New Solutions For House Museums Ensuring The Longterm Preservation Of Americas Historic Houses American Association For State And Local History
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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 mischief and how the boys must get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime, covered in dirt and his collar still around his neck. He tells a long story about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks Tom if he had been to school that day. Tom tells her he had been dropped off by Mr. Baker and shows her that his collar is still around his neck but that Tom’s half-brother, Sid, Tom’s half-brother, had stolen it and Tom had to go back and get it. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival eat dinner in discomfort and eventually chases the newcomers 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. Tom sees by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marrow. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chase him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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