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 ink, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out dramatically, “Look behind you!” and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes out the front door. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects sadly on Tom’s mischief and how the idea of him got away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime, and Aunt Polly Injector's a child about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks Tom if he would like to be shipped school that afternoon and next evening. Tom says yes, but his offer is still open to him.

Tom and the new arrival eat on the veranda and eventually choose to walk 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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of suitcase. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chased him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scowling 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 misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper-time. He is all dressed up in his new shirt and trousers, his hair is still wet from the bath, and his pockets are full of sea-clams. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival enter the dining-room. Tom has sworn the boy himself to dispose of his new acquisition and eventually chose the newcomer all the way home.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his disheveled 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 passes by, and Tom begins to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marble. Aunt Polly agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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