Organisms Study Guide
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 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 carefully on Tom’s misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time and tells his aunt all she wants to know about his adventures. During supper, Aunt I see that his clothes are still covered with wax, but I let him off as a favor to his half-brother. Tom goes out of the house to see a prairie dog and eventually chases the newcows 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 “share alley,” a kind of marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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 dramatically, “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 supper time to find that he has been skipping school that afternoon and Aunt Polly is very angry. Tom claims to have been at school, but Aunt Polly is not convinced. She makes Tom sit by the stove, and Tom’s half-brother, Huckleberry Finn, returns home.

Tom goes out of the house immediately to find Huckleberry, but Huckleberry is out with Jim, “howling and whistling.” When Tom returns home, he 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 whitenwash the fence. Jim comes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of whistle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.