

Mark Twain

Philip Brown

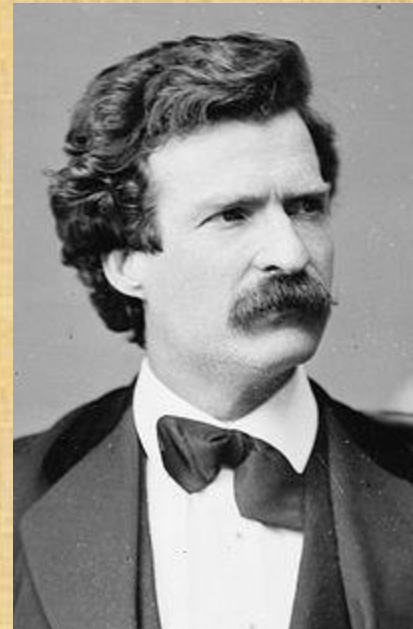
Kayla Berry

Lauren Hinkle

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education” –Mark Twain

Early Life

- ▶ Born Nov. 30th, 1835 in Florida, MO.
- ▶ Born Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
- ▶ Sixth child of John Marshal and Jane Lampton Clemens.
- ▶ Moved to Hannibal, a small port city on the banks of the Mississippi.
- ▶ Was ill as a child
- ▶ Father died when he was 12
- ▶ At age of 13 became a printers apprentice.



Samuel Langhorne Clemens

Mark Twain was just his pen name.

The word “twain” is actually an archaic term of measuring fathoms (a marine unit of measure equivalent to two yards) of length on riverboats, which Mark worked on for many years. The term “mark twain” was often called out by these riverboat men meaning according to the mark on the line, the depth is two fathoms, so there are 12 feet under the boat to pass through.

A leadline is used to determine water depth and the type of material which makes up the bottom or riverbed. A 30-foot-long line is attached to a pipe filled with lead



Travels



- ▶ Twain and his brother traveled for more than two weeks on a stagecoach across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains
- ▶ These experiences inspired *Roughing It*, and *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*.
- ▶ Twain then traveled to San Francisco, California, where he continued as a journalist and began lecturing.

Books

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer:

- ▶ The character of Tom Sawyer was modeled on Twain as a child, with traces of two schoolmates, John Briggs and Will Bowen.
- ▶ The book also introduced in a supporting role the character of Huckleberry Finn, based on Twain's boyhood friend Tom Blankenship.
- ▶ Appears in three other Twain books



Books cont'd

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

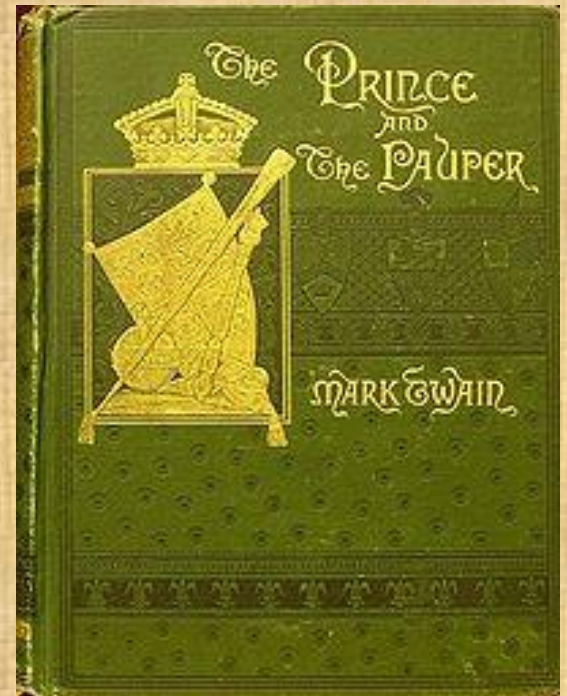
- ▶ published in 1884
- ▶ regarded one of the Great American Novels, and is one of the first major American novels written in the vernacular: “the speech of the common people”
- ▶ The narrator is Huck Finn, the best friend of Tom Sawyer



Books cont'd

Other Literature:

- ▶ The Prince and the Pauper
- ▶ A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- ▶ Life on the Mississippi
- ▶ Is He Dead (play)
- ▶ A Dog's Tale
- ▶ The War Prayer
- ▶ Eve's Diary



Later Life

- ▶ Married Olivia Langdon
- ▶ Had three daughters, and one son who died early in life
- ▶ Wrote his autobiography which awarded him a Doctorate in Letters from Oxford
- ▶ Died of a heart attack on April 21, 1910 when Halley's Comet appeared



Legacy

- ▶ His keen wit and incisive satire earned him praise from both critics and peers.
- ▶ American author William Faulkner called Twain "the father of American literature."
- ▶ Mark Twain was one of the great artists of all time. He was and is one authentic giant of our national literature.
- ▶ Twain's quotes and humor are still popular today in American history.

Quotes

- ▶ Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest
- ▶ Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.
- ▶ I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened.
- ▶ It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.
- ▶ A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.
- ▶ If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything.