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. His father, a river hand and river man about town, has sent him a note saying that Tom has been Skipper's 2nd mate, and that he has been shipped out of town. At dinner, Tom's father asks about Tom's adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly is satisfied, and Tom's half-brother.

Tom goes out of the house and strolls down the street. He feels the breeze on his face and the sun on his back. He thinks about school and how much he would like to be back there. He also thinks about his adventure and how much he would like to do it all again. He feels a sense of excitement and adventure.

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 house. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley" - a kind of mark. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his塁.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scrounging the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with wax, 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 ruefully on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. He claims he has been sick and has been skipped school that afternoon and was therefore not present when his teacher read out loud the list of the boys who have had their hair cut and shows how that his collar is still wide open, but his hair is cut close. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom has worn the shirt he bought the day before to disguise his appearance and eventually chases the newcomer 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 whistle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.