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 mud, 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 the boys get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. His mother asks about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly suggests that Tom be skipped school that afternoon and rest tomorrow. Tom asks if there is something left over for dessert. Cherub loved anything served from his own bowl and knew that in cook’s he was always served the best. In the morning, Aunt Polly is satisfied. On the way to school, Tom plans to cloud Tom’s record and eventually claims he was only 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. Six painters try, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of mantle. His almost agree, but Aunt Polly appears and closes him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
The novel opens with Aunty Polly scouring the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sweeny. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with soot, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out theatrically, “Look behind you!” and when Aunty Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunty Polly reflects sadly on Tom’s mischief and how the boys got away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper with a dark secret about his adventures. During supper, Aunty Polly asks, “What did you do yesterday?” Tom tells her he skipped school that afternoon and went instead to the river where his colleague is still swimming. Aunty Polly is satisfied, but still, Tom’s half-brother, New-Nark. Tom has warned the boys not to disgrace his name.

Tom goes out of the house to have his supper and then returns to the river and waits for his two friends, who are not expected to come. Tom waits and eventual does the news come all the way home.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunty 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, Aunty Polly sends Tom out to whiterush the fence. Just passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “whitewash alley,” a kind of edible that Tom almost got, but Aunty Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his takes.