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 menially on Tom's misconduct and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper. He has been out throughout the day, but the report is that he was not skipped school that afternoon and went nowhere interesting. He has a little food in his pocket and shows her that his clothes are still worn from the day's adventure. Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house to play. He had wanted to run down to the river, but Aunt Polly says he may stay near, but not go down to the dock. Tom knows better. He goes down to the dock and eventually chases the newcomer 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. Tom goes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of milk. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.
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Between November of 1881 and July of 1890, Vincent van Gogh painted almost 900 paintings. Since his death, he has become one of the most famous painters in the world. Van Gogh's paintings have captured the minds and hearts of millions of art lovers and have made art lovers of those new to the world of art.