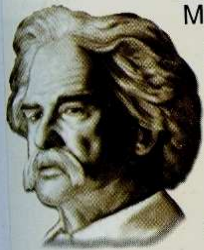


Pre-Reading Activities

1 Fill in the gaps with words/expressions from the list.

- After the Civil War
- At the age of 20
- as
- at the time
- a year later
- before long
- like
- When



Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Born in 1835 in Missouri, USA, he grew up in Hannibal, a small town on the Mississippi River. **1) When** his father died in 1847, Samuel left school to start work as a printer. **2) At the age of 20**, he began work on the Mississippi riverboats, and became a riverboat pilot.

3) After the Civil War began in 1861, the riverboats stopped running, and Clemens tried many different jobs. He also started writing humorous stories for various newspapers, and **4) before long** he was well known as a writer. He wrote his first major book in 1869, and got married **5) a year later**. He published *Tom Sawyer* in 1876 and *Huckleberry Finn* in 1884. He was still famous and very popular, both in the USA and Europe, **6) at the time** of his death in 1910.



Huckleberry Finn is set in about 1845-1850, and begins in a small town just **7) like** Hannibal. In other words, Mark Twain was writing about the time and place of his own childhood. Many of the characters and events in the story are taken from his boyhood and his life **8) as** a riverboat pilot.

2 Look at the pictures. Which show(s):

- 1 Huck wearing a straw hat? **1**
- 2 Tom and Huck at school, wearing smart clothes? **6**
- 3 a footprint in the snow? **8**
- 4 Huck's father, with dirty clothes and long hair? **4, 9, 10**
- 5 Tom holding lots of gold coins? **2**
- 6 a woman, wearing black because her husband is dead? **4, 5**
- 7 Huck walking with Miss Watson's slave, Jim? **7**
- 8 Huck's father beating him? **10**
- 9 Judge Thatcher's library? **3, 4, 5**

Listening & Reading Activities

3 Listen and write Yes or No.

- 1 Huck's best friend is Tom Sawyer. **Yes**
- 2 Huck lives with his father. **No**
- 3 Widow Douglas wants Huck to live with her. **Yes**
- 4 Everyone says Huck's father has come back. **No**
- 5 Huck and his father are very happy to see each other. **No**

4 Read the episode on p. 16 and answer the questions using one to three words.

- 1 How much money do Huck and Tom get every day? **A dollar (each).**
- 2 Where does Huck live at the start of the story? **In the woods.**
- 3 Who is Miss Watson? **The widow's sister.**
- 4 Who is Jim? **Miss Watson's slave.**

5 Study the rules, then fill in like or as.

We use **like** to say what sb looks like.

We use **as** to say what sb is like.

He works like a slave. (He isn't a slave)

She works as a nurse. (She is a nurse)

ALSO: looks like, sounds like, feels like, be regarded as, known as

- 1 Huck started trembling **like** a leaf when he saw Pap.
- 2 Mr Thatcher works **as** a judge.
- 3 He is known **as** the best writer of his time.
- 4 The boys ran **like** the wind.
- 5 Sue looks **like** her sister.

6 Listen to the episode again, then read it out.

FURTHER PRACTICE:

- 1. Take some notes on the story and re-tell it in your own words. What will happen next?**
- 2. Find information about the following topics in your school library or on the internet and write a short summary (100-120 words). Present your information in class.**

Topics : a) Slavery in America

b) Various kinds of music (jazz – rhythm ‘n’ blues – country)

c) Mark Twain

d) The Mississippi River and its history

- 3. The teacher can bring in class his own information about the topics above and let the class perform various tasks.**
- 4. The teacher can bring in class small extracts from Mark Twain’s “Huck Finn” to work in class with his students.**
- 5. Students find information about American Literature of those days. They can refer to famous writers or novels they have read.**
- 6. Have the students read any similar novels or short stories that are about children’s adventures?**
- 7. Students find information on different kinds of literature to present in class.**
- 8. The teacher can bring in class his own information on different kinds of literature. He presents it in class for the students to perform various tasks.**