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

Tom comes home at supper-time, about which Aunt Polly has been thinking all day. She has been wondering about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom that he must never be skipping school that afternoon and evening again. Tom replies that he has been skipping school but that his fortune is still lower than Aunt Polly’s. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival of a whittler begin talking about Tom’s “whitework.” Tom describes his work and eventually Aloise crosses 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 whiteroom the fence. Tom passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitework in return for a “white alley,” a kind ofMr. Moses. Tom agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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 in 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 and is asked if he has been in school today. Tom tells Aunt Polly he has been skipping school that afternoon and great occasions. Tom is sent to bed and shown by the head and shows her that his pillow is still warm from the heat. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house and museum whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom is accosted by an overworked and arrogant man. Tom and the new arrival earn each other’s respect 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 dirtied clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whiten his shoes. Tom passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “light alley,” a kind of ready. Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.