

AMERICAN LITERATURE ~ 2ND SEMESTER

MASTERS OF REALISM ~ PART TWO

SAMUEL CLEMENS

Missouri Years

- Grew up in Hannibal Missouri - inspiration for the books about Tom Sawyer & Huckleberry Finn

Life on the Mississippi

- Worked as a Riverboat pilot until the Civil War interrupted Mississippi River traffic

California Years

- During the Civil War, he went west to try prospecting
- He got a job as a newspaper reporter and began writing.
- He met Bret Harte who helped him - "Bret Harte trimmed and trained and schooled me patiently."
- He wrote: *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*

Holy Land Tour

- The newspaper sent him to report on a tour to the Holy Land.
- From this experience, he wrote: *Innocents Abroad or the New Pilgrim's Progress*
- He also met Olivia Langdon and her Christian family on this tour

Marriage to Livy Langdon

- After the tour, he traveled to New York to court Livy Langdon
- They got married and her dad set Sam up in a business in Buffalo, NY and he bought them a house

The Hartford Years

- Nook Farm Neighborhood - Neighbors of Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Livy & Sam had three daughters - Susy, Clara, and Jean (a son Langdon had died as a baby)
- They built a home with 3 floors and 19 rooms. It cost \$30,000 a month to run (average salary was \$500 a year)
- Sam coined the term "The Gilded Age" for the pretentious way people lived in the 1880's
- For 20 summers, the Clemens family lived at the country home - Quarry Farm - owned by Livy's sister
Livy's sister built Sam an octagonal-shaped study away from the house - Very productive years for him
He'd write all day and then read what he had written to the family in the evenings!

- *Life on the Mississippi*
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- *The Prince and the Pauper*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

- They were an extremely happy family! Put on plays, read books out-loud, entertained guests often!
- Sam tried making more money
Invested in new inventions - especially an automatic typesetting machine
Created his own publishing company and initially made a fortune publishing the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant
- Lost all his money - debts over \$200,000

Europe

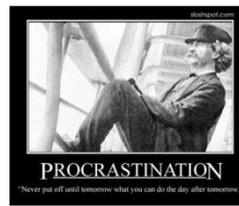
- Closed up the beautiful Hartford House and went to Europe where they could live more cheaply
- Spent about a decade in Europe
- He wrote: *Tom Sawyer Abroad* and *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
- After declaring bankruptcy, Sam made a public promise to pay back all his debts

World Lecture Tour

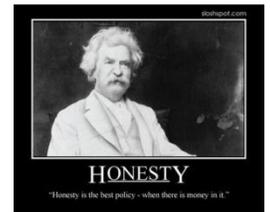
- To pay his debts, Sam scheduled a one-year lecture around the world
- Livy and middle daughter Klara accompanied him
- Traveled across America and then on to Hawaii, Australia, India, South Africa, England ("Beginning in Cleveland, Ohio July 1895 and Closing in London May 1896")
- Daughter Susy died while they were gone - last leg of journey in England

Back to America - Arrived October 16, 1900 to a hero's welcome!

- Lived in New York City instead of Hartford
- Then Livy died and they all fell apart, especially Sam
- Wrote: *The Mysterious Stranger* out of his bitterness - about a cruel God who could make everyone happy, but prefers to punish everyone
- In his grief & hopelessness, Sam became more "Mark Twain" and less "Samuel Clemens"
- He wore only white suits and red socks, and he hob-knobbed with the rich and famous with ATTITUDE



LECTURE NOTES



WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS	HENRY JAMES	SAMUEL L. CLEMENS (Mark Twain)
Very prolific writer	Very prolific writer	
From a very poor family	From a very wealthy family	From a very poor family
Little formal education	Highly educated - Through travels and books!	Education ended at age 12
Avid Reader	Avid Reader	Avid Do-er
Had to work from a young age	Never worked - free to simply write	Had to work from a young age
Occupations: Printer, journalist, critic, American Consul to Italy, editor of <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> , Writer	Occupations: Writer	Occupations: Printer, Riverboat Crewman, Riverboat Pilot, Miner, Lumberjack, Lecturer, Writer
Middle Class	Wealthy Upper Class	Frontier Spirit
Known for bringing respectability to Realism	Known for Psychological Realism	Known for being a Humorist and Satirist
External Characters Characters viewed from without	Internal Characters Characters viewed from within	Life Experiences Telling about Life Experiences with Humor & Symbolism & Romance
Most Famous Works: <i>The Rise of Silas Lapham</i> <i>Biography of Abe Lincoln</i> 	Most Famous Works: <i>The American</i> <i>Daisy Miller</i> <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> <i>The Ambassadors</i> 	Most Famous Works: <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i> <i>The Prince and the Pauper</i> <i>The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County</i>