Realtime Systems Design Principles For Distributed Embedded Applications Realtime Systems Series
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 bands 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 naughtiness and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time and finds the note on his chair saying, “Sawyer: you have been dratted school that afternoon and must go tonight to catch up. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Aunt Polly is satisfied.”

Tom goes out of the house and along the street until he comes to a quiet, abandoned and ancient churchyard and eventually finds a small grave. He sits down and tells himself to despise his uncle. He is so sorry for himself, he is so alone, he has no one to love him, that he can’t help weeping. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom sees a boy with a white whisker. Tom and the new arrival exchange greetings, and eventually they become friends.

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 whiten the fence. No sooner has he begun work, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitening in return for a “white alley,” a kind of ushership. He almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.