The Future We Want Radical Ideas For The New Century
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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 warily on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper to find his mother has about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly mentions that Tom has skipped school that afternoon and what mischief he has been up to. Tom’s mother is shocked and shows him that his collar is still void from his best shirt. Tom boasts about his latest prank and how he has been playing tricks on Aunt Polly. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but Tom’s half-brother, Sid, is not. Tom promises to start behaving better.

Tom goes out of the house in the evening. Aunt Polly waits 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 “two-dollar” job. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.

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Tom comes home at supper time. Aunt Polly, who has just found out about his adventures, demands an explanation. Tom has skipped school that afternoon and gone instead to the woods and there he has broken his buggy and burned his hat, and drowned his book that his father is still saving for his own son, but not Tom's. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom goes out of the house to work on his broken buggy. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom meets a friend and eventually comes all the way home.

When he returns home, 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. Sam passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white ally," a kind of candle. Sam almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chase him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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