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 sadly on Tom’s mischievous and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper saying Tom has had an accident. He has dropped the ball out of the window and broken the head and legs of his uncle. Tom’s half-brother, Ben, is badly hurt. Tom’s uncle is furious. He tells Tom that if he ever does anything like this again his face will be marked. Tom is satisfied. He has learned a lesson.

Tom goes out of the house in a huff. His uncle is not there to watch him. Tom is left unbothered. He is not even worried about his Adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells him that he will be skipped school that afternoon and sent to clean the confessional. Tom is still angry and goes out of the room.

Tom and the new arrival come to terms. Tom is adventurers and eventually becomes the newcomer’s only friend.

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 noose. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
The novel opens with Aunt Polly searching the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered in paint, 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 the boys got away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time. His clothes are dirty and full of stories about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks if he has been to school that afternoon and what news has come from Ben Franklin’s school. Tom’s honest answer is that he was not there because he had skipped school that morning. Aunt Polly is satisfied, but Tom’s half-brother, Huck, is not. Tom then launches into a story of how he was shipwrecked and resuscitated by a whale. Tom and the new arrival, Huck, are sharing the news and stories of the whole town.

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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of money. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.