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Name: _____

The Prince and the Pauper

by Mark Twain

The Prince and the Pauper was published in 1881. Twain's novel is the story of Richard, Prince of Wales, and Tom Coney, a poor boy in London. The two look very much alike. They meet by accident and end up trading clothes and lives. This passage tells of Tom's life and his desire to be a prince, even faster than Richard!



Chapter II. Tom's Early Life

One January day, on his usual begging tour, he tramped down the street and down the engine road about Manning Lane and Little East Street, here after hour, here here and cold, looking in at each shop window and longing for the dreadful pork pies and other dainties that used to come—by no law these were dainties for the simple folk in London by the sea, they were—their kind was here his good luck, to come and see me. There was a cold drizzle of rain, the atmosphere was earthy, it was a melancholy day. At night Tom rolled home on wet and cold and hunger that it was not possible for his father and grandmother to observe his father's condition and not for several weeks their father, whenever they gave him a bit of food, would eat it with a look that told him his pain and hunger, and the evening and fighting going on in the building, here here and there, but at last he thought he had done.

to the narrow beds, and he fell asleep in the company of powdered and gilded porcelain when he was a prince, and had never seen a woman before then as they to receive their orders. And there, as usual, he dreamt that HE was a prince himself.

All right long the glories of his mind came clear upon him, he heard among great lords and ladies, in a blaze of light, kneeling prostrate, drinking in delicious music, and answering the reverent obeisances of the glittering throng as it passed to make way for him, with hair a curl, and there a nod of his princely head.

And when he awoke in the morning and looked upon the surroundings about him, his dream had had its usual effect—it had increased the usefulness of his surroundings a thousandfold. There came lateness, and breakfast, and lunch.

Comparing the Settings

Write a paragraph comparing the setting of Tom's real life with the setting in his dream. Use quotations from the text to show how they are different.

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