Hellenism And Loss In The Work Of Virginia Woolf
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 supper. He tells Aunt Polly that he had an adventure. He skipped school that afternoon and went fishing. By the time he came home, he was so tired that he couldn't find his dinner, but he found Aunt Polly's note to him. Tom has sworn the boy himself to dispose of it. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and Aunt Polly the next morning are visiting the streets of St. Petersburg. Aunt Polly is much concerned about his clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

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. Tom tries by and by, and Tom has to get Tom to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of saddle. Tom 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 with a list of things he won't be allowed to do until he can do his work better. He tells his aunt about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly talks about how she used to skip school that afternoon and go to the barber shop to get a new suit to wear. Tom is upset, but Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom sees his aunt in the street on the way home. She is carrying a box of sugar, and Tom asks her what she is buying. She says she needs more sugar for the house. Tom asks her if she wants help, and Aunt Polly laughs and says no.

Tom gets home late that night, and Aunt Polly is angry. She tells Tom that he will have to work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly makes Tom go to the barber shop to get the sugar. Tom resents this, and Aunt Polly makes him do some of the chores. Tom's friend, Ben, passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the work. Aunt Polly appears and chases Tom off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.