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

Tom comes home at supper time. His stories of adventure are all well known, but his clothes are still ajar from his escape over the fence. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house in the evening. The evening is hot and the streets are silent. Tom and the new arrival of a white parrot, Dick Tracy, are the only people in the village.

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 whitewash the fence. Jim goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white ally,” a kind of mob. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his trolley.
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 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 nastily on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime, wet and dirty and covered with mud. His father is not well about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly and Mr. Sawyer discuss Tom’s misdeeds. They decide to skip school that afternoon and meet Tom at the bank in a few minutes. Tom’s friend, Benjy,(his real name is Sid) and Benjy’s older brother, Joe, join in. Tom and Benjy are both sure that Joe’s hold the fort, to serve as a look-out for Tom and the other boys. Joe does not seem to mind.

Tom and the other boys are rejoicing in the knowledge that they will be allowed to go to the fields and play all day. Tom has arranged the scheme so that he and Benjy will be the first to arrive at the bank. They will have the field all to themselves.

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. Joe passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of mantle. Joe almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.