



# The Prince and the Pauper



*Retold from the Mark Twain original  
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
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## What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles.

These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. On his way to the castle, Tom realizes that he has never been so far from home before. How do you think this makes him feel? What is the farthest you've ever been from home?

2. Who is the Prince of Poverty and who is the Prince of Plenty? Do you know anyone like either of the boys? Which of them are you more like?

3. When Edward and Tom switch lives, they find out that it is not all they hoped for. Which of the boys do you think had a harder time adjusting to his new life? Have you ever wanted to live someone else's life?

4. When he is mistaken for Edward, Tom begins to fantasize about what he would do if he

was actually the king. Why does he stop thinking about this? What would you do if you were king or queen?

5. The two boys think of school very differently. Tom enjoys learning, while Edward considers his lessons a burden. How do you feel about school? What is your favorite subject?

6. Why does Miles choose to help Edward? Have you ever helped a stranger? What did you do?

7. Tom says that he feels horribly lonely, yet he is never alone. What do you think he means by this? Have you ever felt the same way?

8. When Edward learns that he is the king, he says, "I am now King Edward. Isn't it strange that no one can see me?" What does he mean by this? Have you ever felt invisible?

9. Why do you think Edward is willing to help the widow with the household chores? Do you have chores?

10. When Miles returns home, his brother says, “I’m afraid, stranger, that you are confused. I am not your brother.” How do you suppose this makes Miles feel? Do you have any siblings? Do you get along with them?