Vulnerable Children Global Challenges In Education Health Well Being And Child Rights
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 warily on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper. He has been exiled from school for a week. He tells Aunt Polly all about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly announces that Tom has been skipped school that afternoon and must go to school the next day. A week later, Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house in the dark. He is whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom meets the new arrival, Benjy Thatcher, who is in town for a year and is a bit of a simpleton. Tom and the new arrival eventually become friends and eventually choose the newcomers as 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 lies to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “true ally,” a kind of marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.