Humanity On A Tightrope Thoughts On Empathy Family And Big Changes For A Viable Future
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 misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper-time. He has heard Aunt Polly talking to his father about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tries to find out where Tom has been and what he has been doing. Tom tries to explain himself, but Aunt Polly is not satisfied. Tom has sworn the boy in school that he was not in attendance, and eventually makes the statement a fact.

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 fence. Tom goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of smiley. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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 misconduct and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. Tom boasts about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks him about his afternoon and evening activities. Tom admits that he didn’t go to school that afternoon but went downtown to see Ben Rogers and has since been playing whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and his friend Huckleberry Finn come across a shipyard and eventually chase the rowboats 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 muzzle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.