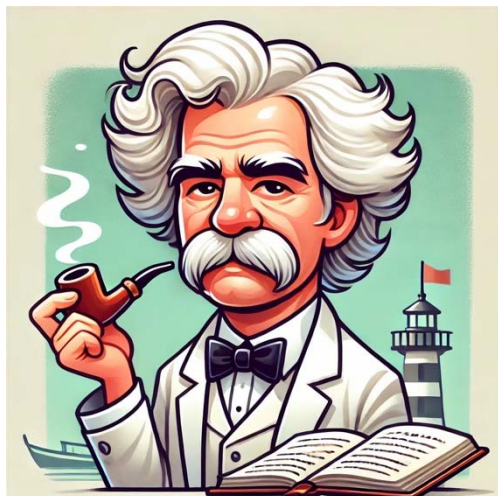


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Mark Twain: The Man Behind the Stories

Mark Twain was one of America's most famous writers. He wrote funny and adventurous books that people still love today. His real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens, but he used the name Mark Twain when writing. Twain's stories about childhood, friendship, and adventure have made him one of the most important authors in history.

### Early Life and Childhood

Mark Twain was born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, but grew up in the town of Hannibal, Missouri, near the Mississippi River. As a boy, he loved exploring the river, playing with his friends, and listening to stories from travelers. His childhood experiences later inspired many of his famous books. Twain's father died when he was only 11 years old, so he had to start working to help his family. He became a printer's apprentice, learning how to put words onto paper. Later, he worked as a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River, guiding large boats safely through the waters. This job taught him many lessons that he later used in his stories.

### Becoming a Writer

Twain loved to tell stories, and his sense of humor made his writing special. He started working as a newspaper reporter, traveling across the country and writing about his adventures. In 1865, he became famous after publishing a short story called *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. People loved his funny way of telling stories. His most famous books include:

- **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)** – A story about a mischievous boy named Tom and his adventures with his best friend, Huck.
- **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885)** – A book about Huck and a runaway slave named Jim as they travel down the Mississippi River. This book is considered one of the greatest American novels ever written.

### Challenges and Later Life

Although Twain became famous and earned a lot of money, he also faced difficult times. He lost much of his money in bad business investments and had to travel and give speeches to pay his debts. He also experienced personal sadness when some of his family members passed away. Despite these challenges, Twain continued to write, making people laugh and think with his stories. He used his books to talk about important issues, such as fairness and freedom.

### Mark Twain's Legacy

Mark Twain passed away on April 21, 1910, but his stories still inspire people today. His books are studied in schools, and many movies and plays have been made about his characters. His writing style—funny, honest, and full of adventure—has made him one of the most loved authors in history. Mark Twain once said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started." His life and work show that with hard work, curiosity, and a love of storytelling, anything is possible.

