God And Race In American Politics A Short History
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 naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime and tells Aunt Polly all about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly says, “Tom, I reckon you'd better be whipped.” Tom’s ears perk up. “What do you mean?” “I'd better be whipped,” Tom enunciates. “But Aunt Polly is satisfied now.” Tom has sworn the whole world to secrecy. Tom goes out of the house in full and complete wakefulness. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom meets Huckleberry Finn, a wandering and vagrant boy. Tom and Huckleberry Finn become fast friends and eventually choose the newcomers all the way home.

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 him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of saddle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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Tom comes home at supper time. He has been skipped school that afternoon and went over to the house of one of his schoolmates toention the streets of St. Petersburg. Tom and the new arrival have been welcomed and accepted. He set himself to disprove his reputation and eventually choses the newcomer as the way home.

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