No Shame In My Game The Working Poor In The Inner City
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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 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 sadly on Tom's misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime and tells Aunt Polly all about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks if he has been skipped school that afternoon and went downstream. Tom is embarrassed and shows her that his clothes are still wet from the river. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom and his half-brother, Dick, set off to hunt rabbits. Tom and Dick are sent to get rabbit traps and eventually chase the newcomers 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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of noodle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his trolley.
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Tom's mother goes out to seek work. She finds out that Tom has run away from school that afternoon and has been skipping school that whole week. SheLabors over to the house and discovers Tom, his clothes still wet from the rain, smoking a cigarette in the kitchen. Tom, his half-brother, Ben, and a friend, Huckleberry Finn, have been smoking in the kitchen. Tom's mother is outraged, and Tom is punished.

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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 alloy," a kind of marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his labors.

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