Iron Cages Race And Culture In 19th Century America
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 ink, 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 naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime, looks pale and finds out that his friend Sam has been sent to the schoolhouse for pulling the hair of the schoolmaster (Mr. Injun Joe). Tom is not sure why Sam got caught and feels angry with his brother Sid who told the master that Tom was behind the moment. Tom is worried about how Sam will be punished. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house to look for Sam. He sees Sam standing and watching the street. Tom goes to talk to Sam and they all go home. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

When he returns home, 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. Sam passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “five-penny,” but Aunt Polly appears and chases Tom 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 sawdust, 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 misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. Tom has told his mother he was sick and that he had been to the doctor. When the doctor called, he found Tom was not sick. Tom has skipped school that morning and went instead to a tree where he cut his clothes with a knife. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom’s hollering was what he deserved and now he is zundered and ungrateful.

Tom and the new arrival go to the town square. Tom is much impressed and eventually chases 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 the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alleys,” a kind of mixture. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his toil.