

**TWAIN AND WILDE: PARALLEL BUT
DIVERSE**

PART I

LIFE AND HIGHLIGHTS





Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature

◆ BACKGROUND

- ◆ Born as Samuel Langhorne Clemens on November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri
- ◆ Raised in Hannibal, Missouri
- ◆ Age 12 - becomes a printer apprentice
- ◆ Age 18 - worked as a printer in St. Louis, New York, Cincinnati and Philadelphia

Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature

◆ BACKGROUND

- ◆ In 1854 joined his brother in Keokuk, Iowa
- ◆ After 2 years started his piloting career, the popular New Orleans - St. Louis route
- ◆ 1861 the war starts- moves to Nevada
- ◆ Tries his luck in silver mining
- ◆ Journalist for Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise*
- ◆ 1864 moves to San Francisco
- ◆ Visit to Hawaii – public speaker
- ◆ 1867 a tour around Europe and Middle East
- ◆ 1868 back to New York and San Francisco

KNOWN TO EVERYONE - LIKED BY ALL

MARK TWAIN



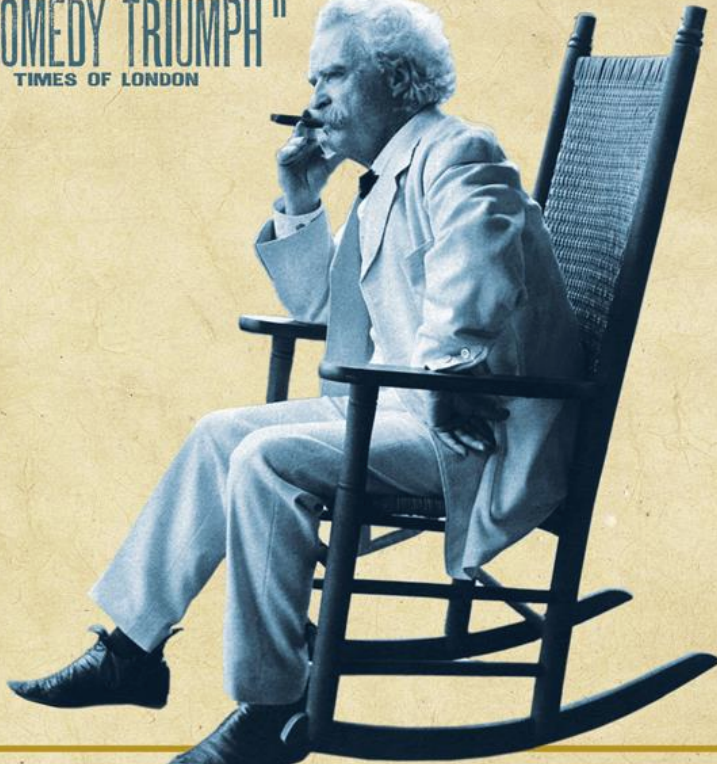
Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature

- ◆ 1870 marries Olivia Langdon
- ◆ Life-long love and dedication
- ◆ Impact on Twain
- ◆ Buffalo, New York (1869-1871)
- ◆ Son dies, three daughters (Susy, Clara and Jean)
- ◆ Harford, Connecticut (1874-1891)
- ◆ Major literary output in this period
- ◆ Love of science and technology
- ◆ Bad investments



Mark Twain – the Father of American Literature

- ◆ 1891 moved to Europe (France, Germany and Italy until 1895)
- ◆ 1895 – a year-long around the world lecture tour
- ◆ 1896-1900 - England and Austria
- ◆ Opponent of Imperialism
- ◆ Susy dies 1896
- ◆ Olivia dies 1904
- ◆ Writes his autobiography kept under lock and key for 100 years
- ◆ 4 months after finishing it dies with the Halley's comet on April 21, 1910
- ◆ "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: "Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together".



"A COMEDY TRIUMPH"
TIMES OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION COMPANY PRESENTS THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR OF

MARK TWAIN

ON TOUR
KEN RICTERS

IN AN INTELLIGENT ONE MAN COMEDY SHOW PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC LECTURE

THE LIFE OF GOD'S FOOL

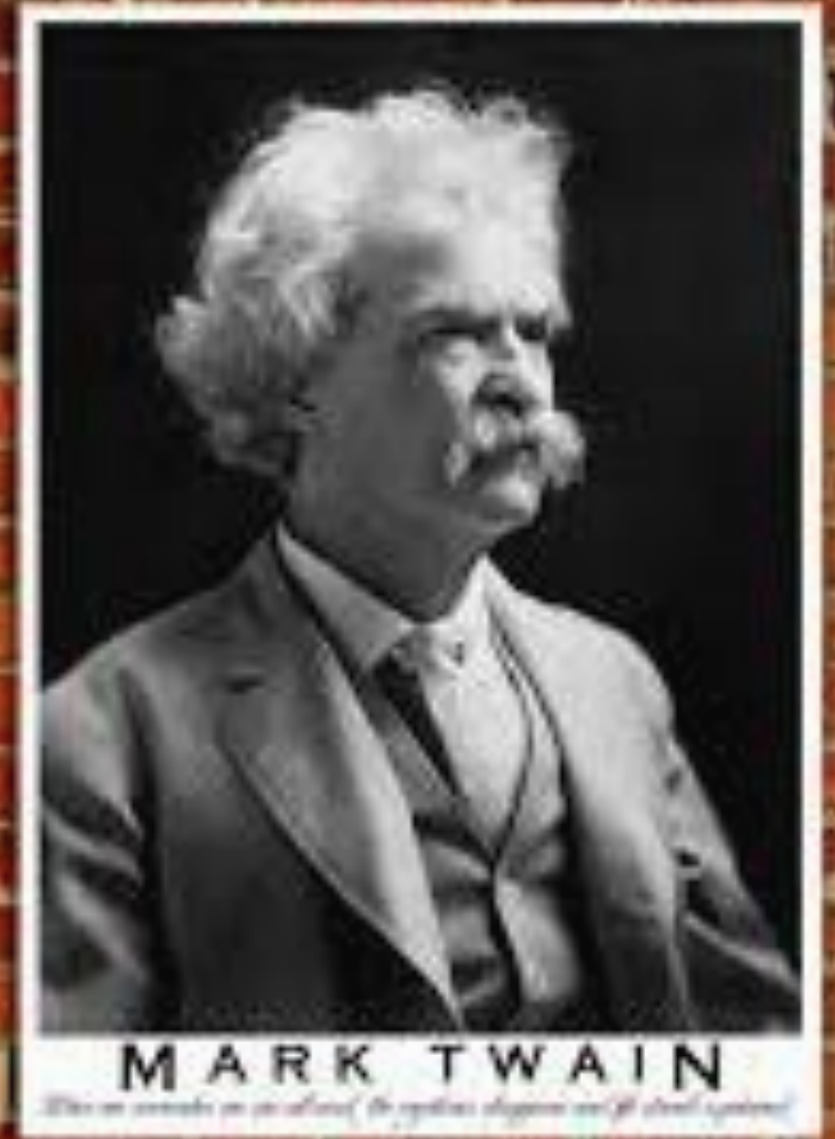
IN 2 ACTS

★★★ A MUST SEE HIT! ★★★

2020-2021 INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE TOUR

Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature

- ◆ The report of my death was an exaggeration.
—Twain's reaction to a report of his death
- ◆ Master of Arts Degree (Honorary) from Yale University in 1888.
- ◆ Doctor of Letters Degree (Honorary) from Yale University in 1901.
- ◆ Doctor of Letters Degree (Honorary) from Oxford University in 1907



OSCAR WILDE - BACKGROUND

- ❖ Born: 16.10.1854
- ❖ Place: Westland, Dublin, Ireland
- ❖ Parents: Sir William Wilde and Jane Francesca Wilde
- ❖ Elder brother – Willow Wilde
- ❖ Younger sister – Isola Wilde
- ❖ Married: Constance Lloyd in 1884
- ❖ Two sons – Cyril and Vyvyan
- ❖ Constance died in 1898
- ❖ Cyril died during World War I
- ❖ Vyvyan became an author



EDUCATION

- ◆ Homeschooled for 9 years
- ◆ Portoa Royal School



- ◆ Trinity College in Dublin



- ◆ Home in Dublin

- ◆ Awarded ad scholarship to Oxford University

OSCAR
WILDE

AESTHETIC MOVEMENT

"I made art a philosophy, and philosophy an art."

❖ The Aesthetic Movement believed that art in its various forms should not seek to convey a moral, sentimental or educational message but should give sensual pleasure. Their aim was "to exist beautifully": Art for Art's sake. It ran from about 1860 to 1900.

❖ Aestheticism originated in England with a radical group of artists and designers, including William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

❖ It flourished in the 1870s and 1880s, gaining prominence and the support of notable writers, especially Oscar Wilde.

Oscar Wilde Memorial Sculpture, Dublin



OSCAR
WILDE

SEXUALITY – PRISON

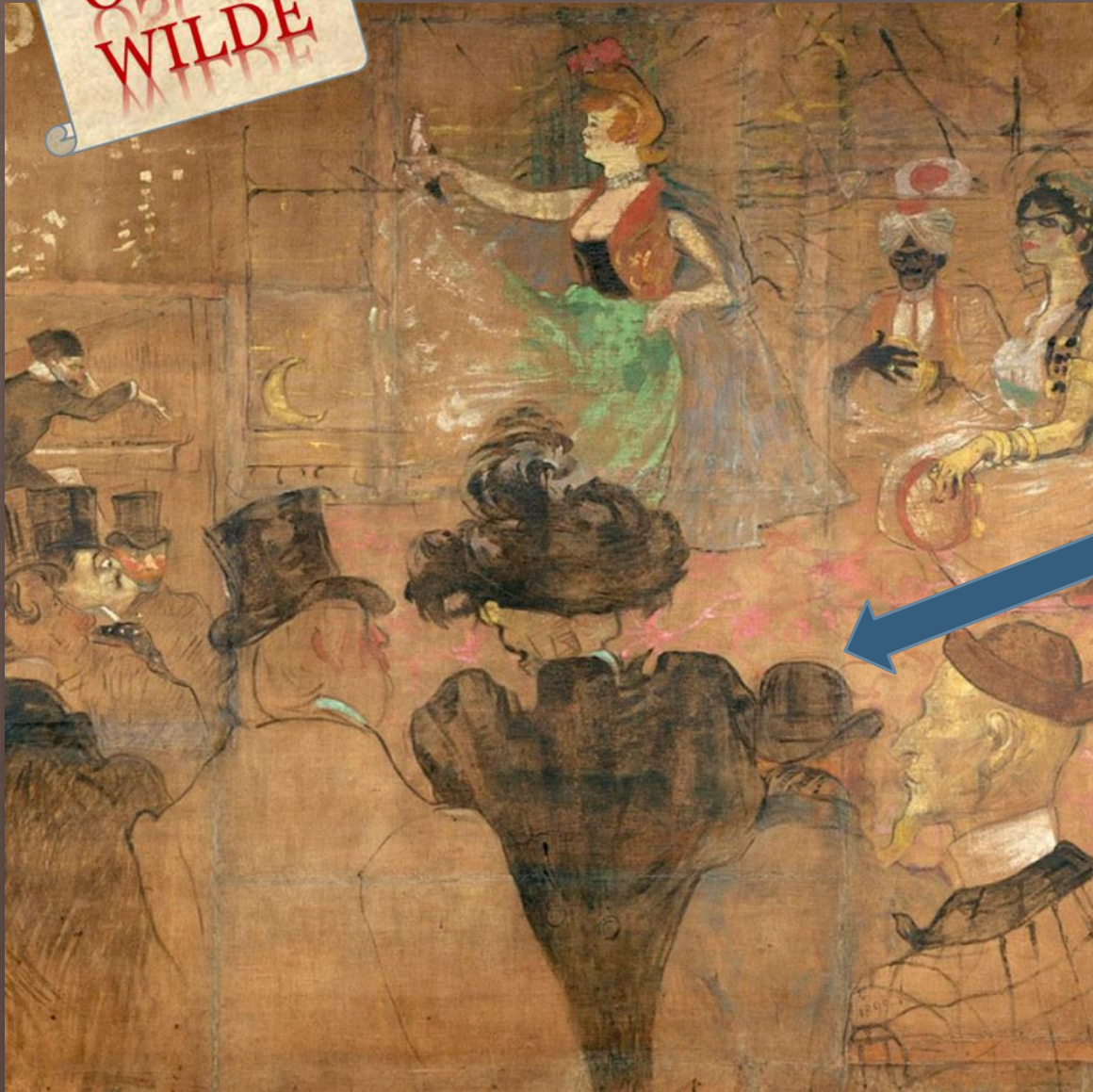
- ❖ Considered homosexual or bisexual
- ❖ Lord Alfred Douglas
- ❖ Convicted of homosexuality in 1895
- ❖ Changed name to Sebastian Melmoth
- ❖ Moved to Paris



Père Lachaise Cemetery
Paris, France



OSCAR
WILDE



Toulouse Lautrec's portraits of Oscar Wilde appeared on the 1896 programme for the Théâtre de l'Œuvre. That evening, Wilde's play 'Salomé', banned in London 4 years prior, premiered at the Théâtre de l'Œuvre in Paris. A fine revenge on English censorship!

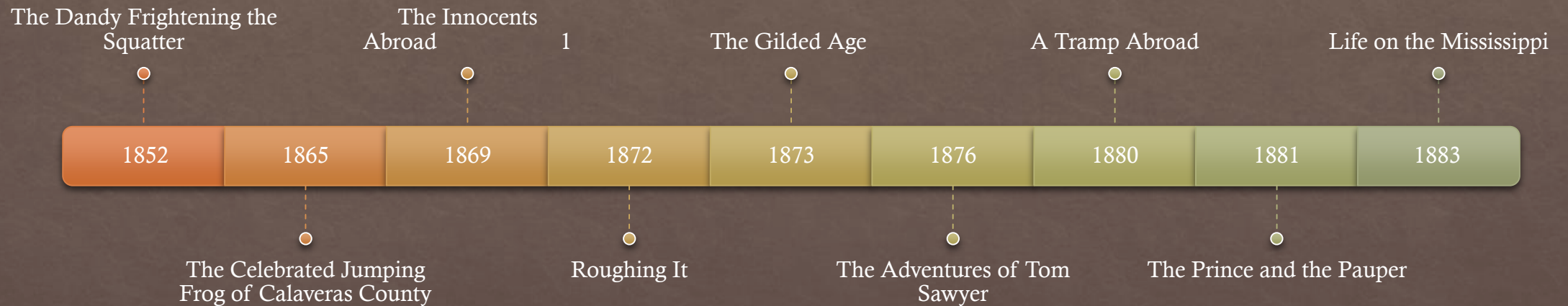
The year of Wilde's trial, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec produced two posters. In the foreground of the panel called "Moorish dance", hidden in the Parisian audience, we can make out the refined manners and elegant figure of the English dandy, Oscar Wilde.

In so doing, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec immortalized the author of the Portrait of Dorian Gray, who wished to "make [his] life a work of art."

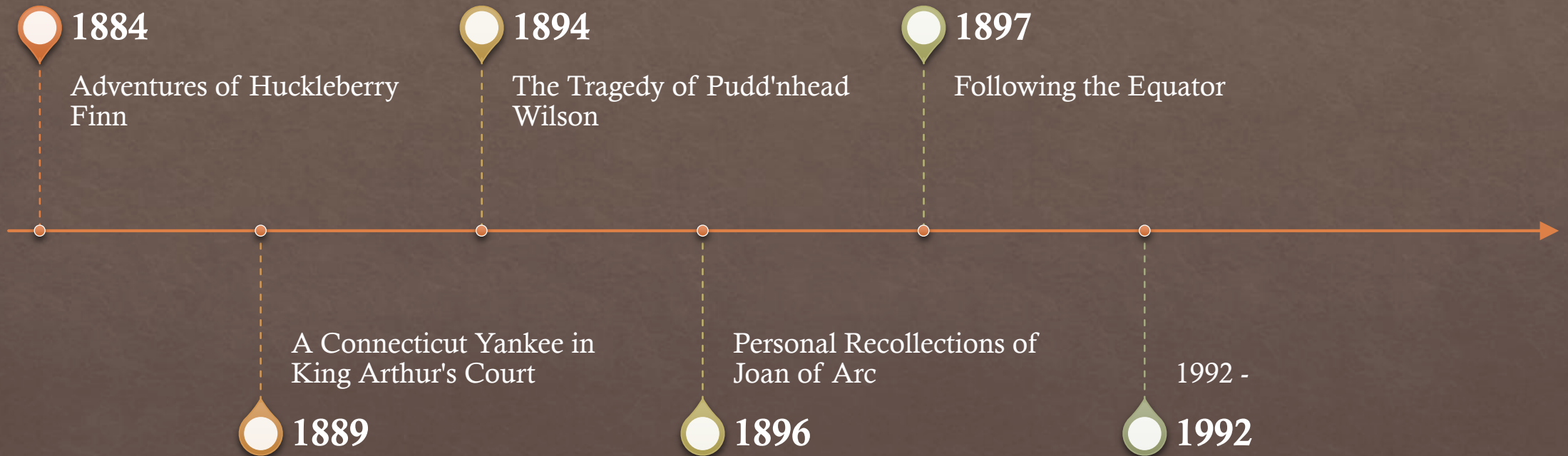
PART II WORKS



Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature



Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature



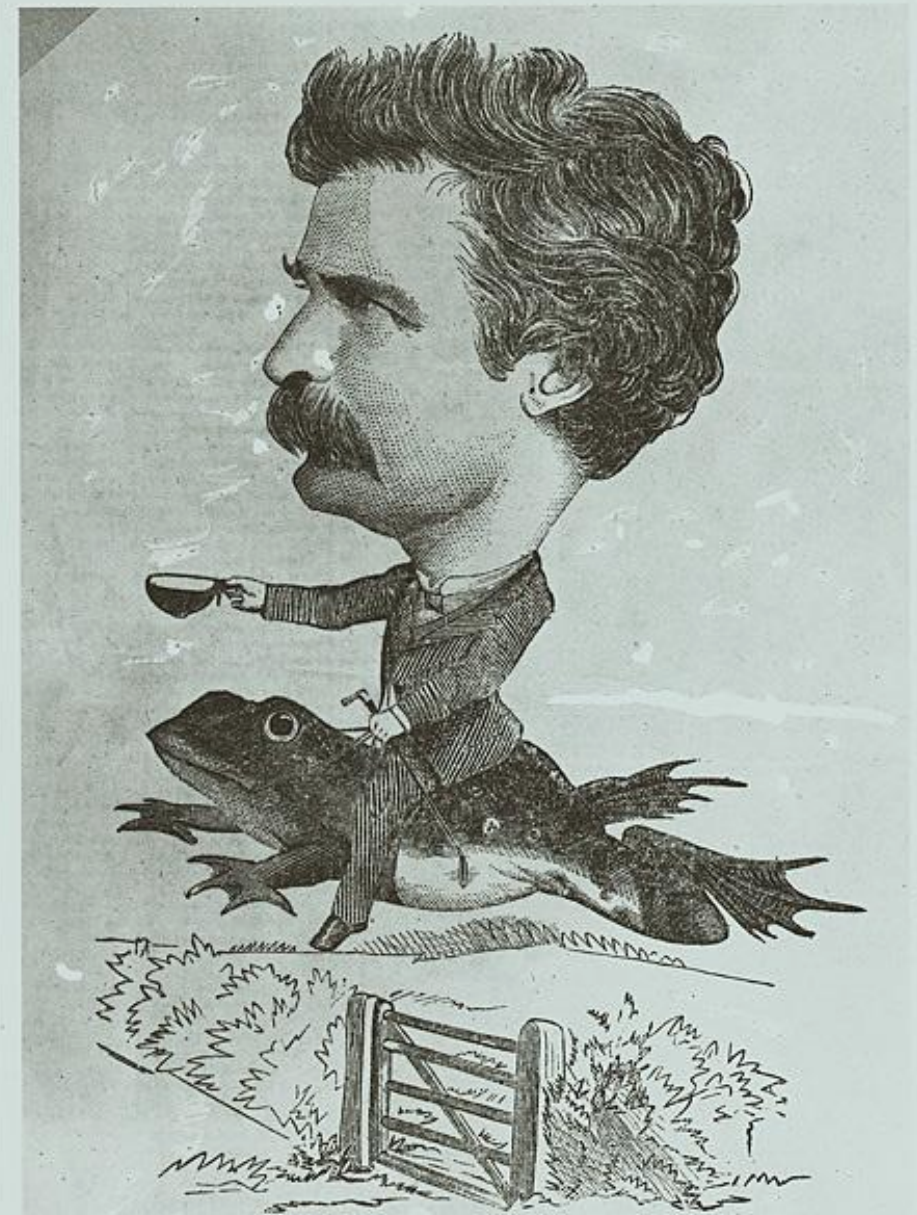
Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature

- ◆ Humour is mankind's greatest blessing – Mark Twain

Humor, like poetry contains some extra content

"But there is often a rather fine line between laughing and crying and if a humorous piece of writing brings a person to the point where his emotional response is untrustworthy and seem likely to brak over into the opposite realm, it is because humour like poetry has an extra content. It plays close to the big hot fire which is Truth, and sometimes the reader feels the heat" - E.B. White

Three theories (superiority, relief, incongruity)



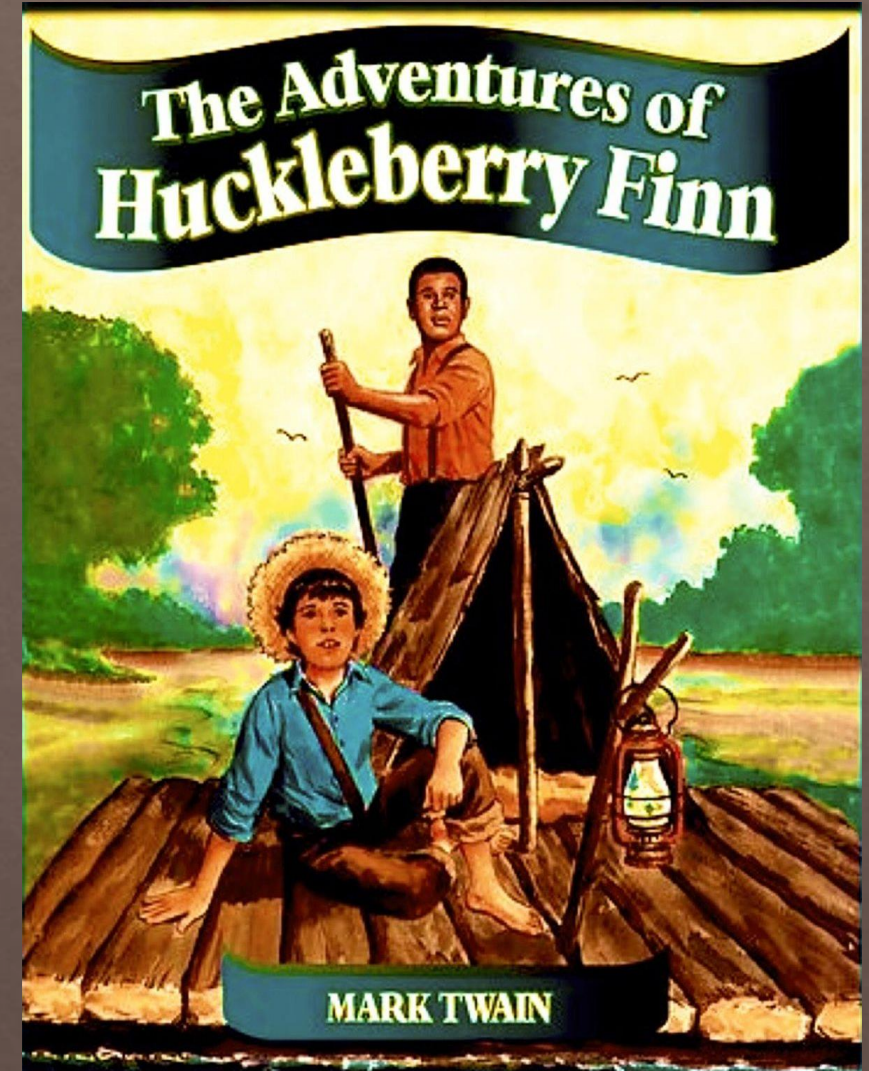
BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, FEB. 7th

*Tickets at 244 Fulton St. and
172 Montague St.*



Mark Twain – The Father of American Literature

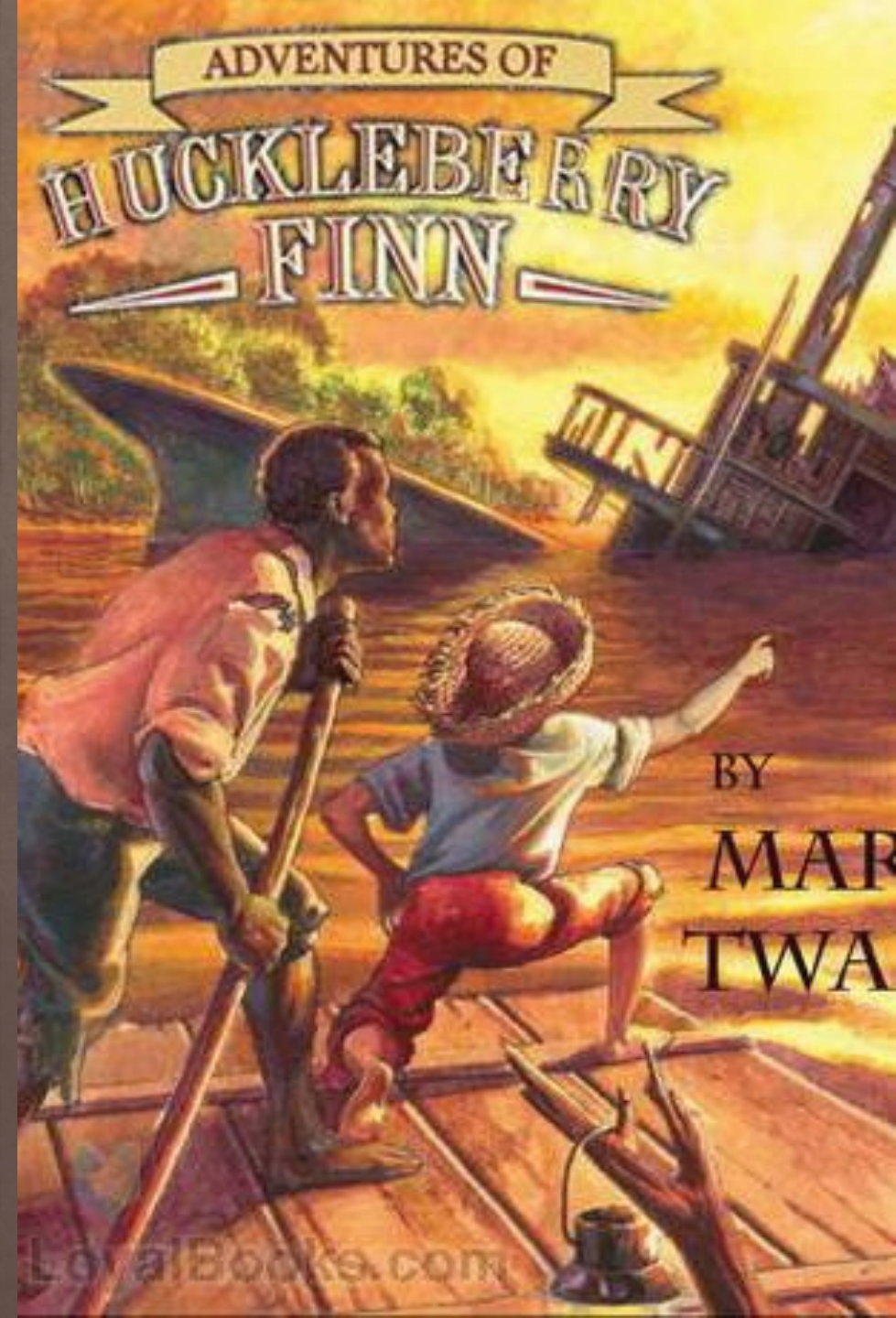
- ◆ Satire - use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.
- ◆ Huckleberry Finn:
- ◆ Sequel of Tom Sawyer
- ◆ Epic, picaresque and a satire
- ◆ Twain's story of a **runaway boy** and an escaped slave's travels on the Mississippi plumbs the essential meaning of freedom.
- ◆ condemning the institutionalized racism of the pre-Civil War South
- ◆ Huck Finn lacks humour
- ◆ First person narrator and colloquial language
- ◆ Celebrates freedom

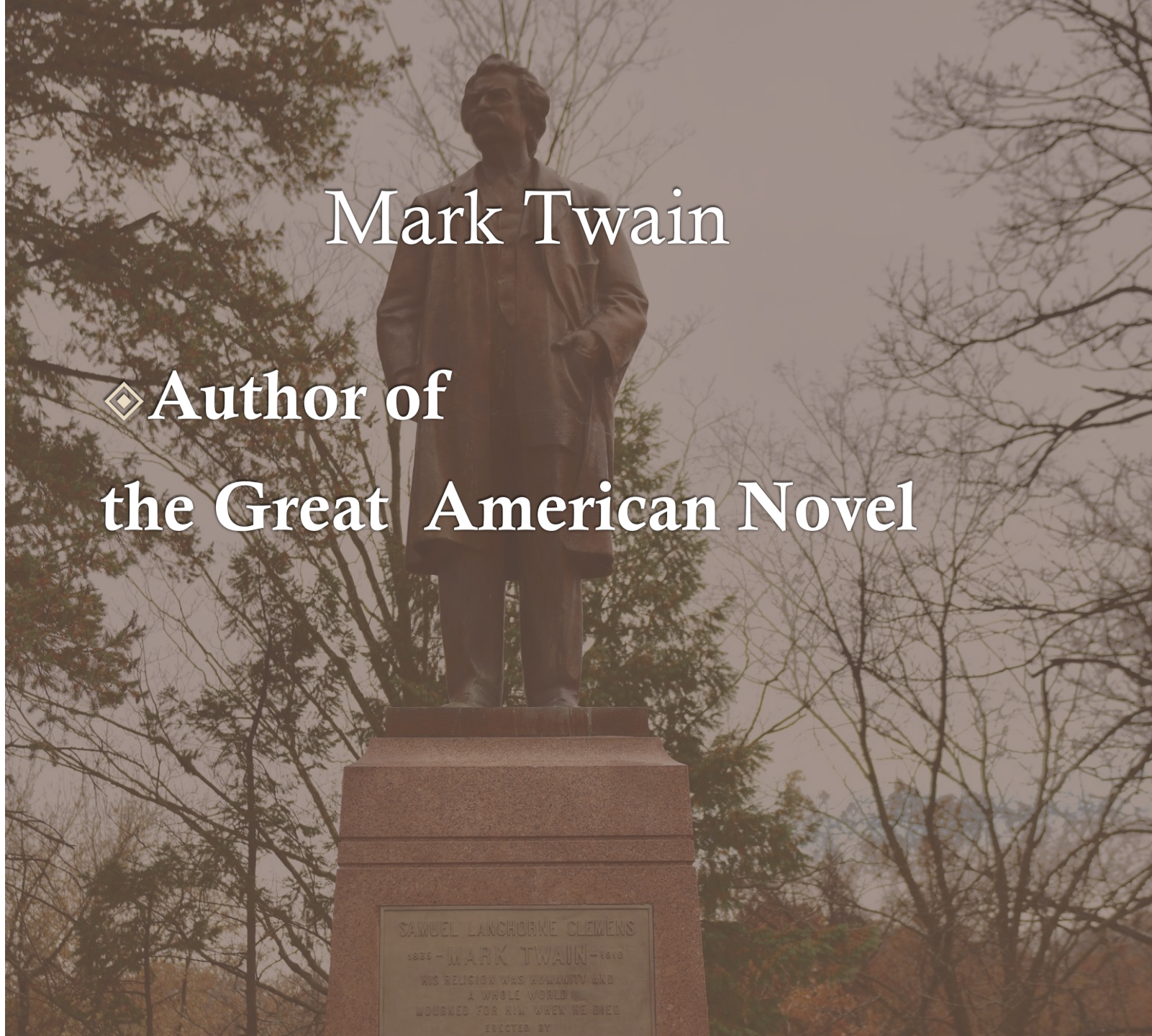


Mark Twain – The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

- ◆ "It was a close place. I took it up, and held it in my hand. I was a trembling, because I'd got to decide, forever, betwixed two things and I knowed it. I studied a minute, sort of holding my breath, and then says to myself: All right then I'll go to hell" - and tore it up.

It was awful thoughts and awful words but they was said. And I let them be said; and never thought no more about reforming, I shoved the whole thing out of my head, and said I would take up wickedness again which was in my line, being brung up to it and the other warn't. And for a starter I would go to work and steal Jim out of slavery again; and if I could think up anything worse I would do that, too; because as long as I was in, and inn for good, I might as well go the whole hog."





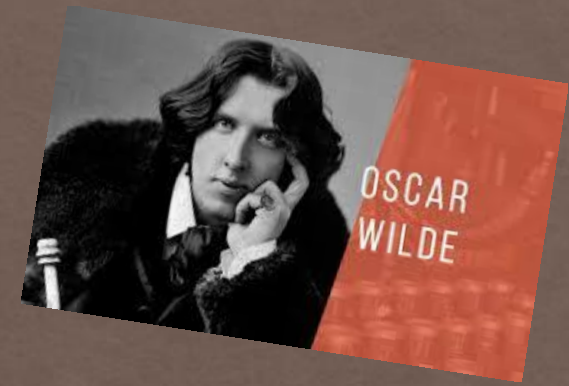
Mark Twain

◆ Author of
the Great American Novel

SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS
1835 - MARK TWAIN - 1910
HIS RELIGION WAS HUMANITY AND
A WHOLE WORLD
WORKED FOR HIM WHEN HE DIED
ERECTED BY

OSCAR WILDE

LITERARY WORKS



- ◆ 1878: Ravenna
- ◆ 1881: Poems
- ◆ 1888: The Happy Prince and Other Tales
- ◆ 1889: The Decay of Lying
- ◆ 1891: The Picture of Dorian Gray
- ◆ 1891: Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories
- ◆ 1891: Intentions
- ◆ 1891: Salome
- ◆ 1892: The House of Pomegranates
- ◆ 1892: Lady Windermere's Fan
- ◆ 1893: A Woman of No Importance
- ◆ 1893: The Duchess of Padua
- ◆ 1894: The Sphinx
- ◆ 1895: An Ideal Husband
- ◆ 1895: The Importance of Being Earnest
- ◆ 1898: The Ballad of Reading Gaol

OSCAR
WILDE

The Picture of Dorian Gray

- ❖ It is the only published novel by Oscar Wilde
- ❖ Published first time in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, 1890
- ❖ Classic gothic horror fiction

Action

Dorian Gray is a young man who is a subject of a painting by Basil Hallward. Basil admires Dorian's beauty. Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, who is espousing a new hedonism. Dorian is obsessed with Lord Henry's worldview and he expresses a desire to sell his soul, to be sure that the painting Basil had made ages instead of Dorian himself. That way he can stay young and keep his beauty.

THE PICTURE OF
DORIAN GRAY



CHARACTER WITH GLOSSY AND NOISE



The Picture of Dorian Gray and Aestheticism

Oscar Wilde prefaces his novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, with a reflection on art, the artist, and the utility of both. After careful scrutiny, he concludes: “All art is quite useless”. In this one sentence, Wilde encapsulates the complete principles of the Aesthetic Movement popular in Victorian England.



That is to say, real art takes no part in molding the social or moral identities of society, nor should it. Art should be beautiful and pleasure its observer, but to imply further-reaching influence would be a mistake.

To the aesthete, the ideal life mimics art; it is beautiful, but quite useless beyond its beauty, concerned only with the individual living it.

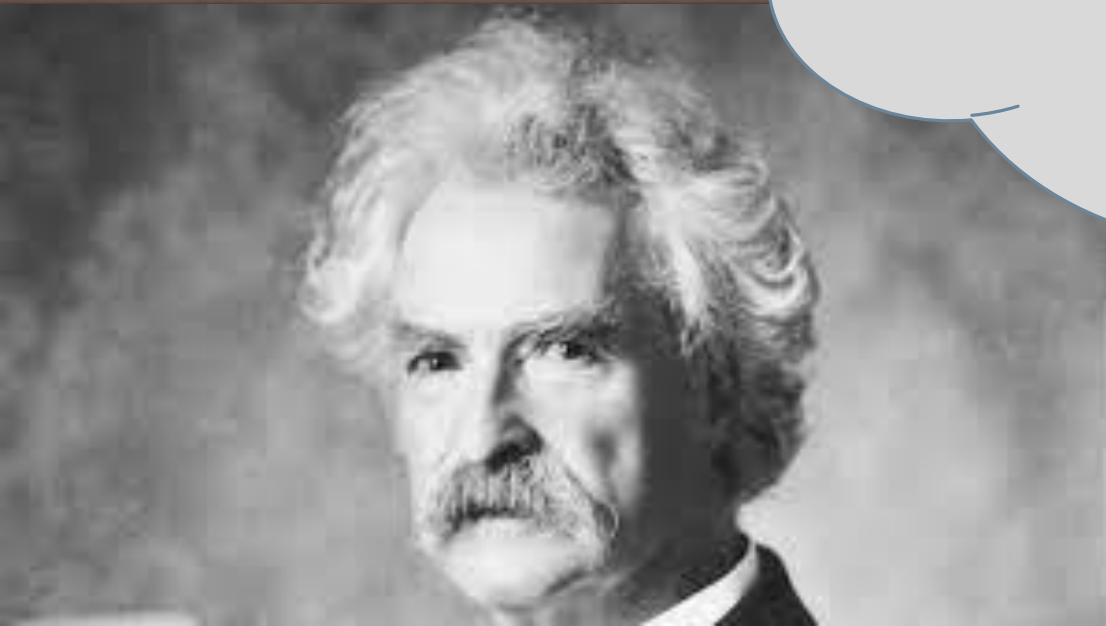
PART III
WIT AND WITTICISM

Twain & Wilde

"A full belly is little worth where the mind is starved."

"The lack of money is the root of all evil."

"Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to."

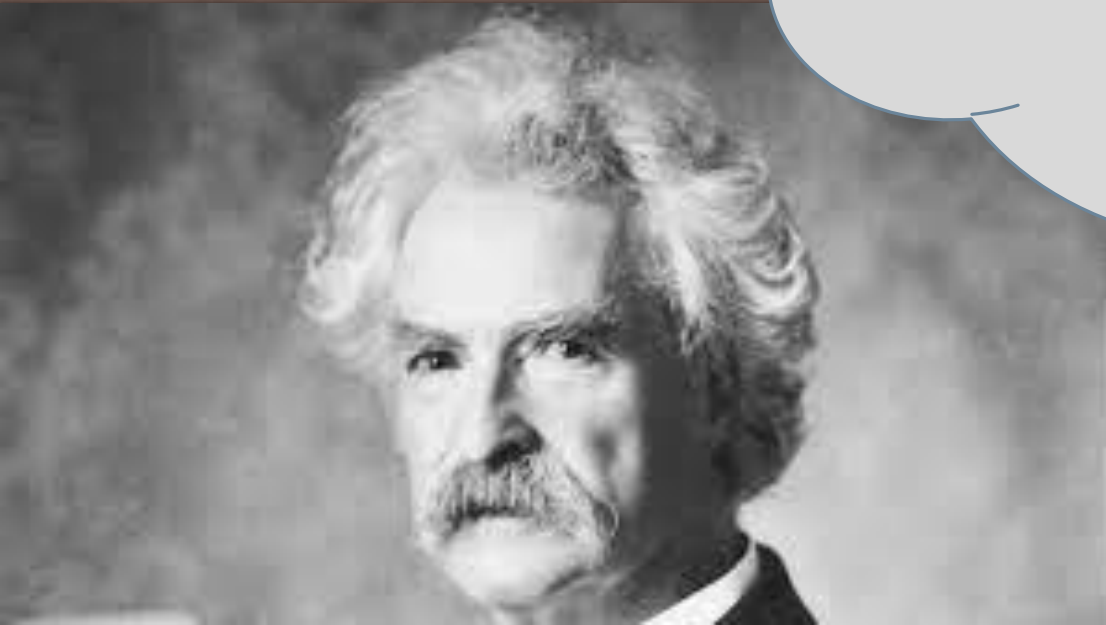


**"There is no sadder thing than a young pessimist,
except an old optimist."**

"Prosperity is the best protector of principle."

**"All good things arrive unto them that wait and
don't die in the meantime."**

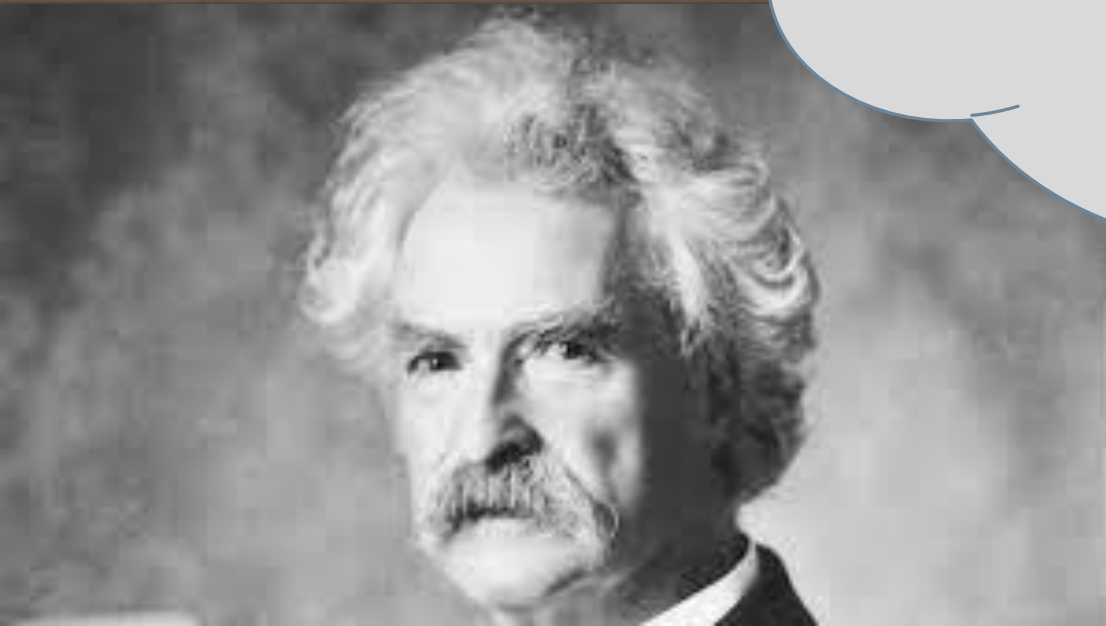
"Be good and you will be lonesome."



"Travel is fatal to prejudice."

"Books are the liberated spirits of men."

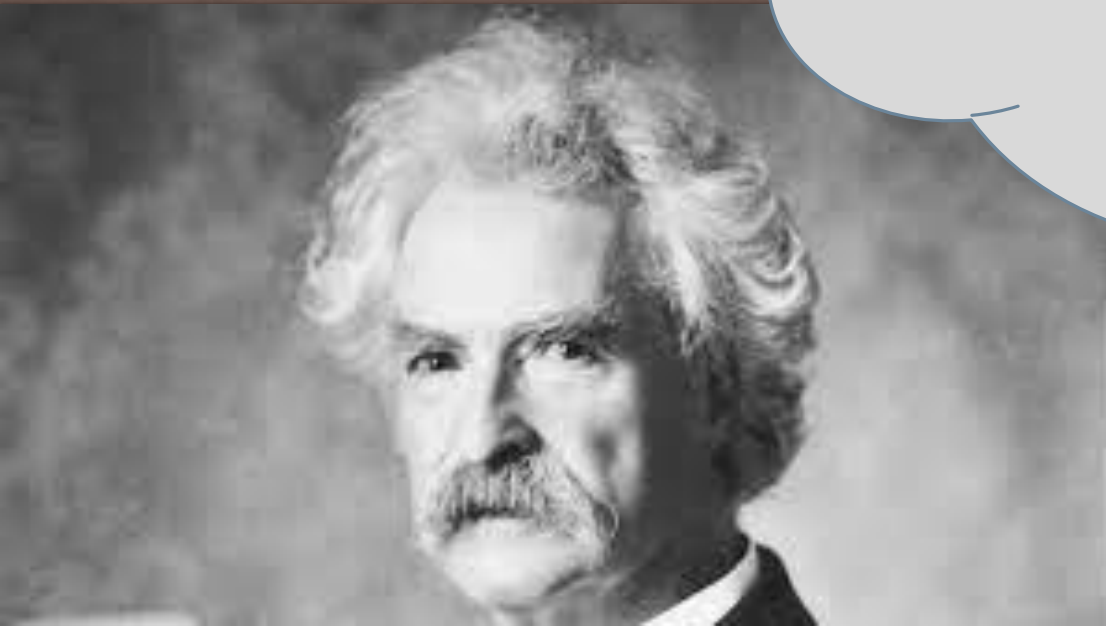
"If books are not good company, where will I find it?"



**"A person who won't read has no advantage
over one who can't read."**

**"Clothes do not merely make the man...clothes are
the man."**

**It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the
fight in the dog.**



❖ “There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all.”

❖ “An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all.”

❖ “Experience Is Merely the Name Men Gave to Their Mistakes.”” *The Picture of Dorian Gray*



❖ **“Words! Mere words! How terrible they were! How clear, and vivid, and cruel! One could not escape from them. And yet what a subtle magic there was in them! They seemed to be able to give a plastic form to formless things, and to have a music of their own as sweet as that of viol or of lute. Mere words! Was there anything so real as words?”**

The Picture of Dorian Gray



❖ **“The imagination imitates. It is the critical spirit that creates.”**

❖ **“I was working on the proof of one of my poems all the morning, and took out a comma. In the afternoon I put it back again.”**

❖ **”Be yourself; everyone is already taken.”**



❖ **Don't mimic other people's style: "They are always asking a writer why he does not write like somebody else, or a painter why he does not paint like somebody else, quite oblivious of the fact that if either of them did anything of the kind he would cease to be an artist."**

❖ **I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train.**

❖ **"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it."**



- 1.It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.
- 2.All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.
- 3.Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people we personally dislike.
- 4.It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.
- 5.If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
- 6.Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.
- 7.I never approve, or disapprove, of anything now. It is an absurd attitude to take towards life.
- 8.Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.
- 9.Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.
- 10.Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.
- 11.A successful book is not made of what is in it, but what is left out of it.
- 12.To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.
- 13.There are some books that refuse to be written. They stand their ground year after year and will not be persuaded. It isn't because the book is not there and worth being written — it is only because the right form of the story does not present itself. There is only one right form for a story and if you fail to find that form the story will not tell itself.
- 14.We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.
- 15.The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to the other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creatures that cannot.

- 1.It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt. **T**
- 2.All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure. **T**
- 3.Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people we personally dislike. **W**
- 4.It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog. **T**
- 5.If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything. **T**
- 6.Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it. **T**
- 7.I never approve, or disapprove, of anything now. It is an absurd attitude to take towards life. **W**
- 8.Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life. **T**
- 9.Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest. **T**
- 10.Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much. **W**
- 11.A successful book is not made of what is in it, but what is left out of it. **T**
- 12.To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all. **W**
- 13.There are some books that refuse to be written. They stand their ground year after year and will not be persuaded. It isn't because the book is not there and worth being written — it is only because the right form of the story does not present itself. There is only one right form for a story and if you fail to find that form the story will not tell itself. **T**
- 14.We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. **W**
- 15.The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to the other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creatures that cannot. **T**

On life

1. It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.
2. All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure
3. It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.
4. I never approve, or disapprove, of anything now. It is an absurd attitude to take towards life.
5. Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.
6. Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.
7. To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.
8. We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.



On writing

- ◆ A successful book is not made of what is in it, but what is left out of it
- ◆ There are some books that refuse to be written. They stand their ground year after year and will not be persuaded. It isn't because the book is not there and worth being written — it is only because the right form of the story does not present itself. There is only one right form for a story and if you fail to find that form the story will not tell itself.

On morality

- ◇ Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest. – Morality
- ◇ Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it
- ◇ If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
- ◇ The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to the other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creatures that cannot.
- ◇ Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people we personally dislike.



Thank you all for being here today and taking the time to patiently listen
to the life stories of these remarkable literary figures.

We hope we managed to shed some light on their vast accomplishments.

We wish you all a wonderful day!