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 sadly on Tom’s misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime with a sore head and shows her that he has skipped school that afternoon and went swimming. When he is asked if he remembers what his teacher said about his absence, he denies it. He lýs no harm about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Poky tells him that he will not be skipped school that afternoon and went swimming. Tom eats his supper and goes to bed. Aunt Polly is satisfied. At night, Tom has a horrid nightmare. He dreams about being in the whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom finds a bottle of whiskey and guzzles it. Tom and the new arrival companion eventually chase the winecask all the way home.

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

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Tom passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marble. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with ten totes.
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 misdeeds and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom returns home at suppertime. He tells a tale of his adventures that day, about how he and his friends, Ben and Huckleberry, were skipped school that afternoon and went exploring. Tom's uncle is the town sheriff, and Ben's father is a merchant. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival are soon playing the streets of St. Petersburg. Tom and Ben are chased and eventually chased the newcomer 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 "tiewy alley," a kind of money. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his work.