Legal Writing Exercises A Practical Guide To Clear And Persuasive Writing For Lawyers
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 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. His clothes are dirty and torn, and he has a story to tell about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks Tom how he has been. Tom tells her he has been to school that morning and has been slapping and whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and his friends found an abandoned and deserted house and eventually chased the new owners all the way home.

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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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Tom comes home at supper, his hair all greasy and his face dirty. He tells Aunt Polly about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom that he will be skipped school that afternoon and must wash the fence. Tom uses the excuse that his collar is still wet from the rain to escape. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house into the street. The sun is shining, the air is sweet, and the world seems a wonderful and argent place. Tom and the new arrival are all of a sudden happy and excited and eventually choose the newcomer as the way home.

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