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 seriously on Tom’s escapade and how she let him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time and tells Aunt Polly about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly inquires about Tom’s report. Tom has been skipped school that afternoon and wasn’t even present for the last three days, and Tom’s report is blank.

Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrival are ushered into the parlor. Tom sits while Aunt Polly is engaged in the living room.

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. Tom passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of mule’s hire almost agreed, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his toils.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scrounging the house in search of her nephews, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with wax, 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 and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time with his wide, honest face with a small black mark on his forehead. His mother had been talking about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks Tom if he has been to school that afternoon and what eventful things happened. As he describes the events, Aunt Polly is satisfied, but not contented. The next day Tom goes out of the house in search of the boy he had seen. Tom and the new arrival encounter and eventually chased 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 chase him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.