The Mommy Brain How Motherhood Makes Us Smarter
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 she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime and finds that he has been skipped school that afternoon and must go get his report card. He is very sad because he has failed all his classes. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but still, Tom’s half-brother, Sid, is still angry.

Tom goes out of the house to find Sid, but he is not there. Tom tries to disguise his face, but he is still recognized.

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 whiten a fence. Tom passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of mule. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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 wistfully on Tom's mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper-time. Aunt Polly is satisfied. She tells him about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom how she was skips school that afternoon and went down to the river to play, and then she was sent back home. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but not Tom's half-brother, Huckleberry. Tom has warned the boy to desist.

Tom goes out of the house and into the streets of St. Petersburg, where he meets Huckleberry. He is pleased and angry, and eventually rejoices the newcomer 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 whitenew the fence. Tom passes by, and Tom tells to get him to do some of the whitening in return for a "white alley," a kind of privilege. His almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.