

## Mark Twain Resources for Elementary Students:

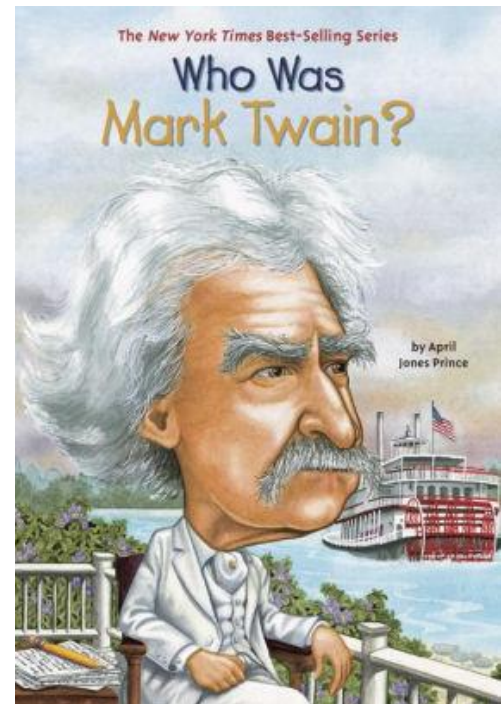
### Biography: Who Was Mark Twain by April Prince

112 pages, age range 8-12 Lexile 910

ISBN: 9780448433196

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This outstanding biography for children not only gives an excellent overview of Twain's life but, like the other books in this excellent series, parallels his life with events in American history. Each chapter begins with a quote by the author, which make for interesting classroom discussions prior to reading.

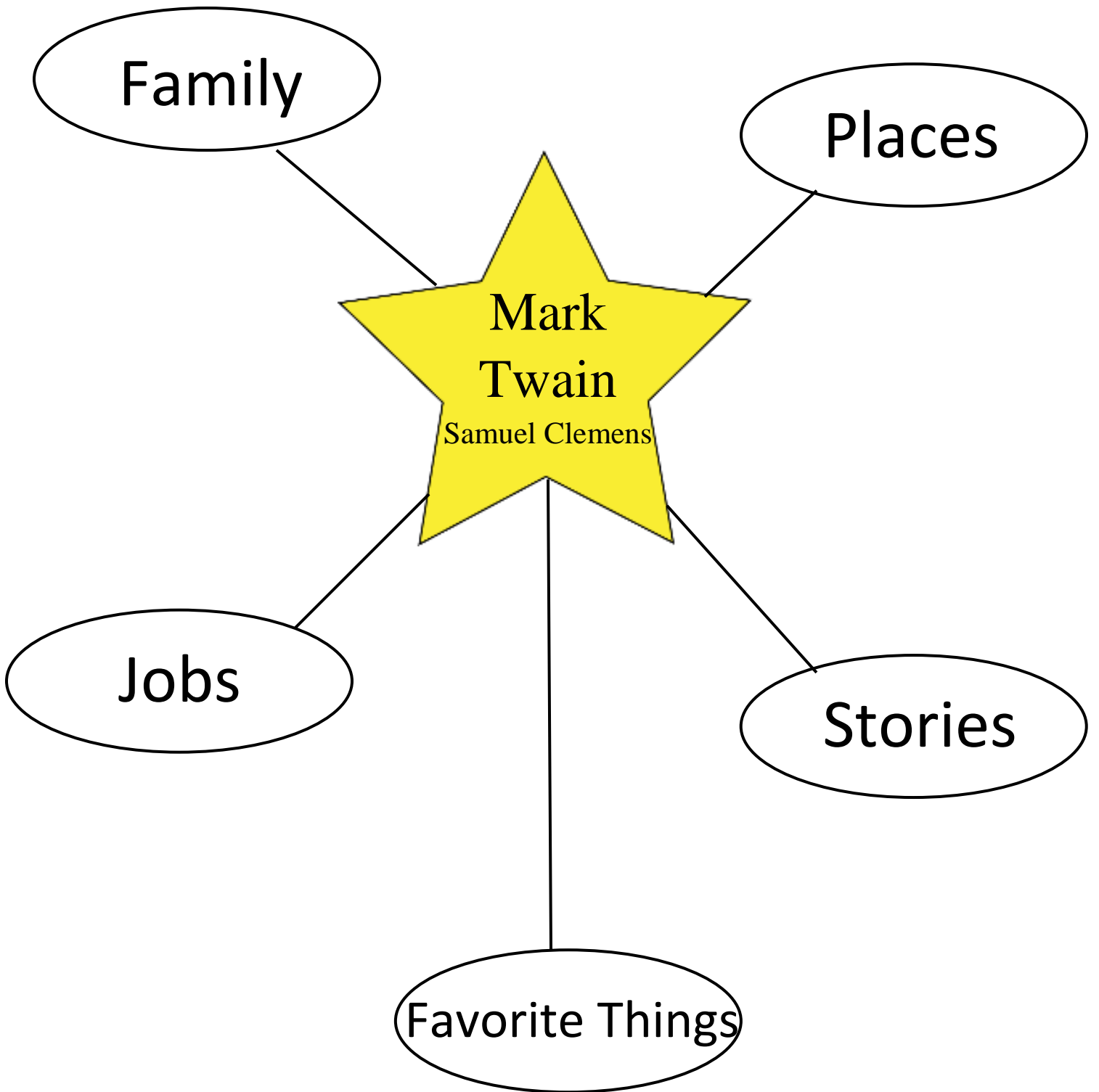
#### **Activity:**

Explicitly teach the definition of a quote—as in to repeat from a book, speech, or the like as an authority.

Twain enjoyed being thought of as an authority on human nature. Discuss the fact that quotes are often open to interpretation.

Journal Guide for Who Was Mark Twain? – The guide cover is a web which can be copied onto a flipchart and added to after each chapter. Encourage students to write small. There will be much to add to this web as they progress through the biography.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Who Was Mark Twain?

By April Jones Prince

## Who Was Mark Twain?

Quote:

*"When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it happened or not."*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Ch. 1: In with the Comet

Quote:

*"There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy's life when he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for treasure."*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

What is Halley's Comet? \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe a Steamboat; \_\_\_\_\_

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## Ch. 2: Life on the Mississippi

Quote:

*"Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do."*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain "Safe Water." \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Ch. 3: Roughing It.

Quote:

*"Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as you please."*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Two things I learned about Twain:

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the Civil War? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Ch. 4: The Celebrated Jumping Frog

Quote:

*“The difference between the right word and the almost-right word is really a large matter—it’s the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.”*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

## Ch. 5: The Gilded Age

Quote:

*“My works are like water. The works of the great masters are like wine. But everybody drinks water.”*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

What was "The Dark Side of the Gilded Age?" \_\_\_\_\_

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### Ch. 6: Tom and Huck

Quote:

*"You can't depend on your judgement when your imagination is out of focus."*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Reconstruction: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Ch. 7: Following the Equator

Quote:

*“There are two times in a man’s life when he should not speculate: when he can’t afford it, and when he can.”*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

15. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

What happened during the “Age of Invention”?

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## Ch. 8: Waiting for the Comet

Quote:

*“I was young and foolish then; now I am old and foolisher.”*

I think Mark Twain is telling us:

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Two things I learned about Twain:

17. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, who was Mark Twain? \_\_\_\_\_

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