

## *The Last Oasis Facing Water Scarcity*



The crowd opens with Aunt Polly crossing the fence 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 runs out dramatically, "Look behind you!" and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects carefully on Tom's mischief and how she lets him get away with his work.

Tom crosses fence at supper time. During supper, Aunt Polly announces that Aunt Polly's coffee is still warm from the pot. Tom's half brother, that himself to disguise his

Tom goes out of the house to buy the streets of St. Petersburg. Tom and the new arrival eventually chooses the wilderness all the way home.

When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirty clothes and decides to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Tom passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a "white alley," a kind of excuse. Tom almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his labor.

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Tom had about his afternoon he stopped school that day and down her that Aunt Polly is satisfied, back. Tom has earned the of whitewashing. While working, Tom is bored and annoyed, but eventually

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Sandra Postel published LAST OASIS - FACING WATER SCARCITY back in 1992, year of the RIO Conference on Development and Environment, also called the Earth Summit. Re-issued in 1997 (with a new introduction) it formed the basis for a PBS documentary in the series "Cadillac Desert".

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