Before Forgiveness The Origins Of A Moral Idea
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The novel opens with Aunt Polly scouring the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with jam, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out theatrically, “Look behind you!” and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects sadly on Tom’s misconduct and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. He has been skips school that afternoon and gone to the woods. On the way home, he has stolen some lunch money from a boy named Mark. Tom has sworn the boy himself to dispose his affairs. The boy has been whipped, and Tom is sure he can get away with it.

Tom goes out of the house in the evening. He wants to make fun of Aunt Polly’s sternness. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, he meets Huckleberry Finn, who tells him that Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival are walking down the street, when Tom jumps over a fence and chases the new comer all the way home.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirty clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white ally,” a kind of badge. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chased him off, leaving Tom alone with his labor.
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Tom comes home at supper-time. The news is brought in of his wildness and the fact that he has skipped school that afternoon and was seized upon the street by Muff Potter, who has been his school-fellow and friend for years, but few. Tom's half-brother, Ben, sent him to this man, who is a strong and eloquent man, and eventually he comes as the way home.

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On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of mischief. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his work.
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