Tom Sawyer lives with his Aunt Polly and his half-brother Sid. He skips school to swim and is made to whitewash the fence the next day as punishment. He cleverly persuades his friends to trade him small treasures for the privilege of doing his work. He then trades the treasures for Sunday School tickets which one normally receives for memorizing verses consistently, redeeming them for a Bible, much to the surprise and bewilderment of the superintendent who thought “it was simply preposterous that his boy had warehoused two thousand sheaves of Scriptural wisdom on his premises – a dozen would strain his capacity, without a doubt.”

Tom falls in love with Becky Thatcher, a new girl in twon, and persuades her to get “engaged” by kissing him. But their romance collapses when she learns Tom has been “engaged” previously to Amy Lawrence. Shortly after Becky shuns him, he accompnanies Huckleberry Fiunn to the graveyard at night, where they witness a trio of body snatchers, Dr. Robinson, Muff Potter and Injun Joe, getting into a fight. While Potter is knocked onconscious during the scuffle, Injun Joe stabs the doctor to death and later pins the blame on Potter, who is arrested and suspected to be the murderer. Potter is then shunned by the whole town, except Huck and Tom, who knew the real story. They decided to keep mum about this incident because they are afraid of Injun Joe murdering them.