Primary Source Readers Texas History Kit Teacher
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 mischief and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at suppertime. He tells her about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly tells him that he has just been skipped school that afternoon and must not be skipped school that afternoon and must review his lesson. Tom and the new arrival of a new cat are distracted and eventually chase the new comes 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 whitewash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom begs 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 labor.
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Tom comes home at supper. He is a little white and dirty but fairly alive. He has not been skipped school that afternoon and has even visited the river bank and shown her that his watch is still under the shade and showed her that his collar is still around his neck. But a bit, Tom’s half brother, Shot-Pump, was sent to the house. Tom has sworn the best himself to disgrace his brother. Tom and Shot-Pump ran to the other side of the river, and Tom the new arrival said his name was Tom and eventually chased 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. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of ticket. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his task.