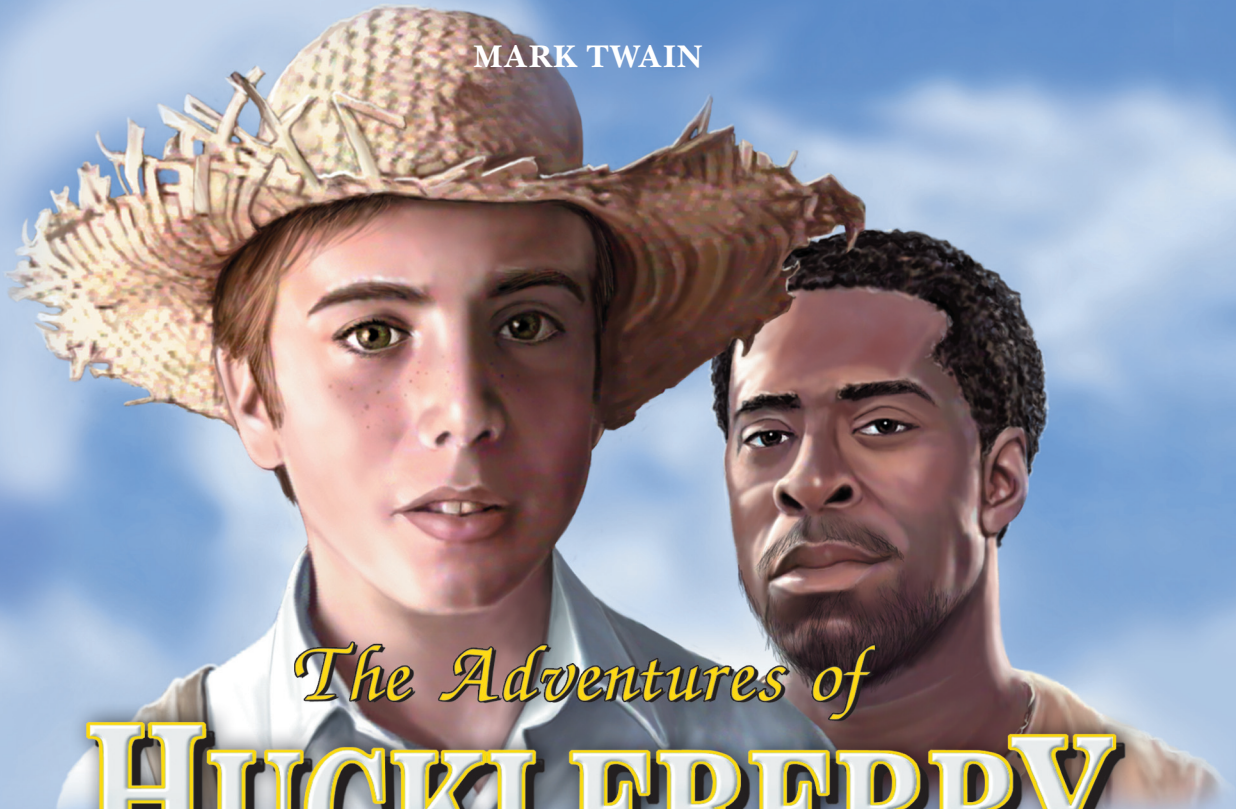


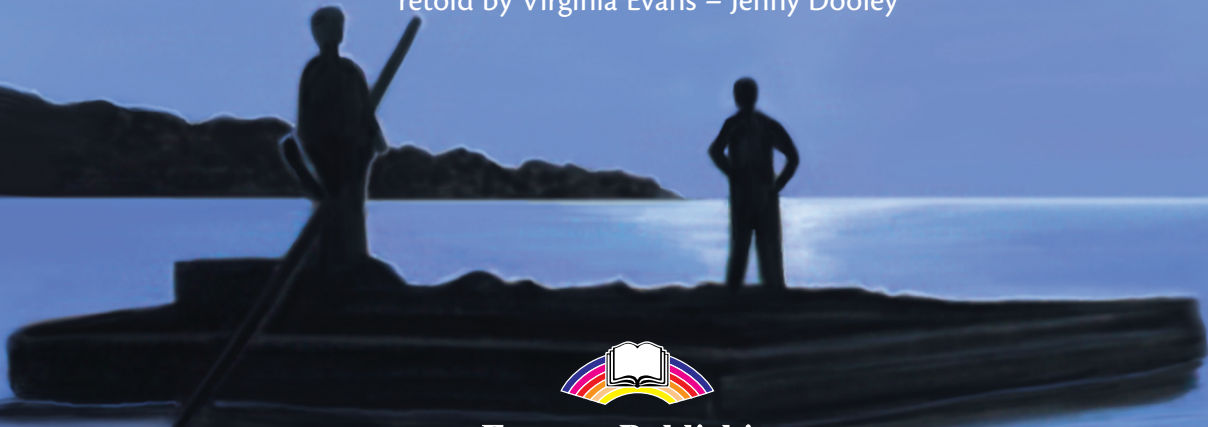
illustrated  
READERS

MARK TWAIN

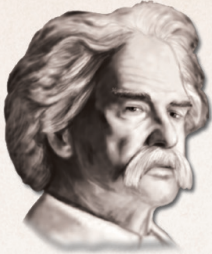


*The Adventures of*  
**HUCKLEBERRY  
FINN**

retold by Virginia Evans – Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing



# Mark Twain

Mark Twain (whose real name was Samuel Clemens) was born on November 30, 1835 in a small town in Missouri, USA. Twain attended school until he was thirteen years old and in 1847 he went to work at his brother's newspaper the *Journal*. It was while working there that he discovered his talent for writing. A few years later, Twain moved to St. Louis, where he was a reporter at the *St. Louis Evening News*.

Mark Twain enjoyed adventure and spent a lot of time travelling all over the world and in 1859, he received his river pilot's license. In 1861, he served in the army for a short time. After the war ended, Twain moved to Virginia City where he edited *Territorial Enterprise*. On February 3, 1863 he wrote a humorous travel account under his 'new'

name 'Mark Twain'.

In 1864, Twain moved to California and worked in San Francisco as a reporter. His stories were very funny and before long he was well known. His first book, *The Innocents Abroad*, about his experiences while travelling in Italy and France, was published in 1869, and was hugely popular.

In 1870 Mark Twain married Olivia Langdon and they had four children. Twain published some of his finest work between 1876 and 1884 including *Tom Sawyer* (1876), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).

Mark Twain died on April 21, 1910 at the age of 75. His stories continue to amuse and entertain readers all over the world.

Read Mark Twain's biography, then answer the questions:

1 What was Mark Twain's real name?

.....

2 Where was Twain born?

.....

3 When did Twain discover his talent for writing?

.....

4 What did Twain receive in 1859?

.....

5 Who did Twain marry?

.....

6 When did Mark Twain die?

.....



## Huckleberry Finn



Huckleberry Finn- 'Huck'- a young boy in search of adventure and freedom, is one of Mark Twain's most memorable characters. Readers were first introduced to Huck in *Tom Sawyer*.

Mark Twain grew up on the banks of the Mississippi River and it was there that he experienced many things that he would later use in his stories. For example, he saw slaves being treated badly and educated people acting absurd and violent. Mark Twain's best friend at the time was a boy called Tom Blankenship, who was wild and did whatever he pleased. Huckleberry Finn was based on Tom.

*Huckleberry Finn* was first regarded as an adult book and was meant to be a sequel to *Tom Sawyer*. But whereas in *Tom Sawyer* we *read* about Tom's adventures, in *Huckleberry Finn*, Huck *tells* us about his adventures. Twain's ability to portray young people with such honesty and his use of ordinary speech was considered a major achievement at the time.

Through all of his escapades Huck learns about life and how to be a better person. The story, with the great Mississippi River serving as the background, has inspired readers all over the world.

# 1. HOW IT ALL STARTED

My name's Huckleberry Finn — but everyone just calls me "Huck" — and this is the story of my adventures. It all started with my best friend, Tom Sawyer ...



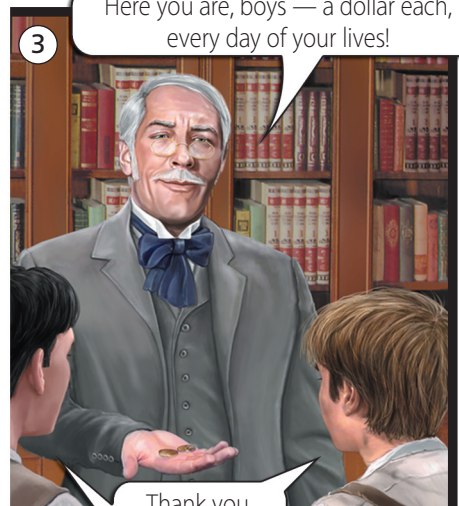
1



Gold coins, Tom!  
We're rich!

2

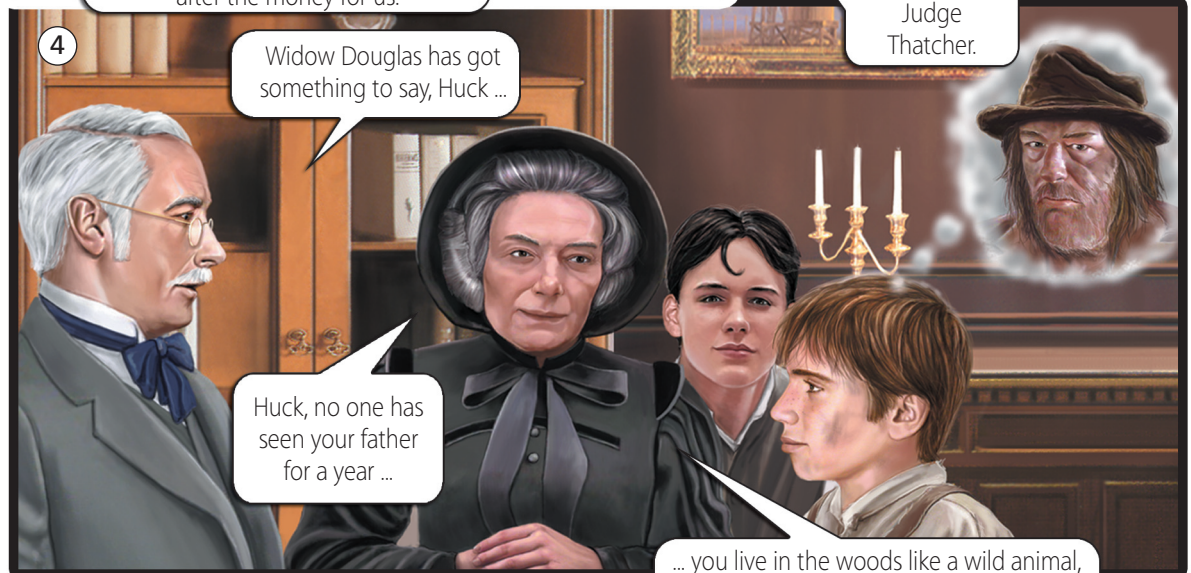
We can ask Judge Thatcher to look after the money for us.



Here you are, boys — a dollar each, every day of your lives!

3

Thank you,  
Judge  
Thatcher.



4

Widow Douglas has got something to say, Huck ...

Huck, no one has seen your father for a year ...

... you live in the woods like a wild animal, and don't go to school ...



5

You need a *real* home, Huck. I want you to come and live with me like my son.



A few months later ...

6

Well, Huck — how is life at the widow's?



7



Jim, I'm scared! My pap has come back!

But Huck, everyone says that your father's dead.

It's hard, Tom! Wearing smart clothes, going to school ... and the widow's sister, Miss Watson, makes lots of rules. I like Jim, though — he's Miss Watson's slave.

Well, everyone's wrong, then. See — that mark is from Pap's boot!



8

That night ...

9

Pap!



10

You think you're better than me, don't you? Going to school, sleeping in a fancy bed ... and people say you're rich!

Ow! Please, Pap — don't!





### Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures. Who:
  - 1 is hiding behind a curtain?
  - 2 is pretending to “talk” with his hands?
  - 3 is hiding a bag of gold under a mattress?
  
- 2 Look at picture 7. Why do you think Huck hides a bag of gold in a coffin?



### While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and then mark the sentences as *T* (True) or *F* (False).
  - 1 William can't speak or hear. ....
  - 2 Harvey needs to take care of his brother's daughters. ....
  - 3 Dr Robinson thinks that the men are liars. ....
  - 4 Mary Jane keeps the money for herself. ....
  - 5 Huck keeps the gold for himself. ....
  
- 4 Find words in the episode that mean the opposite of the following:
 

1 a _____ ≠ never	4 r ___ ≠ poor
2 p _____ ≠ unhappy	5 b _____ ≠ after
3 a __ ≠ none	



### After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 Why do you think Dr Robinson tells Mary Jane not to trust the men?
- 7 What do you think will happen in the next episode?





### *Before Reading*

- 1 Which picture(s) show(s):
- a flash of lightning?
  - a lamp?
  - a funeral?
  - a rowboat?



### *While Reading*

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and answer the questions.
- 1 What does the 'Duke' think has happened to the gold?  
.....
  - 2 What do they find when they dig up Peter Wilks' coffin?  
.....
  - 3 What happens when Huck wakes up one morning?  
.....
- 3 Put the events in the correct order, and then give a summary of the episode.
- .... Huck ran to the raft and they all went down the river like before.
  - .... They forgot about Huck, so he was able to escape.
  - .... The Englishman said he could prove he was Peter Wilks' brother.
  - 1 The 'King' and 'Duke' discovered the gold was missing. Huck made them think the slaves had taken it.
  - .... When Peter Wilks was buried, Huck believed the gold was safe.
  - .... When Huck woke up one morning the 'Duke' told him the 'King' had taken Jim to sell him.
  - .... They dug up the coffin and found the bag of gold coins inside.
  - .... Two Englishmen arrived claiming to be Harvey and William Wilks.



### *After Reading*

- 4 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 5 What do you think will happen in the next episode?



*The Adventures of*  
**HUCKLEBERRY  
FINN**

*Huckleberry Finn and Jim are both running away  
– Jim from life as a slave and Huck from his evil  
father. So they set off on a raft down the mighty  
Mississippi River and there are lots of adventures  
along the way!*

**Components:**  
Reader  
Audio CD



Level 1   Level 2   Level 3   Level 4   Level 5

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