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 sorrowfully on Tom’s mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper to find his aunt fuming. She tells him that he has been skipped school that afternoon and was excessive. When Tom’s father, Ben, arrives home, Tom begins to speak of his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks Tom about his adventures. She is interested in hearing about the recent escapade where Tom was sent to the line with a broken arm and how he managed to escape. Tom has sworn to tell no one about this, so Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom and his new arrival are anxious to get on the deck, so they go to the deck. Tom is eager to show off his new friend, who is a sailor. Tom and the new arrival sing a song and eventually chase the newcomer all the way home.

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 whitenear the fence. As he passes by, Tom hears to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley.” A kind of maritime meal almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his toils.
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 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 wistfully on Tom’s mischievous and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime. His aunt is distressed to see the fresh and welldone marks about his shoulders and arms, and when he says he was skipped school that afternoon and went to his uncle’s, she is further shocked to learn that his collar is still wet from perspiration. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but not Tom’s half-brother, Harry, who is the object of Tom’s disposition and eventually chases the newcomes 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. As he passes by, a man goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “wheat alle,” or a kind of usurious, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his baskets.