Cyberculture The Key Concepts Routledge Key Guides
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 recklessness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime to find his aunt in a panic. She relates how Tom was skipped school that afternoon and went swimming. He got soaked and dried off in the sun, and his clothes are still wet from a bath he took. Tom’s half-brother, Ben, is in the house, and Aunt Polly is satisfied. Aunt Polly is hating Tom more than ever. Tom has worked the shirt off himself to disguise his wet clothes.

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. Jane passes by, and Tom tries to get her to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “cheese alley,” a kind of biscuit. Jane almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his labor.
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 mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime and tells Aunt Polly how he has filled his pockets with money and hidden it beneath the oil cloth. Aunt Polly informs him that he will be sent to be whipped the next day. Tom, who has been skipping school that afternoon and going to the nearby store, swallows a huge piece of cake and runs to tell his father, but he is not at home. Tom's half-brother, Ben, arrives home drunk, and Tom tells him about his surprise. Tom hence plans to disguise Ben, but he is told to report it to the schoolmaster. Tom goes out of the house to think and eventually considers the outcome of the whole day.

When he arrives 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. Tom resists, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of mutable favor almost agreed, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his toil.