Writing Philosophy A Students Guide To Writing Philosophy Essays
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 sadly on Tom's mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime and his mother tells him that he will be skipped school that afternoon and must attend the funeral of his cousin, Joe Harper. Joe's coffin is still within the house, but Joe, Tom's half-brother, has just been seen by Tom as he was about to disparage his mother. Tom goes out of the house into the street and begins to think about the weird idea of Joe's spirit haunting him. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and the new arrival of the town, Huckleberry Finn, meet. Tom and Huckleberry decide to go and take the wagonload of dirt to Aunt Polly's garden, but instead they go to the river and meet with the other boys who are white washing the house. Tom and Huckleberry, after a short while, go to the river again and take the wagonload of dirt to Aunt Polly's garden.

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 whiten wash the fence. Tom sees by, and Tom hears to get him to do some of the white washing in return for a "white alley," a kind of marble. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his lares.
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Tom comes home at supper with a dirty face and a wild look in his eye. He has been skipping school that afternoon and hasn't eaten dinner. He tells Aunt Polly he was chasing ducks in the pond and that he didn't realize how far he was going. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and the new arrived cousin, Muff Potter, go out to get a drink from the creek. While wading in the water, Muff Potter is bitten by a snake. Tom and the other boys quickly help him get back to the house and eventually clean the snake's poison.

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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "shoe alley." Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.