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 misconduct and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper time, and Aunt Polly finds out about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells Tom about the whittling incident and how she can no longer let him go to school that afternoon and must instead clean the attic. Tom is upset, but Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom takes the news with good humor and agrees to help with the household chores.

Tom and the new arrival come to the house, and the house becomes crowded and noisy. Tom and the new arrival play together, chasing each other 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 whiterush the fence. Tom goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the work while he returns for a “white ally,” a kind of marble. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his troubles.
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 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 suppertime besmirched with soot. He has been working all day on the clay bank and does not wish to be whipped. He tells his uncle that he has been playing with his friends, and has no idea how he got into the soot. He tells his uncle that he is going to school the next day, and that he will not let any of his friends go to school with him. Tom’s uncle tells him that he will have to go to school, and Tom says that he will not.

Tom goes out of the house to look for his friends. When he comes back, he is covered in soot and looks dirty. Tom’s uncle tells him that he will have to go to school the next day, and Tom says that he will not.

When Tom 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 tells her that he will not, and Aunt Polly threatens to send him to the school. Tom tells his aunt that he will not go to school, and Aunt Polly threatens to make him do it.

Tom goes outside to look for his friends. When he comes back, he is covered in soot and looks dirty. Tom’s uncle tells him that he will have to go to school the next day, and Tom says that he will not.