This Side Of Doctoring Reflections From Women In Medicine
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 ruefully on Tom's mischievousness and how she let him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper and sits down to his usual bowl of fish stew and a large slice of waiter cake. "Come, Tom," says Aunt Polly, "you've been skipping school that afternoon and now evening, and I've heard you weeping in your bedroom and shouting. Why do you refuse to be whipped?"

"Well, I can't imagine why," says Tom soothingly. "I haven't done anything wrong.

"Well, I don't know," said Aunt Polly in a melancholy tone. "If you don't do anything wrong, you'll never get whipped.

"But I don't want to be whipped," said Tom.

"Well, you'd better mind me or you'll be whipped," said Aunt Polly.

Tom goes out of the house into the street to beat his chest and howl. He has his usual sailor suit on and is very much pleased with himself for being a sailor. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival eat at a table in the kitchen. Tom is amazed by the abundance and variety of food. He begins to eat and eventually chases the newcomer 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 goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley." A kind of maple, Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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Tom comes home at supper. His clothes are torn and dirty, and his hair is disheveled. He tells Aunt Polly that he has been playing in the streets all day. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom says that he will be skipped school that afternoon and won’t have to go to the schoolhouse. Aunt Polly is pleased, but Tom’s half-brother, Jerry, tells Tom to get his work done. Tom says that he will do his work later. Aunt Polly is pleased, and Tom has sworn to himself to disguise his behavior.

Tom goes out of the house into the street. Aunt Polly and his half-brother are watching him. Tom is walking down the street with a book under his arm. Aunt Polly is pleased, and Tom is walking down the street with a book under his arm.

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On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Tom goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marble. Aunt Polly agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his toils.
I wasn't always a writer. As a preteen, I wanted to be a pediatric oncologist, a dream that continues today. My love of medicine and people propelled me toward psychology, then public health, where I could combine everything into fields like psychosocial oncology and perinatal psychology.
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