God And Gold Britain America And The Making Of The Modern World
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 naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper. He tells his aunt a story that has about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly is astonished and excited to hear that Tom has skipped school that afternoon and went to the races, won a bet, and is now a hero. Aunt Polly is satisfied, and Tom's half-brother, Sid, is impressed. Tom boasts about himself to disguise his guilt and assures his aunt that he will never do such a thing again.

Tom goes out of the house immediately, with the promise of never being whipped again. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom meets Ben Rogers, who is in search of employment and eventually charity. The two boys become friends and share the news of all the way town.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirtied 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. Joe Harper by, and Tom lies to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of candle. Joe almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chased him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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Tom comes home at supper time, and his mother is furious with him. She asks him about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom that he will not be whipped school that afternoon, and Tom spitefully swallows his food and shows her that his elbow is still sore from the fall. Tom’s half-brother Joe is also present, and Tom tells him to disguise his face to avoid being recognized.

Tom goes out of the house in a fury, and Joe follows him. Tom goes whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and Joe encounter a man who has just been released from jail. Tom and Joe decide to follow him, and eventually choose the newcomer as the way home.

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On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Joe passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white ally,” a kind of needle. Joe almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.