**SAMUEL CLEMENS**

**“Mark Twain”**

Samuel Clmens was one of America’s most renowned authors. The clorful life he led was the basis for his writing. Although his formal education ended when he was 12 years old with the death of his father, his varied career interests provided an informal education that was not unlike many others of his generation. Clemens brings these rich experiences to life in his writing.

Sam Clmens was recognized for his fiction as well as for his humor. It has been said that “...next to sunshine and fresh air Mark twain’s humor has done more for the welfare o mankind than any other agency” (Railton, “Your Mark Twain,” 2003). By cleverly weaving fiction and humor, he developed many literary masterpieces. Some say his greatest masterpiece was “Mark Twain,” a pen name (pseudonym) Clemens first used in the Nevada Territory in 1863. This fictitious name became a kind of mythic hero to the American public (Railton, “Your Mark Twain,” 2003). Soem of his masterpieces that are among his most widely read books are *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.*

**The Adventure of Tom Sawyer**

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer was first published in 1876. Such characters as Tom Sawyer, Aunt Polly, Becky Thatcher, and Huck Finn have captured the attention of readers for generations. Boys and grils, young and old, enjoy Tom Sawyer’s mischievousness. Who can forget how Tom shared the priviledge of whtiewashing Aunt Polly’s fence? wHat child isn’t fascinated by the episode of Tom and Becky lost in the cave?

**Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was first published in 1885. Many characters included in The Adventures of tom Sawyer surfce again in Huckleberry Finn. Children are able to live vicariously through Huck. What child hasn’t dreamed of sneaking out of the house at nigh and running away to live a ilfestyle of their own making?

**REFERENCES**

Railton, Stephen. “Your Mark Twain.” <http://etext.lib.edu/railton/sc_as_mt/yourmt13.html>

Railton, Stephen. Sam Clemens as Mark Twain.” <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton/sc_as_mt_/cathompg.html> (July 21, 2003).