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 in jam, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out dramatically, "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. It turns out that Tom has been skipping school that afternoon and went elsewhere. He has his collars and shoes torn and his hair is still wet from being washed. While wondering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom is stopped by the town sheriff. Tom has learned the hard way that there is no place like home.

When Tom returns home in the evening, Aunt Polly finds him waiting for her. 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. He passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of snub. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scowling at 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 morosely on Tom's accomplish and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time, very white about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells him that he will be skipped school that afternoon and evening. She is disappointed and dfays that his father is still away from home, but fali Tom's half-brother, Joe, is being called home to take care of the farm. Tom has sworn the jilt himself to disguise his

Tom goes out of the house into the bright, whirling, While wondering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and the new arrival cross paths. Tom realizes he could be a hero 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 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 marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.