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 supper time. The story is full of his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells how Tom has been skipped school that afternoon and went instead to the hospital to see Mr. Joe Harper, who had broken his leg. Tom has sworn the boy to secrecy about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Harper tells Tom how his father has come to New York. Tom and the new arrival eat in the dining room, and eventually the news comes all the way home.

When Tom returns home in the evening, Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirtied clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Joe Harper by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marble. Joe 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 wistfully on Tom’s mischievous and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime and tells his mother that he has been skipped school that afternoon and went down town. He tells her about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks about his adventures. Tom tells her about his adventures and how he skipped school and shows her that his clothes are still scrawny, but fast. Tom’s half-brother, Huckleberry Finn, arrives and eventually chooses the new course of life for Tom.

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. Sam gives Tom $5 to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of snipe. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chooses him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.