Soul Self And Society The New Morality And The Modern State
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 wistfully on Tom’s naughtiness and how she let him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. The table is set for Tom and his friend, Benjy; but his chair is left vacant because Benjy has just been whipped for skipping school that afternoon and going to a circus. Aunt Polly is pleased. Tom has earned the right to be forgiven for his misdeeds.

Tom and the new arrival enter the dining room, and Tom notices that the circus has left a “white alley” in the floor. Aunt Polly is disgusted, but Tom is delighted. The two boys sit down to dinner, and Tom is allowed to eat his ice cream without sugar, as a reward for his good behavior.

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 whiten 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 tasks.
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 gum, 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 meanly on Tom’s misdeeds and how she plans to get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. His self-esteem, however, is not about to be squelched, and he is not about to be skipped school that afternoon and sent out to wash the fence. He is determined to dig out his band and show his Aunt Polly that his courage is still as strong as her own. Tom’s half-brother, Huck Finn, has also returned from his adventures, and Tom urges him to disguise himself to disguise his encounter with Aunt Polly.

Tom goes out of the house into the next room, and 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 whitewash the fence. Tom tries to get Aunt Polly to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of wafer ice. Aunt Polly refuses, and Tom tries to get her to do some of the whitewashing, but Aunt Polly refuses and leaves Tom alone with his tasks.