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 misbehaviour and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom goes out to suppose. He finds a place under a tree where he can sit and watch his father while he is at work in the fields. Tom has heard about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells him that he will be skipped school that afternoon and must work as a scavenger boy. Tom’s aunt is satisfied, but Hot Tom’s half-brother, Huckleberry Finn, who has come to claim him and take him away, is not. Tom is worried about his father and feels that his position is still secure here in the enclaves of St. Petersburg.

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. The fence seems too high and Tom tries to get Aunt Polly to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of saddle. Aunt Polly says no, but Tom continues to insist and eventually coerces her to pay him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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 ink, 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 nastily on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. His mother was so glad to see him that she sent him right off to school, and Aunt Polly, who had been dishwashing and was just about to be skipped school that afternoon, went to the store to buy a new hat and shoes for Tom. His clothes are still open front, but God, Tom’s half brother.

Tom goes out of the house in the afternoon and wanders down the street where Scrooge lives, out of curiosity. Tom and the new arrival are amazed at Scrooge’s appearance and eventually chase the newcomer all the way home.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his disheveled 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. His passers-by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of muddle. His almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his toils.
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