

MARK TWAIN

Coordinator: Tom Grant

This study group follows the transformation of Samuel Clemens, an obscure Missouri "border ruffian" into "Mark Twain," the wealthy, critically acclaimed, globe-trotting author - and, by all accounts, the most famous American of his time. Clemens' timely discovery of his pseudonymous "other self" proved to be both a blessing and a curse, and created the central conflict in most of his writings - that between Sam Clemens' yearning for respectability and security and Mark Twain's irrepressible, often subversive, desire to perform before an adoring public. We examine this central conflict chronologically in representative humorous sketches, tall tales, public lectures, adventure stories and fantasies, including two essential novels, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

Readings and other Required Materials:

Justin Kaplan, Ed., *The Signet Classic Book of Mark Twain's Short Stories*, Signet, ISBN 987-0-451-53016-5

Thomas Cooley, Ed., *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Third Edition, Norton Critical Edition, Norton, ISBN 0-393-966-40-2

Allison Ensor, Ed., *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, Norton Critical Edition, Norton ISBN 0-393-95137-5

Tom Grant has published and lectured widely about Mark Twain during his career as a college teacher in Clemens' adopted home state of Connecticut.

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1. Sam Clemens Discovers His Gold Mine: The Vein of Humor
Selections from *The Signet Book of Stories*
2. "The Sagebrush Bohemian" Among the WASP "Elect" *Innocents Abroad* (1869), Selections (in the course pack)
3. "The Wild Humorist of the Pacific Slope" *Roughing It* (1872), Selections (in the course pack)
4. Nook Farm, Hartford: Marrying Up, Settling Down, Cashing In Selections

from *The Signet Book of Stories*

5. Recapturing Memories: Return to the River of Boyhood Memory
Selections from *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) in the course pack
6. 7. 8. Bondage and Escape: What Price Freedom? *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)
9. 10. The Clash Between Medieval Order and Modern Speculation
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
11. The "Damned Human Race" The Making of a Misanthrope
Selections from *The Signet Book* and the course pack
12. Loneliness at Twilight
Selections from *The Signet Book* and the course pack

Mark Twain was an American author and humorist. Check out this biography to know about his childhood, life, achievements, works & timeline. Mark Twain was an American author and humorist. Check out this biography to know about his childhood, life, achievements, works & timeline. Image Credit. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0WioOn8Tkw>. Image Credit. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mark_Twain_DLitt.jpg. Image Credit.

Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in Florida, Missouri in 1835, grew up in Hannibal. He was a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River. Throughout his career, Twain served as a writer, lecturer, reporter, editor, printer, and prospector. Twain took his pen name from an alert cry used on his steamboat - "by the mark, twain". See full bio ».

Born Mark Twain was an American author and humorist. Check out this biography to know about his childhood, life, achievements, works & timeline.

Mark Twain was an American author, essayist, and humorist who wrote a series of famous books, including "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Mark Twain, the writer, adventurer and wily social critic born Samuel Clemens, wrote the novels 'Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and 'Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.'

When very angry, swear. "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

"We can't reach old age by another man's road. My habits protect my life, but would assassinate you."

"Be good and you will be lonesome."

Mark Twain. Mark Twain Biography. (1835-1910).

Updated Mark Twain was the pen name of American author and humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, 1835 - April 21, 1910), most noted for 2 novels, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (the latter often called "the Great American Novel"). Twain grew up in Hannibal, Missouri, which would later provide the setting for Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. He apprenticed with a printer. He also worked as a typesetter and contributed articles to his older brother Orion's