The novel opens with Aunt Polly strolling the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered in 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 naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper and says he will have to be whipped for skipping school that afternoon and not revising his lesson. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom’s half-brother, Joe, hurries to Tom’s help. Tom has sworn to his aunt that Joe should not know about his adventures. During supper, Aunt I love and Tom are arguing, and Joe is eating. Aunt Polly is still angry, but Tom’s half-brother, Joe, is tired of the whole thing. He decides to let Tom be.

Tom goes out of the house to smoke in the street. He sees a man with a white whisker and a white hat. He follows him and eventually chases the man across the whole street.

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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get Jim to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of mileage. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his labors.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scouring the house in search of her niece, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered in 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 naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper and is met with a lecture about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly reveals that she has been skipping school that afternoon and went to see Miss Watson, Tom's aunt, who told her that Tom's father is still alive and that Tom is his half-brother. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but sad. Tom's half-brother, Mark, Tom has sworn the secret to himself to dispose of him.

Tom goes out of the house in a rage to steal some eggs from the Bartens. Tom and the new arrival from St. Petersburg, Smiley, encounter and eventually chase 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 lies to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of privilege. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chase him off. Leaving Tom alone with his toils.