Common People An English Family History Without Roots
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scrounging 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 morosely on Tom’s misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. He has been skipping school that afternoon and spent the rest of the afternoon and evening wandering and exploring. His collar is still wet from the rain, and Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom’s half-brother, F Levin, is over from St. Petersburg. He has been away for three weeks and is now back, and eventually convinces the newspaper to come back.

Tom goes out of the house immediately after supper. He is eager to see his friends and have a good time. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom is approached by a man asking if he wants to see a magic trick. Tom is intrigued and eventually chooses the newspaper as 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. Tom returns, and Aunt Polly lets him do some of the whitewashing in return for a ‘white alley’ – a kind of nechlace. Tom is pleased, and Aunt Polly appears and gives him an order, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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 wistfully on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime. He has been out all day without any money and has no idea how he will be able to help Aunt Polly. He is not looking forward to the food, which is not very appetizing. Tom is a bit disappointed because he had hoped for something better. He sits at the table and listens to Aunt Polly’s stories about the past. She tells him about her adventures as a young woman and how she met her husband.

Tom goes out of the house into the street and finds the sun still shining. He feels a bit homesick for his own home. He decides to spend the evening in his room, reading and resting. He is not looking forward to the next day, which is Sunday. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but Tom is not. He decides to make the best of his situation.

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

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whiten his linen. He goes by, and Tom tried to get him to do some of the whitening in return for a “white alley,” a kind of small bell, which almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chase him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.