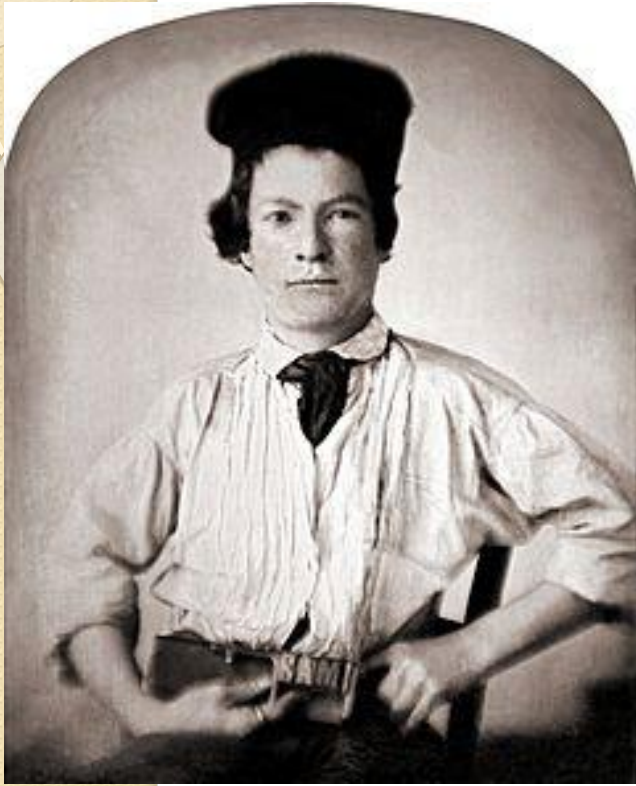


Mark Twain

- **Samuel Langhorne Clemens** (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), better known by his pen name **Mark Twain**, was an American author and humorist.
- He wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and its sequel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), the latter often called "*The Great American Novel*".



Samuel Clemens, age 15


- His parents met when his father moved to Missouri and were married in 1823.
- Twain was the sixth of seven children, but only three of his siblings survived childhood: Orion (1825–1897); Henry (1838–1858); and Pamela (1827–1904). His sister Margaret (1833–1839) died when he was three, and his brother Benjamin (1832–1842) died three years later. Another brother, Pleasant (1828–1829), died at six months.




- Mark relocated between San Francisco, New York, and Missouri. During this time he also met Olivia Langdon, whom he married on February 2, 1870. In November of the same year, their first son, Langdon Clemens, was born prematurel



In March of 1872, Twain's daughter Susan Olivia was born, and the family appeared prosperous. Unfortunately, Langdon soon came down with Diphtheria and died. Twain was torn apart by his son's death, and blamed himself. Moreover, *Roughing It* was only mildly successful, which added to the family's hardships.

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- After traveling to Europe for a lecture series, Twain experienced a turning point in his career. Twain's newest novel, *The Gilded Age*, written in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner, was published in 1873. The novel is about the 1800s era of corruption and exploitation at the expense of public welfare. *The Gilded Age* was Twain's first extended work of fiction and marked him in the literary world as an author rather than a journalist.

- Twain died on April 21, 1910, having survived his children Langdon, Susan and Jean as well as his wife, Olivia. In his lifetime, he became a distinguished member of the literati, and was honored by Yale, the University of Missouri, and Oxford with literary degrees. With his death, many volumes of his letters, articles, and fables were published, including: *The Letters of Quintas Curtius Snodgrass* (1946); *Simon Wheeler, Detective* (1963); *The Works of Mark Twain: What is Man? and Other Philosophical Writings* (1973); and *Mark Twain's Notebooks and Journals* (1975-79). Perhaps more than any other classic American writer, Mark Twain is seen as a phenomenal author, but also as a personality that defined an era.

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- Other works include:
 - *Punch, Brothers, Punch! and Other Stories* (1878)
 - *A Tramp Abroad* (1880)
 - *The Stolen White Elephant* (1882)
 - *Life on the Mississippi* (1883)
 - *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889)
 - *Merry Tales* (1892)
 - *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* (1896)
 - *How to Tell a Story and Other Essays* (1897)
 - *A Dog's Tale* (1904)
 - *Is Shakespeare Dead?* (1909)