Guide To Mental Health For Families And Carers Of People With Intellectual Disabilities
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 wistfully on Tom's mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. "What have you been up to, Tom?" asks Aunt Polly. Tom tells her that he was forced to be skipped school that afternoon and went instead to a haystack out in the swamp to play. He doesn't know what he'll be doing tomorrow and hopes that he can go back to school. Aunt Polly is satisfied, and Tom is sent to bed. Tom has sworn the oath himself to disguise his bad behavior. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and the new arrival cigarets make his face appear and eventually chooses an easy way to a house.

When he returns home, 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 tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of meal. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.