Doing Time On The Outside Incarceration And Family Life In Urban America
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The novel opens with Aunt Polly searching 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 mischievous parents and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time, and Aunt Polly tells him that he can’t be traded school that afternoon and that he must go to his room and study. Tom’s half brother, Sid, has ruined his school report and Aunt Polly is satisfied. Aunt Polly is not pleased. Tom has sworn the oath himself to disguise his

Tom goes out of the house for the first time in several days. There is a whiff of tobacco and snuff. While wondering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom meets the new arrival in town, Mr. Injun Joe. Joe is a changes in the way home

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirtier clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whiterush the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing. Jim refuses, and Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his labor.
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Tom comes home at suppertime, disheveled and wet from his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks about his adventures. Tom had been skipped school that afternoon and went to a mine, where he broke a leg and some bones in his hand and arm. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom has earned the desert himself to dispense his own justice. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and the new arrival caught the attention of Tom’s handsome and distinguised father. Tom and his new arrival come to the door of the house, but Tom’s half-brother, Joe, and Tom’s father’s new servant, Mark, look out the window and go inside. Tom has a chance to become a respectable young man and eventually chase the new arrivals 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. But as he passes by, Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “whale ale,” a kind of medicine. Aunt Polly agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.