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 warmly on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime, hungry and in a lather. He tells her all about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly doesn’t talk much, but Tom’s half-brother, Sid, can’t keep still. He tells how Jerry got the colic in school and shows her that his crotches were still sore from being whipped. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house to play, but soon comes back. He has decided to give up whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, he sees a badly dressed and ragged boy, who seems to be skipping and is chased by another. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival chat, and it turns out that they are both runaways. Tom asks the new boy if he has been whipped. The new boy says yes. Tom tells him that he has been whipped too, and that he feels sorry for him.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dented 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 alley,” a kind of marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his work.
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 mischievous and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper-time. He is walked about the kitchen and chased about the house by the older boys. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom she would be skipping school that afternoon and would scold him if he cooked any more. Tom's aunt is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival eat a sumptuous meal. Tom's aunt is quite surprised and angry. Tom goes out of the house in the evening, and his aunt looks out the window. Tom is heard hissing, while wandering the streets of St. Petersburg.

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. His paces by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "shrew of money." A kind of nobleman has almost agreed, but Aunt Polly appears and chase him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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