

Adam Jones- May 2017

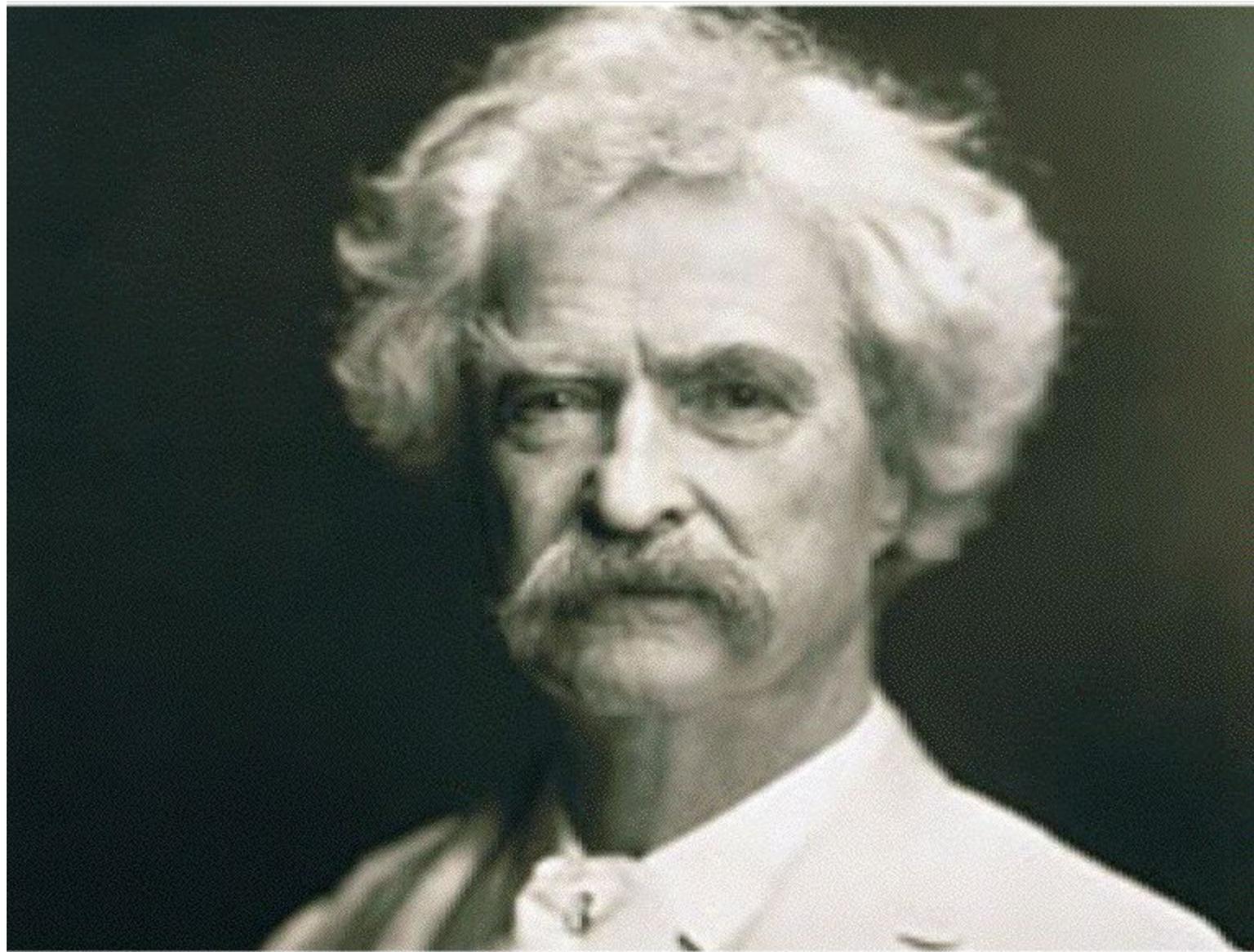


- Professional baseball player- Baltimore Orioles
- Last week, Boston Red Sox fans hurled racial epithets at him during the game.
- One threw a bag of peanuts at him.

Wayne Simmonds

- Wayne Simmonds is a black NHL player for the Philadelphia Flyers
- In 2011, as he was skating towards the goal during a shootout, a fan threw a banana peel on the ice.
- The incident took place in Ontario, Canada.

What is the situation today?



The Adventures of **Huckleberry Finn**

Mark Twain

“All American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called **Huckleberry Finn**... it’s the best book we’ve had.”

- Ernest Hemingway

Summary

Written in 1885 but takes place in the 1840s
- **Huckleberry Finn**, 14, grows up in St. Petersburg, Missouri with no mother and an alcoholic father who has skipped town. Huck is being cared for by two women: Widow Douglas and her sister Miss Watson. Huck likes to skip school and hang out with his best friend, Tom Sawyer.

Summary – Part Two

- Huck's dad, Pap, returns and imprisons Huck in a cabin outside of town. Huck escapes and runs into Jim, a black slave, who is also trying to escape.
- The bulk of the story chronicles Huck and Jim's travels down the Mississippi River and the continued trouble they seem to get themselves into.

Who was Mark Twain?

- Actually, he was Samuel Clemens. b. 1835 d. 1910
- Who grew up in Hannibal, Missouri - the town that St. Petersburg is heavily based on.
- Mark Twain = 2 fathoms or 12 ft. “safe water” riverboat term
- Believed strongly that the problem of race had to be solved.

Banned Book

- Huck Finn was banned from many libraries because the content was thought to be too dark, distasteful, and unsuitable for children.
- Official committee members of the Concord, MA library said the novel was, "rough, coarse and inelegant, dealing with a series of experiences not elevating, the whole book being more suited to the slums than to intelligent, respectable people."

What's the problem?

The problem was that readers took Twain literally and believed he was serious!
The key to understanding Twain's novel is by realizing that it's a **satire**.

Satire - using sarcasm to denounce or expose something foolish
So what is Twain trying to denounce? Racism.

Irony - *Opposite of literal meaning*: (this is also sarcasm)

- **verbal irony** = the use of a word or phrase that carries two meanings: an apparent meaning and a different, often mocking meaning that is very different from the apparent one
- **situational irony** = a form of irony in which what actually occurs is not what one expects to occur, given the situation
- **dramatic irony** = a situation in a text in which the audience or readers know something that at least one of the characters does not

Twain creates a racist protagonist to prove his point that racism is wrong. So basically, we need to take everything that Twain says, flip it around, and that's what he really means!

Twain's Writing Style

- Colloquial Language – dialects
 - Pahk the cah in Hahvahd yahd
- Picaresque novel - usually a first-person narrative, relating the adventures of a rogue or low-born adventurer (Spanish *pícaro*) as he drifts from place to place and from one social milieu to another in his effort to survive.
- Episodic structure – series of mini stories
- 1st person unreliable narrative (like Pip)

Main Ideas of Twain's Novel

- Christian religion vs. superstition
- Racism/Slavery (shown through satire)
- Individual vs. Society

Chronology of Events

- **1840** – Time when novel takes place
- **1861-1865 - Civil War:** Southern confederate states wanted to form their own United States. Northern Union states fought to keep the country unified
- **1863 - Emancipation Proclamation:** Pres. Abraham Lincoln signed this document declaring all slaves in Confederate states to be free.
- **1866 - 13th Amendment:** Amendment to the U.S. constitution abolishing slavery.
- **1883** - *Tom Sawyer* was written
- **1885** - *Huck Finn* was written

- Since it was first published in 1885, [*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*](#) by Mark Twain has been one of the most frequently challenged and banned books in America. The classic novel was #14 on the American Library Association's *Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books* for the decade between 2000-2009. According to the ALA, "A *challenge* is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A *banning* is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others." Book banning is a form of *censorship*, the official prohibition or restriction of any type of expression (such as literature) believed to threaten the political, social, or moral order.

- Throughout history, various people and groups have challenged books like *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* because they contain information, ideas, or language that conflicts with their own values and beliefs. *Huckleberry Finn* remains one of the most controversial novels in classrooms and on school library shelves; the main criticism is Twain's treatment of the theme of race and his use of racial slurs in reference to African Americans, Native Americans, and poor white Americans. Although the novel is written in the vernacular of its historical setting and the time period in which it was written, people today find this language offensive. Some people believe the novel condones or promotes racism.

- Is censorship in schools necessary to protect students? Should certain books be banned in schools? Suppose *Huckleberry Finn* was challenged at your own school this year. Would you argue in favor of or against banning the book?

Be sure you can

- Define bildungsroman
- Define picaresque
- Define abolitionist
- List characteristics of American Realism
- Define antihero
- Identify types of irony