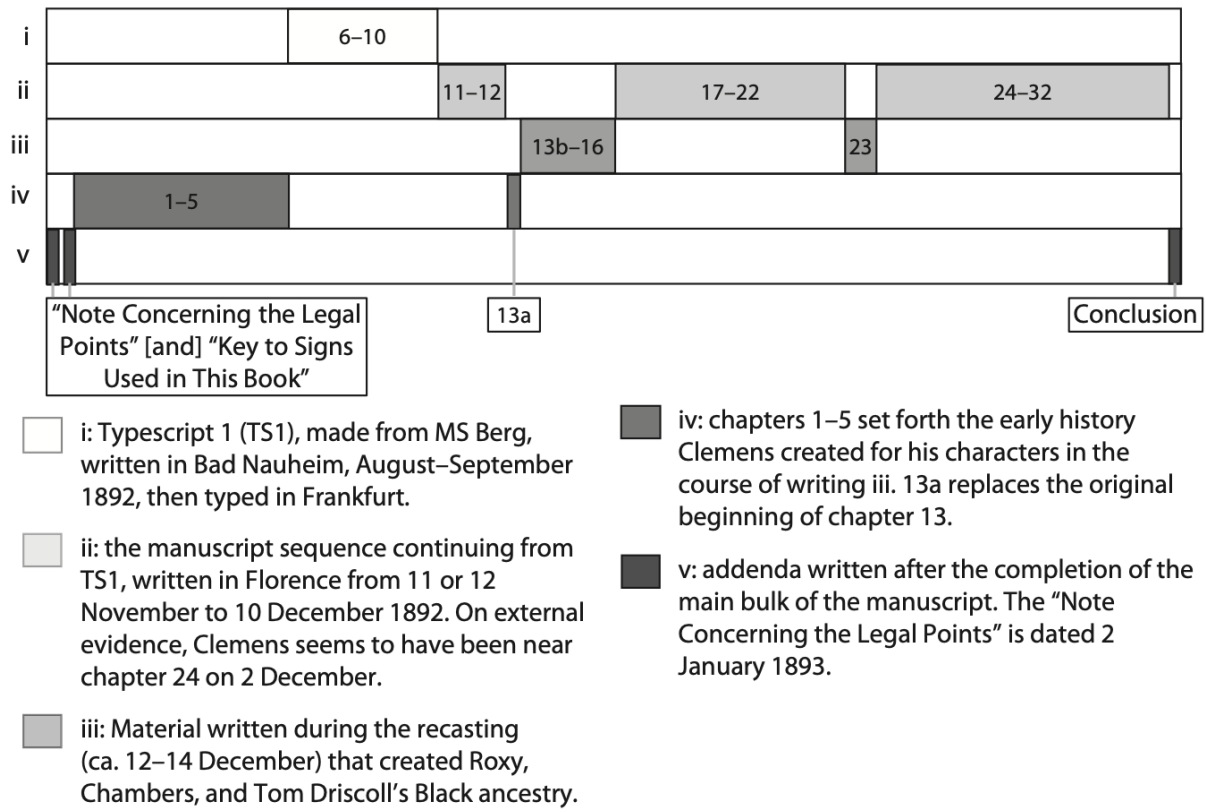


Morgan Manuscript Phases of Completion by Benjamin Griffin



Selected Key Quotes

Even the clearest and most perfect circumstantial evidence is likely to be at fault, after all, and therefore ought to be received with great caution...—Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar.

—*Pudd'nhead Wilson*, 333

"I am not acquainted with my double, my partner in duality, the other and wholly independent personage who resides in me—and whom I will call Watson, for I don't know his name... [he] signs it in a hand which has no resemblance to mine when he takes possession of our partnership body..."

—*Mark Twain's Notebook*, 349-50

"Before the book was half finished those three were taking things almost entirely into their own hands and working the whole tale as a private venture of their own... It seemed abrupt, but I thought maybe the reader wouldn't notice it, because I changed the subject right away to something else."

— *Those Extraordinary Twins: A Postscript to Pudd'nhead Wilson*, 354-5

Redactions

Characterization of Percy Driscoll

Deleted from Morgan Manuscript: We have been excusing the slave for stealing; it is but fair to excuse the master for what might seem to us a sort of rather poor indications of the presence of humanity and softness in his nature. But He was a humane man, and most decidedly and unquestionably so. It was totally impossible for him to deal ungently with a white person who appealed to him for a grace—even a costly one. But he and his ancestors had always been slave-holders, and habit and heredity had made it impossible for him to realize that a negro was a human being... So he took a negro man along with him to sell—took him from the midst of his humble black family and the friends of his childhood, to exile him forever in a far land; and it never occurred to him that that poor creature had a heart in his bosom to break, and left hearts behind him that could break, also.
—Textual Apparatus, 629

In final publication: He knew, himself, that he had done a noble and gracious thing, and he was privately well pleased with his magnanimity; and that night he set the incident down in his diary, so that his son might read it in after years and be thereby moved to deeds of gentleness and humanity himself.

Tom confronting his mixed race

In the Morgan Manuscript but cut for final publication: His blood degraded from original courage to cowardice by decades and generations of insult and outrage inflicted in circumstances which forbade reprisals, and made mute and meek endurance the only refuge and defence.

Whence came that in him which was high, and whence that which was base? That which was high came from either blood, and was the monopoly of neither color; but that which was base was the white blood in him debased by the brutalizing effects of a long-drawn heredity of slave-owning, with the habit of abuse which the possession of irresponsible power always creates and perpetuates, by a law of human nature. So he argued.

—Morgan Manuscript, 91

Habit vs. Heredity // Nature vs. Nurture

Francis Galton, “The History of Twins” (1875): “There is no escape from the conclusion that nature prevails enormously over nurture when the differences of nurture do not exceed what is commonly to be found among persons of the same rank of society and in the same country.”

Ron Chernow, *Mark Twain* (2025): “The entire point of *Pudd'nhead Wilson* is that our social status, not our biological identity, makes us who we are, and that masters grow brutal with the unchecked power they wield over oppressed human beings.”