

Cut Line



NATIONALITY

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PRAISED FOR

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QUOTE



NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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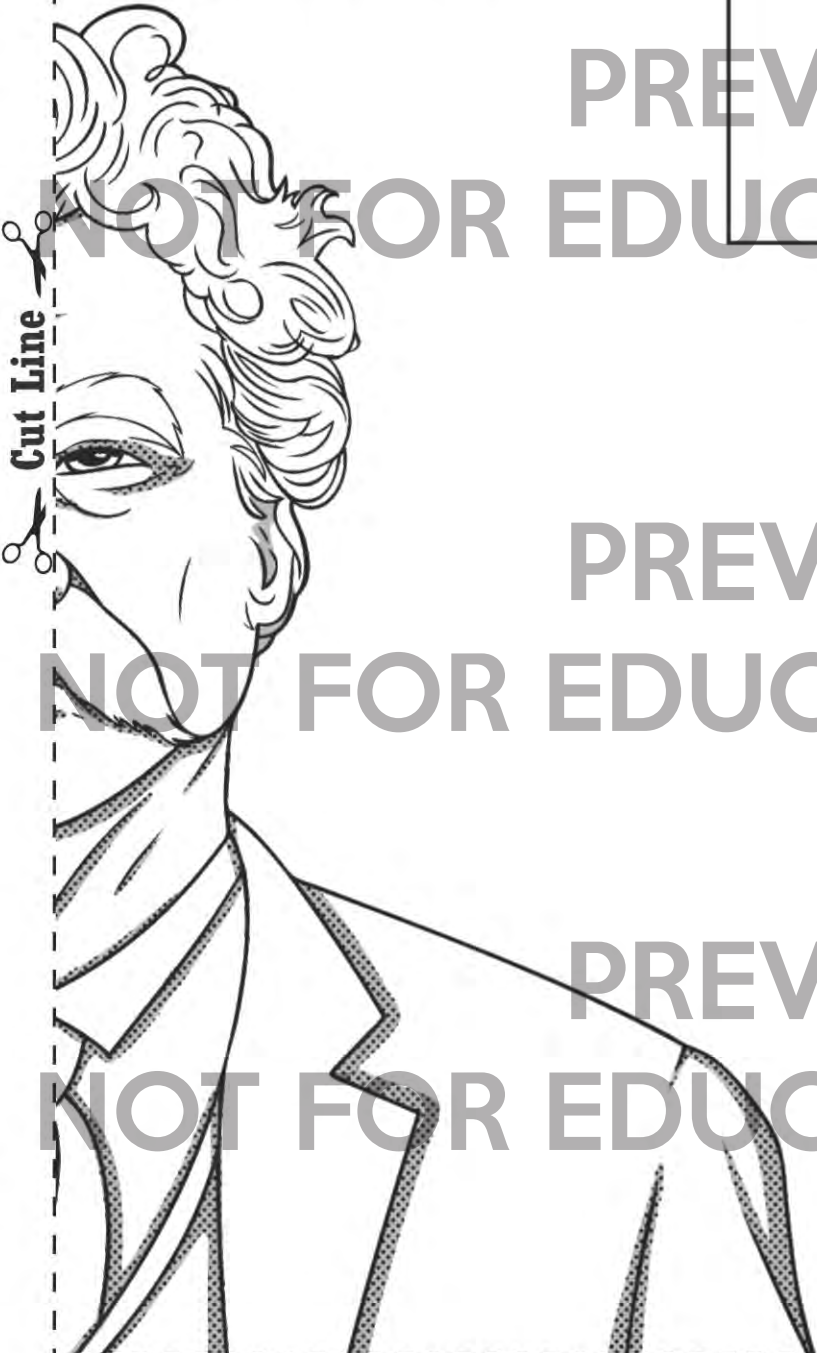
EDUCATION
& CAREER

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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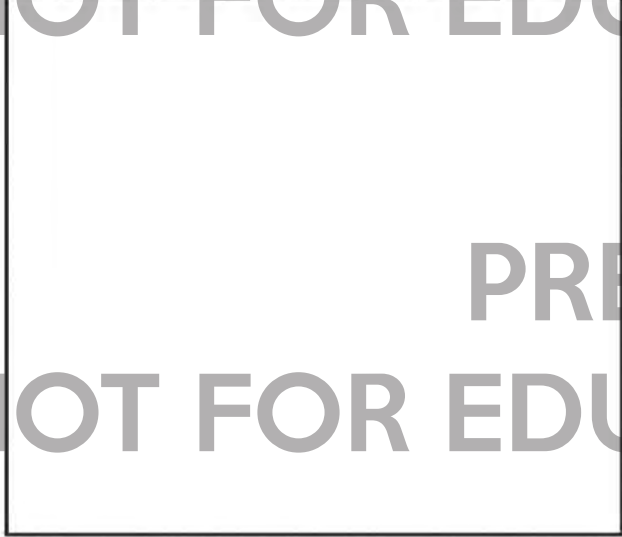
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CRITICIZED FOR



MAJOR OBSTACLE



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PASSION / TALENT



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PERSONAL LIFE

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2 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

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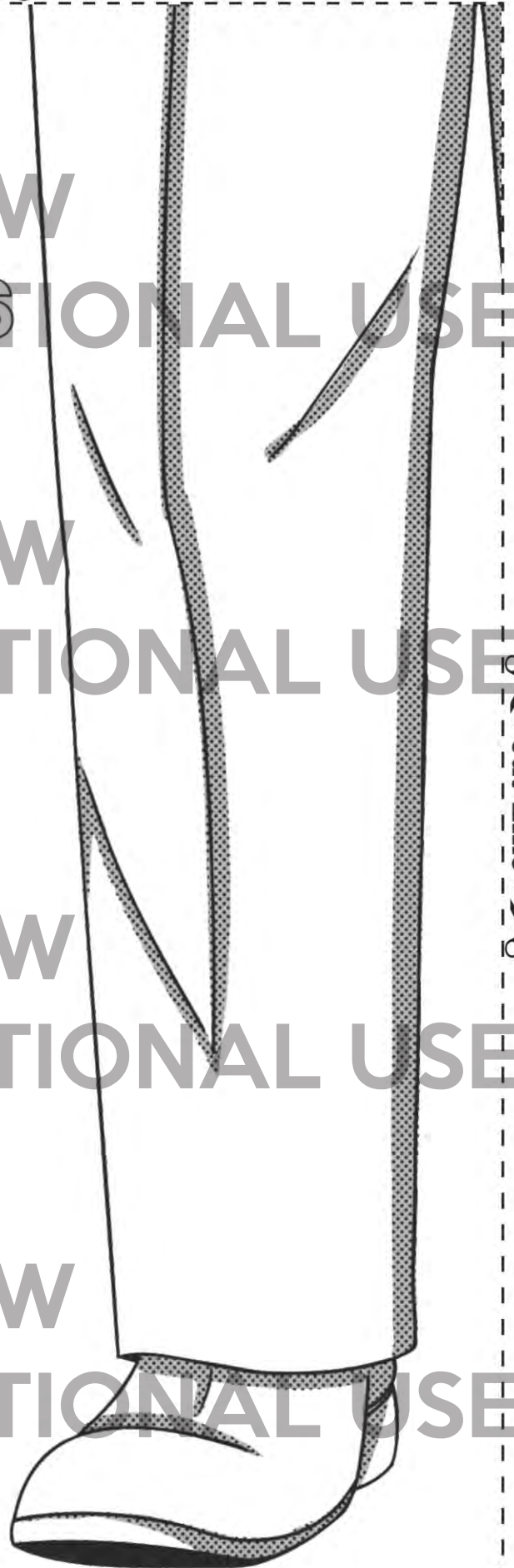
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BIRTH DATE

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PREVIEW

3 ADJECTIVES

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PREVIEW

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DEATH DATE

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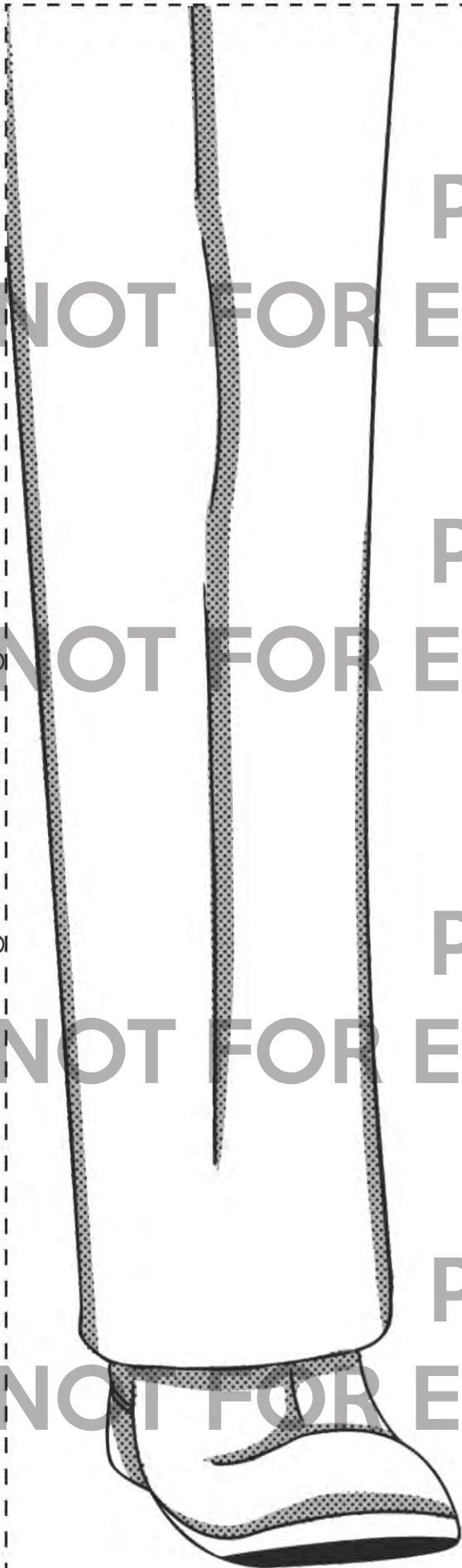
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Literary Legends Author Study Project Rubric

	20	15	10	5
Research	The group conducts thorough research on the author. The group demonstrates a deep understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts important events of the author's life accurately and specifically. The group includes meaningful information.	The group conducts research on the author. The group demonstrates a basic understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts some important events of the author's life accurately and specifically. The group includes mostly meaningful information.	The group conducts some research on the author. The group demonstrates an elementary understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts events of the author's life that are moderately unclear or inaccurate. The group includes a fair amount of meaningful information.	The group conducts little research on the author. The group does not demonstrate an understanding of the historical context and events related to the person's life. The project depicts unimportant events of the author's life that are inaccurate and ambiguous. The group mainly includes nonessential information.
Overall Appearance	The overall appearance is exceptionally creative and aesthetically pleasing. The graphic elements are skillfully and neatly colored. The written text is distinct and easy to read.	The overall appearance is creative and aesthetically pleasing. The graphic elements are neatly colored for the most part. The written text is easy to see and read.	The overall appearance is somewhat creative and acceptably attractive. The graphic elements are colored completely, though slightly messy. The written text is visible and decently readable.	The overall appearance is messy and not attractive to look at. The graphic elements are not colored completely. The written text is difficult to see and comprehend.
Participation	All students in the group are on task, and everyone completes his/her individual role. All group members contribute to the planning, research, and execution of the project. Group members follow directions and complete the project on time.	Mostly all students in the group are on task, and majority of the members complete his/her individual role. Most of the group members contribute to the planning, research, and execution of the project. Most of the group members follow directions and complete the project on time.	Some of the students in the group are on task, and some group members complete his/her individual role. Some of the group members contribute to the planning, research, and execution of the project. Some of the group members follow directions and complete the project on time.	The students in the group are seldom on task, and less than half of the group members complete his/her individual role. The group members scarcely spend time planning and researching for the project. Hardly any of the group members follow directions nor complete the project on time.
Cooperation	The group works together to create a well-executed project. Students respect one another and encourage the ideas and efforts of others in a cooperative manner. The group demonstrates a positive attitude towards the project.	The group works together to create a completed project. Students mostly respect one another and maybe encourage the ideas and efforts of others. The group demonstrates a positive attitude towards the project.	The group sometimes works together, but mostly works independently to create a completed project. Students sometimes respect one another and tolerate the ideas and efforts of others. The group demonstrates a somewhat positive attitude towards the project.	The group does not work together in order to complete the project. Students show minimal respect for one another and struggle to tolerate the ideas and efforts of others in a decent manner. The group demonstrates a negative attitude towards the project.
Attention to Detail	Writing contains 0-1 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. The group thoroughly and effectively completes all the project requirements.	Writing contains maybe 2-3 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling, but it does not distract the reader from the overall content. The group completes all of the project requirements.	Writing contains 3-4 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling that somewhat distract the reader from the content. The group completes most of the project requirements.	Writing contains more than 4 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling that distract the reader from the content. The group completes some of the project requirements.

Group Members:

Additional Comments:

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Collaborative Author Study Project

Objective: Research a specific author in order to learn about his/her career, life, and notable achievements. Create an attractive poster that includes a colored illustration of the author and presents the most crucial information from your research.

1. The poster is comprised of 6 separate pieces of paper. Evenly distribute the pieces of the poster amongst the members in your group.
2. Look for reputable sources of information and websites from credible organizations. Research the author, specifically using the categories you are assigned. Take notes on your findings, but don't write directly on your poster just yet. Write down your notes on the brainstorming worksheet.
3. Examine and analyze the information you've gathered. Compare notes with your group members and remove any repeated or redundant information. Choose essential information that you will use to fill in the appropriate boxes on your pieces of paper. Proofread, revise, and edit the information you've found. Make sure the information you gathered is written in your own words.
4. Neatly copy your final drafts of information onto your poster. Use dark pen or marker. (You can use pencil to begin with and then trace over the pencil with a darker pen).
5. Collaborate with your group to choose a color scheme for your poster. Each group member should color an equal number of pages. You can use crayons, colored pencils, markers, glitter, and other crafting materials. The poster must be entirely colored.
6. Complete the project! Carefully cut along the dotted lines to retrieve the final 6 pieces of poster paper. Tape the 6 pieces of paper in their proper places, so that the illustration lines up correctly.



Author Study Project

Brainstorming Worksheet

First, research your author and write your findings here. Next, transfer your answers to the boxes on your poster. Each box on your poster should include 1-3 sentences.

NATIONALITY:

Where was the author born? What country is the author from? Where are the author's parents from?

PRAISED FOR:

Why is this author famous? What do people admire and celebrate about this author? List notable works.

CRITICIZED FOR:

What is the author judged for negatively? What is something the author has said or done that is not approved by others? Why do some people dislike this author?

MAJOR OBSTACLE:

What mental, physical, or emotional obstacles has the author had to overcome? What challenges or barriers, such as financial difficulties or health problems, did the author face?

TWO MAJOR LIFE EVENTS:

Briefly explain two major events that occurred in the author's life. A major life event is a significant occurrence that has a lasting impact on an individual's life. These events can be positive or negative.

BIRTH DATE:

When was the author born? Be as specific as possible.

QUOTE:

Choose a quote by the author. Include the context of the quote. When was it said? Is it a line from a novel? A poem? An interview? Explain the meaning of the quote.

PREVIEW

EDUCATION AND CAREER:

Where and when did the author attend school? What career choices led this person to become a successful author? When did this person become an author? When did the author achieve fame?

PASSION/TALENT:

What skills or talents does the author possess? What beliefs, ideals, or goals does the author have strong feelings about? What activities is the author enthusiastic about (what brings him/her joy)?

PERSONAL LIFE:

What are at least two facts about the author's personal life? For example: Is the author married? Does the author have children? Does the author have siblings? Who is the author's closest ally or friend?

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

When did the author pass away? If the author is still living, what is his/her age?

Mark Twain Answer Guide

Answers will Vary

First, research your author and write your findings here. Next, transfer your answers to the boxes on your poster. Each box on your poster should include 1-3 sentences.

NATIONALITY:

Where was the author born? What country is the author from? Where are the author's parents from?

Mark Twain is from the United States. He was born in Missouri. His father was from Virginia, and his mother, Kentucky.

PRAISED FOR:

Why is this author famous? What do people admire and celebrate about this author? List notable works.

Twain was an influential author, and writer known from his captivating short stories, novels, essays, and speeches. He is praised for his humor, wit, relatable characters, and social criticism. His most famous novels include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).

CRITICIZED FOR:

What is the author judged for negatively? What is something the author has said or done that is not approved by others? Why do some people dislike this author?

A few of his works have been censored in schools and libraries for their use of racial slurs, derogatory language, and depictions of racism. Twain's candid portrayal of racism in his work, while upsetting to some, are reflective of the era in which he lived.

MAJOR OBSTACLE:

What mental, physical, or emotional obstacles has the author had to overcome? What challenges or barriers, such as financial difficulties or health problems, did the author face?

Twain was born two months prematurely and was in relatively poor health for the first 10 years of his life. Death from disease during this time was common. His father died of pneumonia. His brother, Pleasant, died at 6 months old. His sister, Margaret, died of a fever when she was 9.

TWO MAJOR LIFE EVENTS:

Briefly explain two major events that occurred in the author's life. A major life event is a significant occurrence that has a lasting impact on an individual's life. These events can be positive or negative.

Mark Twain was working as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River and asked his younger brother Henry to join him. On June 21, 1858, the boat exploded and caught fire near Memphis, Tennessee. Henry was one of the 13 crew members who lost their lives in the tragic accident, but Twain had recently resigned. The tragedy left Twain haunted with guilt, regret, and grief for the remainder of his life.

Twain was an adamant supporter of the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of slaves. As an adult, he became involved with the abolitionist movement through his work as a journalist. He wrote several essays, articles, and speeches expressing his anti-slavery views. He paid for his friend, Warner T. McGinnis, a Black man, to attend Yale Law School as reparations.

BIRTH DATE:

When was the author born? Be as specific as possible.

Mark Twain was born November 30, 1835. His real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Mark Twain was his pen name.

QUOTE:

Choose a quote by the author. Include the context of the quote. When was it said? Is it a line from a novel? A poem? An interview? Explain the meaning of the quote.

"The best way to cheer yourself is to try and cheer somebody else up." This is a quote from one of Twain's notebooks, written in 1896.

EDUCATION AND CAREER:

Where and when did the author attend school? What career choices led this person to become a successful author? When did this person become an author? When did the author achieve fame?

He did not attend college. His novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was published in 1876 and brought him critical acclaim. The realistic experiences in the novel captured the universal experiences of childhood and American culture. His other most famous novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is regarded as one of the greatest American novels ever written. Later in life, Mark Twain received honorary degrees from Yale, Oxford, and the University of Missouri, in recognition of his contributions to American literature.

PASSION/TALENT:

What skills or talents does the author possess? What beliefs, ideals, or goals does the author have strong feelings about? What activities is the author enthusiastic about (what brings him/her joy)?

Twain was an avid reader, but he also loved to travel and be adventurous. He traveled to the Middle East, Europe, the Hawaiian Islands, the American West, and wrote about his experiences. He enjoyed exploring new places and his voyages often inspired his writing.

PERSONAL LIFE:

What are at least two facts about the author's personal life? For example: Is the author married? Does the author have children? Does the author have siblings? Who is the author's closest ally or friend?

Mark Twain married Olivia Langdon in 1870, and they had a happy marriage. Olivia was known to be a source of support and encouragement for Twain, and their marriage brought him stability and companionship. Mark Twain and Olivia had four children together, Langdon, Susy, Clara, and Jean. Olivia and Twain were married up until Olivia's death in 1904.

THREE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HIM/HER:

List three personality traits that describe the author.

Adventurous, thoughtful, and humorous

DEATH DATE OR AGE IF STILL LIVING:

When did the author pass away? If the author is still living, what is his/her age?

Samuel Clemens passed away on April 21, 1910 of a heart attack at age 74.



NATIONALITY

Mark Twain is from the United States. He was born in Missouri. His father was from Virginia, and his mother, Kentucky.



PRaised FOR

He was an influential American writer known for his captivating novels, short stories, essays, and speeches. He is praised for his timeless work, as well as his humor, wit, reliable characters, and social criticism. His most notable works include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Roughing It*, and *Life on the Mississippi*.



CRITICIZED FOR

A few of Twain's works have been censored, and banned in schools or libraries for their use of racial slurs, derogatory language, and depictions of racism. Twain's candid portrayal of racial tensions in America, while upsetting to readers, are reflective of the time which he lived and experienced.



MAJOR OBSTACLE

Twain faced many health issues in his life. He was born 2 months prematurely and reportedly death with issues for the first ten years of his life such as pleurisy, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Death from disease was common during this time, so Twain was lucky to survive his conditions. His father died of pneumonia, his sister Margaret died of a fever, and his infant brother died at birth.



2 MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

Mark Twain worked on a steamboat on the Mississippi river and asked his younger brother Henry to join him. On June 21, 1858, the boat exploded and killed 13 crew members including Henry. Twain had already resigned and was not on the boat. This tragedy left Twain haunted with guilt, regret, and grief for the remainder of his life. He was an adamant supporter of the abolition of slavery. He became involved with the movement through journalism. He wrote several essays and articles supporting his anti-slavery views. Later in life, after the emancipation of slaves, he paid for his friend Warner T. McGinnis, a black man, to attend Yale Law School.



BIRTH DATE

Mark Twain was born November 30, 1835. His real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

MARK TWAIN



QUOTE

"The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer somebody else up." This quote is from one of Twain's notebooks, written in 1896.



EDUCATION & CAREER

He did not attend college. His novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was published in 1876 and was a commercial success, bringing Twain critical acclaim. The realistic experiences in the novel, inspired by Twain's true life, captured the universal experiences of childhood and the American culture. Later in Twain's life, he received honorary degrees from several universities, such as Yale, Oxford, and the University of Missouri, in recognition of his contributions to American literature.

PASSION / TALENT

Twain was an avid reader, but he was also an adventurous person and loved to travel. He visited Europe, the Middle East, the Hawaiian Islands, and the American West and wrote about his experiences. He enjoyed exploring new places and much of his observations would influence his writing.



PERSONAL LIFE

He married Olivia Langdon in 1870. They had four children together: Langdon, Susy, Clara, and Jean. Olivia and "Mark Twain" were happily married for over three decades until Olivia passed in 1904.

3 ADJECTIVES

Adventurous
Thoughtful
Humorous



DEATH DATE

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, "Mark Twain," passed away April 21, 1910 of a heart attack at age 74.