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

Tom goes out to supper. He tells his aunt that he has been well amused, has been to the balls and dance halls, and has seen a good deal of his friend, Joe Harper. Tom has to be home by ten o'clock and if he is late he will be whipped. When Tom arrives home, his aunt is waiting for him. Tom tells his aunt that he has seen a lot of boys that are not as good as he is, and that he will be a rich man when he grows up. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival of Jim Finn are well received by Tom's aunt. Tom puts on a show of disciplining himself to disprove his aunt's accusations. Tom goes out to the fields to do a little ploughing. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom meets Huckleberry Finn, a runaway boy who has just escaped from a life of slavery and now lives on his own. Tom is taken aback by the sight of the boy and eventually chooses to accompany him further.

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. Joe passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "half-dozen," a kind of muck. Joe almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases 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 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 suppertime. He has run away from school for the ninth time. He does not have any schoolbooks. Dib Dib becomes a neglected and ignorant. Tom and the new arrival in the class, the smart but shy boy, Tom’s half-brother, Huck Finn, are not well liked. Tom almost6DADD703BA4DFFE46504894B7FD56C70 4 / 7