forgets where he comes from. Twain juxtaposes Tom's luxurious situation with Edward's harder one.

Questions to reflect on

1. If Humphrey the whipping boy is making a profit, what does that mean?
2. In previous chapters, Twain kept the boys separate. Why does he choose to juxtapose their situations now?