

"Well, I know," said his aunt. "I've told you to leave that **jam** alone. Give me that **switch**."

Tom gave Aunt Polly the switch. Aunt Polly lifted it to hit Tom when he shouted, "Aunt Polly! Look behind you! What's that?"

The old lady turned quickly. **In a flash**, Tom was out the door and climbing over the fence. Aunt Polly shook her head and laughed. "He's played that trick on me so many times I should know it by now."

Aunt Polly worried about Tom. She wanted her nephew to grow up to be a good man. She worried, that he **skipped** school too much.

"I'll have to **punish** him tomorrow," Aunt Polly decided. "I'll make him work. Tom hates work, but I've got to teach him to do what's right."

Saturday morning was a sunny day, and the whole world was out **enjoying** it, everyone, except poor Tom.

Tom was standing in front of the fence with a **bucket of whitewash** and a brush. He looked at the fence. It was ninety feet long and nine feet high. Painting it would take forever.

jam	ריבה	punish	להעניש
switch	עניף דק	enjoying	נהנה
In a flash	כהרף עין	bucket	דלי
skipped	הבריז, ברח	whitewash	סיד לבן

Tom **dipped** his brush into the bucket. He ran it over the first board. After one **stroke**, he stopped and saw how much more was left to do. He sat down on the curb and **sighed**. Tom thought of all the **excitement** he was missing. The other boys would **tease** him.

Tom saw Ben Rogers coming down the street. He picked up the brush and went back to work. He had a plan. Ben walked up to Tom eating an apple. Tom kept painting.

"You have to work?" teased Ben. "I'm going swimming. Too bad, you can't come?"

Tom stepped back and looked at Ben thoughtfully. "What do you mean by 'work'?" asked Tom.

"Isn't what you're doing work?" replied Ben.

"Well, maybe it is, and maybe it isn't," said Tom. "All I know is, it **suits** Tom Sawyer." Tom turned back to the fence and started whitewashing once more.

"You mean you like what you're doing?" asked Ben.

dipped	טבל
stroke	משיכת מכחול (מברשת צבע)
sighed	נאנח
excitement	התרגשות
tease	ילעגו
suits	מתאים