

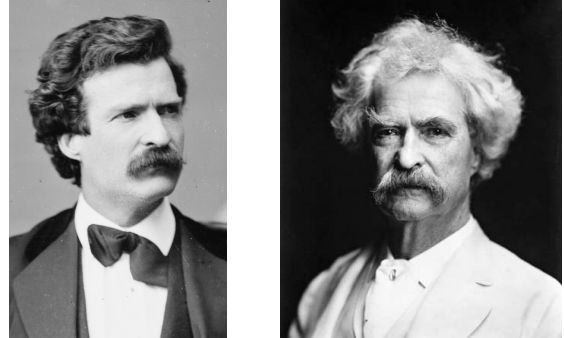
23 January 2012

You may choose your seat....

You will need an **ORANGE** textbook!

Please get out your American Character illustration
but hang on to it – don't turn it in yet!

Mark Twain



Mark Twain

- Born Samuel Langhorne Clemens
- 1835-1910
- Born during visit of Halley's Comet
- Grew up in Hannibal, Missouri (which he later used as the setting for *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*)

Three Ages of Twain

- As a young man...
 - Journalism
 - Travel writing
 - Humorous short stories
- Height of career
 - Important works (*TS* & *HF*)
 - Memoir-type writing (“Life on the Mississippi”)
- Later writing
 - Some novels – more satirical
 - “a pen warmed up in hell”
 - Autobiography (publ. 100 yrs later!)

Most Famous Work

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
 - Sequel to *Tom Sawyer*
 - Often called the “Great American Novel”
- Many humorous short stories and essays

Important Elements

- Vernacular & diction to create humor
 - It's not what you say that makes it funny... it's how you say it
- Tells stories of the growing West and of people who live along the Mississippi River in the mid-late 1800s
- Setting
- Later work:
 - Satire in historical settings
 - Some interest in mystical things, esp. as relate to when people are born

Jumping Frog

- “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” (1865) was one of his earliest stories, written while he was a journalist.
- Tall tale
 - Humorous story characterized by outrageous exaggerations and events
 - Humorous comparisons/similes

Assignment

- Read “Reading Focus: Understand Vernacular” and yellow Vocabulary box on page 638
- Alone or with your group, read the story starting on page 639
- Pay attention to the use of vernacular (the language commonly spoken by people in a particular place)
- Your homework assignment will be passed out shortly. ☺