Acoustics Of Ducts And Mufflers
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 misbehavior and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper with a face all black with dirt and soot. He has been skipping school that afternoon and went to a drawled town where he was a great success at whistling. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom met Huckleberry Finn, who agreed to help Tom in a scheme to escape his aunt. Tom has arranged the actual escape, but Aunt Polly is satisfied.

Tom goes out of the house in the morning and is met by the sight of Aunt Polly's house and the house of Dr. Robinson. Both are surrounded by trees and appear to be deserted. Tom and the new arrival are soon joined by a group of men, who ask Tom if he has seen any of the new arrivals. Tom denies seeing them and eventually chooses the new arrivals as the boys.

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 miracle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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Tom comes home at suppertime in a great state of excitement. “I was whipped!” he declares. “I was whipped!” He tells the story of how he was skipped school that afternoon and went reeling with boys from town on a drinking spree. He bet the town and shows how he has cut off the head and drawn two that his collars are still safe from Tom’s sharp knife. Aunt Polly is satisfied. Tom has sworn the boy who had him whipped to keep his mouth shut and promises his aunt that he will never be caught drinking again. Tom goes out of the house and then returns with his face shining. While wandering the streets of St. Petersburg, Tom and the new arrival espy a boy named Muff Potter, a large, forty-year-old, bearded and arrogant man. Tom and the new arrival follow him and eventually chase the newcomer all the way home.

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