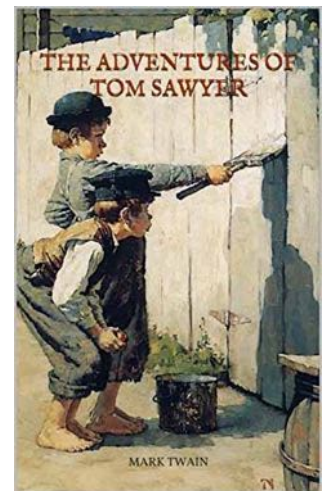


Mark Twain's real name was *Samuel Langhorne Clemens*. When he was four, his family moved to the small town of Hannibal on the Mississippi River, where his father opened a grocery store. He spent his childhood watching the giant lumber rafts and the steamboats on the river. When he was twelve, his father died, and Sam left school to do odd jobs to earn money for his family.

At 13 he became a printer's apprentice. He began writing for local newspapers. For almost four years he worked as a river-pilot on the local steamboats. Later he remembered those years as the most carefree of his life. After trying his luck next as a gold miner, he

became a full-time writer using the pen name *Mark Twain*, a phrase from his steamboat days. It was the call made by the pilot when the boat was in safe water, indicating a depth of two (or *twain*) fathoms (about four metres).

Mark Twain was an excellent storyteller and wrote in a brilliantly funny way about the Southern way of life. In *Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) he painted a wonderful picture of life on and around the Mississippi, describing it exactly as the boys in the story would see it. Many of the people and places in these stories are from the years when Mark Twain was a boy in Hannibal (Hannibal is the town of St Petersburg in his stories). He wrote many other novels and also a book about his travels.



The great American novelist and Nobel Prize winner Ernest Hemingway once wrote in an essay: *All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn.*

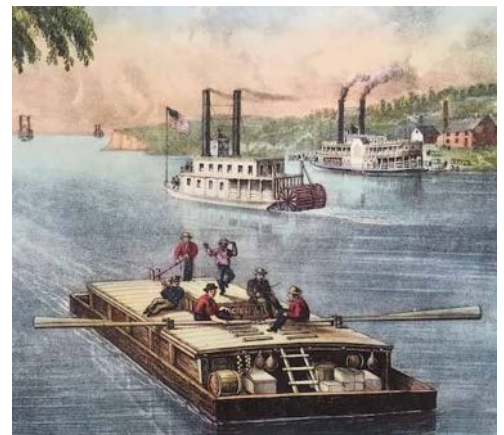
**grocery:** food store  
**lumber:** timber, wood  
**raft:** flatboat

**odd:** unusual, strange  
**pilot:** navigator, guide  
**carefree:** untroubled

**phrase:** expression  
**depth:** deepness  
**fathoms:** measures

## WHAT DOESN'T BELONG IN THE SERIES?

small	<b>brilliant</b>	little	tiny	unimportant
giant	large	great	almost	huge
real	true	actual	local	existent
change	move	travel	alter	stay
store	warehouse	shop	grocery	steamboat
novel	travel	trip	journey	voyage
carefree	untroubled	peaceful	unworried	exactly
phrase	sentence	odd	expression	saying
safe	funny	witty	humorous	amusing
author	novelist	storyteller	writer	miner
way	style	kind	pilot	system
contemporary	modern	deep	up-to-date	recent



## WHAT ARE / WERE THEIR JOBS? UNDERLINE:

**Mark Twain**  
**Joe Biden**  
**Taylor Swift**  
**Rowan Atkinson**  
**Ernest Hemingway**  
**Albert Einstein**

painter  
 politician  
 housewife  
 sailor  
 surgeon  
 physicist

teacher  
 locksmith  
 singer  
 comedian  
 novelist  
 bricklayer

**writer**  
 novelist  
 carpenter  
 engineer  
 dentist  
 pastor

policeman  
 chef  
 taxi driver  
 pickpocket  
 farmer  
 undertaker