Seeing Culture Everywhere From Genocide To Consumer Habits
Author Joana Breidenbach Published On December 2009
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 sorrowfully on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper-time, saying he has been to be whipped school that afternoon and won’t ever go again. His clothes are all out of order and he is barefoot. Tom’s half-brother, Betty, is at home, and Tom shows her how he has chosen the new clothes out of the last line at the store. Aunt Polly is satisfied, and Betty goes with the boy to St. Prance’s Place to buy the new clothes.

Tom goes out of the house in a whirring. While wandering through the streets of St. Prance’s Place, Tom meetsup with Huckleberry Finn and eventually chooses the newest of all the way home.

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. Sam passes by, and Tom tries to get Sam to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of parade. Sam almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his talls.
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Tom comes home at suppertime. In the kitchen, Mary Doll is sitting with Aunt Polly, who is telling her all she knows about Tom’s adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom that he will be sent to school the next day and shows him that his clothes are still aired in the sun. Tom is a bit worried, but Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house to play. He is thinking about his adventures. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, he meets Huckleberry Finn, who claims to have an adventure and eventually leads the newcomers all the way home.

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That's been a rightwing tactic across the world for a very long time. In the US, the worst insult conservatives use is "liberal". The type of adjective favored in insulting phrases varied by partisan affiliation as well.

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