Ethical Challenges In The Behavioral And Brain Sciences Case Studies And Commentaries
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 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 sorrowfully on Tom’s naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime to a house bare of all but a single dish of gruel and a blackened pot of coffee. The house is empty, and Tom’s mouth drops open in shock. He calls out to Aunt Polly, but there is no answer. Tom sits down to eat, his mind racing with fear. He wonders where Aunt Polly is, and if she will ever return.

Tom goes out of the house to look about, and spies a paper with a reward of ten dollars for the capture of the man who has been skipping school that afternoon. Tom’s heart and brain tell him that ten dollars is a tempting amount, and he quickly devises a plan to catch the man who has been skipping school.

Tom returns home to find Aunt Polly in the kitchen, her face畸形ly besmirched with flour. She tells Tom that he is to help her with the cooking. Tom relents, but only after Aunt Polly assures him that she will help him get away from the house.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirtied clothes and resolutions 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 missile. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tableau.
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Tom comes home at suppertime, dirty, disheveled, and with a tale about his adventures. During supper, Aunt I, who had been skipping school that afternoon and was resented, asks Tom to help her with her homework, but Tom is too busy with his adventures and doesn’t want to help. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival of a boy to the house have the house in a whirl. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and Huckleberry Finn witness a murder and eventually chase the murderer all the way home.

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