The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Vocabulary List #1

1. **sagacity** (noun): keen sense of perception and understanding
   ex. “She was half sorry her *sagacity* had miscarried and half glad that Tom had stumbled into obedient conduct for once” (Chapter 1).

2. **adamantine** (adjective): hard, resolute
   ex. “…and when she saw the state his clothes were in, her resolution to turn his Saturday Holiday into captivity at hard labour became *adamantine* in its firmness” (Chapter 1).

3. **skylarking** (verb): running and jumping about
   ex. “…boys and girls were always there waiting their turns, resting, trading playthings, quarrelling, fighting, *skylarking*” (Chapter 2).

4. **alacrity** (noun): enthusiasm, cheerfulness
   ex. “Tom gave up the brush with reluctance in his face, but *alacrity* in his heart” (Chapter 2).

5. **evanescent** (adjective): vanishing; fading away
   ex. “He had thought he loved her to distraction; he had regarded his passion as adoration; and behold it was only a poor little *evanescent* partiality” (Chapter 3).

6. **expectorate** (verb): to spit
   ex. “…he was the envy of every boy he met because the gap in his upper row of teeth enabled him to *expectorate* in a new and admirable way” (Chapter 6).

7. **pariah** (noun): a despised or rejected person
   ex. “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…” (Chapter 6).

8. **ferule** (noun): punishment, especially of the type administered in nineteenth-century schools
   ex. "Thomas Sawyer, this is the most astounding confession I have ever listened to. No mere *ferule* will answer for this offence. Take off your jacket" (Chapter 6).

9. **portentous** (adjective): marvelous, amazing
   ex. “Tom drew an hourglass, with a full moon and straw limbs to it, and armed the spreading fingers with a *portentous* fan” (Chapter 6).

10. **pathos** (noun): a quality that arouses feelings of compassion
    ex. “But the *pathos*, the lesson, the moral of the great spectacle were lost upon the boy” (Chapter 5).
11. slathers (noun): great quantities
   ex. “Yes, that’s so. And they get slathers of money – most a dollar a day, Ben Rogers says” (Chapter 7).

12. upbraid (verb): to criticize severely or find fault with
   ex. “So she sat down to cry again and upbraid herself; and by this time the scholars began to gather again… and she had to hide her grief and still her broken heart” (Chapter 7).

13. zenith (noun): at the height or top of
   ex. “And at the zenith of his fame, how he would suddenly appear at the old village and stalk into church, brown and weather-beaten, in his black velvet doublet and trunks, his great jack-boots, his crimson sash…” (Chapter 8).

14. cogitating (verb): thinking or meditating
   ex. “Then he tossed the marble away pettishly, and stood there cogitating” (Chapter 8).

15. accoutrements or accouterments (noun): equipment or accessories
   ex. “The boys dressed themselves, hid their accoutrements, and went off grieving that there were no outlaws any more…” (Chapter 8).

16. ensconced (verb): settled in comfortably
   ex. “They found the sharp new heap they were seeking, and ensconced themselves within the protection of three great elms that grew in a bunch within a few feet of the grave” (Chapter 9).

17. quailed (verb): cowered, shrunk back in fear
   ex. "Hucky, do you das't to go if I lead?"
   "I don't like to, much. Tom, s'pose it's Injun Joe!"
   Tom quailed’ (Chapter 10).

18. ostentatiously (adverb): showy, pretentiously
   ex. “The crowd fell apart now, and the Sheriff came through ostentatiously, leading Potter by the arm” (Chapter 11).

19. miscreant (noun): evil person
   “…for plainly this miscreant had sold himself to Satan and it would be fatal to meddle with the property of such a power as that” (Chapter 11).

20. caterwauling (verb): making a harsh, catlike cry
ex. “And then there came, mingling with his half-formed dreams, a most melancholy caterwauling” (Chapter 9).