The State Of The Middle East An Atlas Of Conflict And Resolution
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 mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. He tells his mother that he has been skipping school that afternoon and was arrested on the road and taken to the police station. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but Tom is not. He plans to stay away from school and eventually run away.

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 refuses, and Tom tries to get Aunt Polly to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of mouse. Aunt Polly agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his terrors.
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