

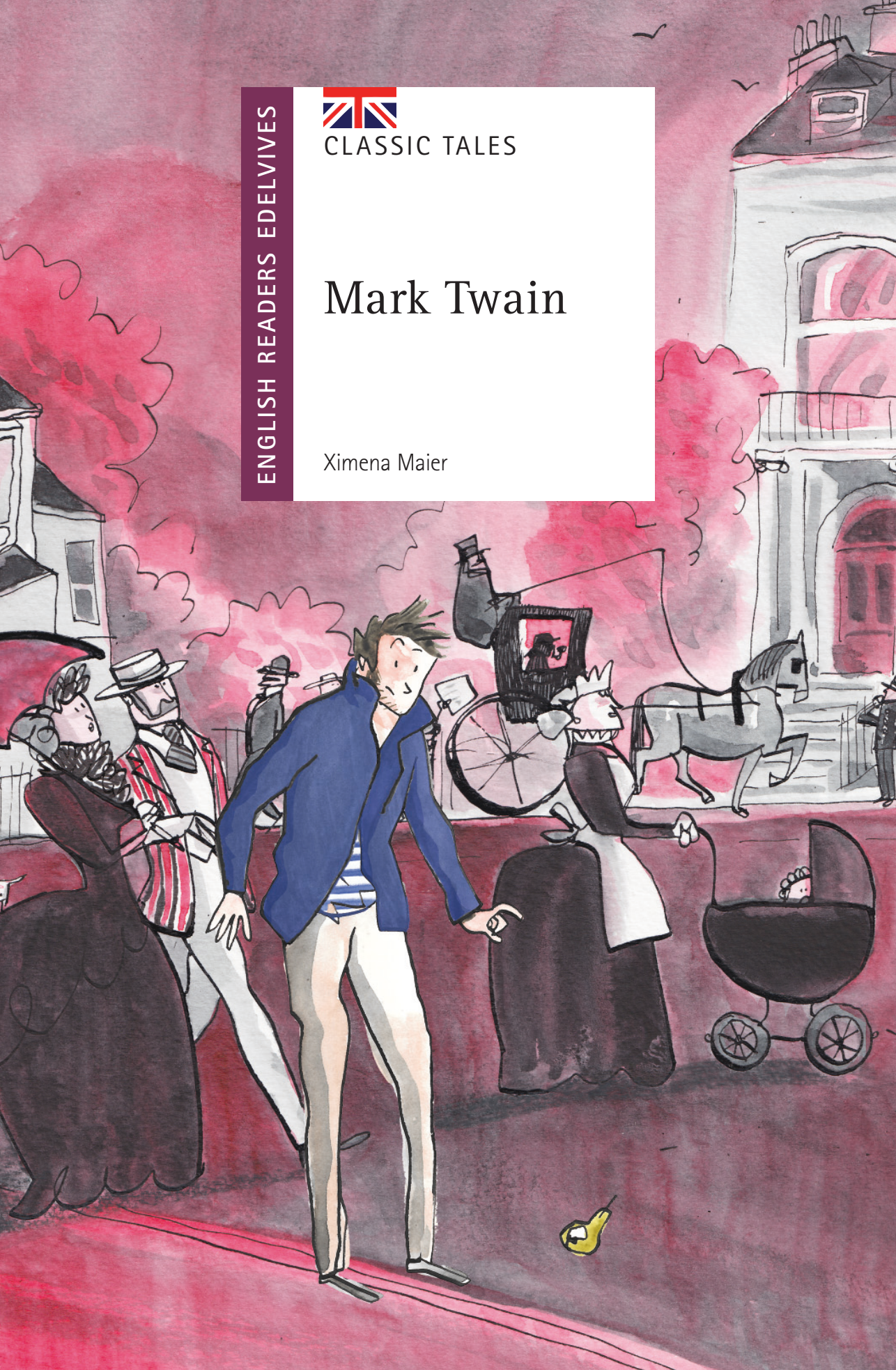
ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

Mark Twain

Ximena Maier



CLASSIC TALES

Mark Twain

Illustrations
Ximena Maier

before reading

- 1 Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Clemens, but he used Mark Twain when he wrote.

Match these words used to describe the names people are known by.

Pen name	Surname
Nickname	Given name
Stage name	Maiden name
Née	Pseudonym
First name	AKA
Family name	Sobriquet

- 2 Mark Twain was born in the state of Missouri and as a boy lived by the River Mississippi, which was important in his life and literary work.

Make as many words as possible from the letters in the words *Missouri* and *Mississippi* (you can't repeat any letters in the same word!).

MISSOURI

MISSISSIPPI

- 3 Twain left school aged 11 and worked in a great variety of jobs. **Find** 11 different jobs in this wordsearch.



- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| APPRENTICE | MINER | SOLDIER |
| COMEDIAN | PILOT | SPEAKER |
| INVENTOR | PRINTER | WRITER |
| JOURNALIST | PUBLISHER | |

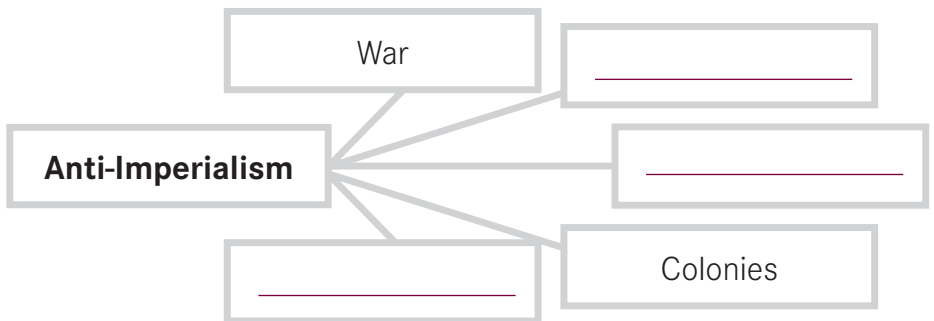
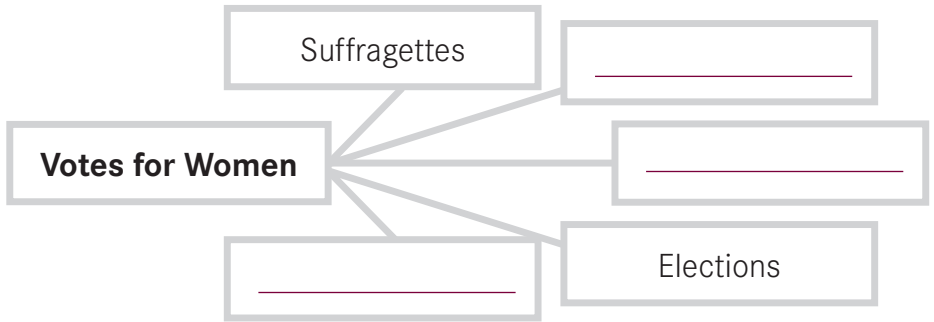
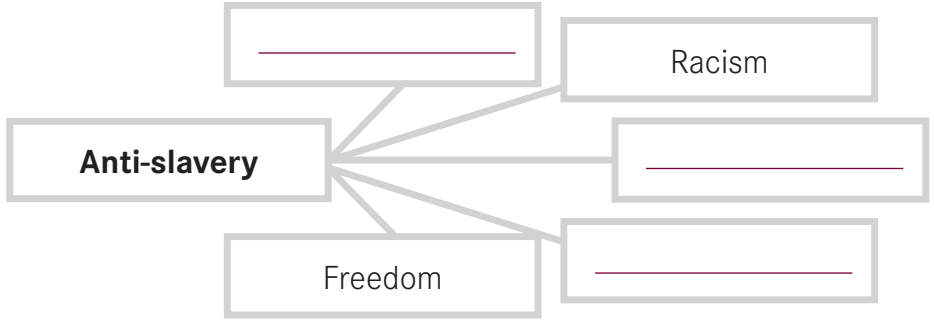
- 4 Twain was a superstitious man and his writing often reflects this. **Decide** if these things bring Good Luck or Bad Luck. **Add** some of your own.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Black cats | Friday 13th | Four-leaf clover |
| Broken mirror | Touching wood | Crossing fingers |
| Opening umbrellas indoors | Walking under ladders | |
| Putting new shoes on the table | Spilling salt | |

Good Luck	Bad Luck

before reading

- 5 The author was also very interested in the society he lived in and supported movements for change. **Add** some of your own ideas to these Mind Maps.



- 6 Mark Twain invented a self adhesive scrapbook, but he wasn't the only famous author to invent things. **Find out** which writers invented these things.

Invention	Writer
Long-distance autograph pen (Longpen)	_____
Postage stamp case	_____
Backless brassiere	_____
Cerebral shunt (a valve to drain the brain)	_____
Geostationary satellite	_____
Pringles chip machine	_____
Waterbed	_____

- 7 Mark Twain is often referred to as being the Father of American Literature. **Identify** what these men are said to be the “Fathers” of.

Adam Smith	the Father of English Poetry
Tim Berners-Lee	the Father of Modern Philosophy
Geoffrey Chaucer	the Father of Medicine
Charlemagne	the Father of the World Wide Web
Hippocrates	the Father of Rock & Roll
René Descartes	the Father of Europe
Chuck Berry	the Father of Modern Economics



during reading

A Ghost Story

- 1 This story takes place in an old building on Broadway - a well-known avenue which runs through the centre of New York. **Complete** the names of these other famous landmarks in the city.

Empire _____ Building

Times _____

Wall _____

Long _____

Fifth _____

Central _____

- 2 The author feels a “superstitious terror” in the big old house. **Unscramble** these words to see what frightened him.

TOMPHAN _____

CBOWEB _____

FOPRIOTNT _____

CERKA _____

SIHG _____

CANLK _____

GORAN _____

HUNTA _____

- 3 What made the author so sensitive? **Order** some of the things he experienced in his room that evening.

He felt the blankets move.

He felt a superstitious terror.

He saw hands and faces floating in the air.

He saw a giant footprint by the fireplace.

He heard the sound of chains coming closer.

He heard a footstep in his room.

He heard the wind and rain outside the window.

- 4 Sometimes silence is terrifying - but there are many noises which can make your hair stand on end too. **Match** these things with the sounds they make.

An owl goes	moan
Rain on the window goes	hoot-hoot
The wind on a stormy night can	creak
Old wooden floors might	tap-tap-tap
Heavy chains pulled along the floor go	squeak
A person in pain or desperation might	thump
Elephant-like footsteps go	clank
A mouse or rat will	scream

- 5 **Choose** the correct word to complete the article about the Cardiff Giant.

The Cardiff Giant was discovered in 1869 by workers digging a well / railway tunnel in Cardiff, Wales / New York. Thousands of people paid to see this prehistoric / space-age monster which had been written about in Genesis 6:4. However, it was really a fake, made by a tobacconist / sculptor, George Hull, after an argument with a Methodist rabbi / Reverend who believed the Bible was literally factual. The film director / circus-owner P.T. Barnum wanted to buy the giant but Hull refused to sell, so Barnum made a replica which can still be seen today in Marvin's Marvellous Mechanical Museum in Detroit / Paris.

- 6 The narrator of A Ghost Story switches between feelings of fear and amusement during the tale. **Describe** how you felt as you read the story. Did your feelings change?

during reading

A Dog's Tale

- 1 The dog in the tale introduces herself as being half St Bernard and half Collie. **Test** your knowledge. How many breeds of dogs can you name.

- 2 “My father was a St. Bernard, my mother was a collie, but I am a Presbyterian. This is what my mother told me. I don’t understand the difference, they are only beautiful, long words that mean nothing.” **Find out** the meaning of these words used by the dog’s mother.

Presbyterian: _____

Dogmatic: _____

Unintellectual: _____

Laboratory: _____

Supererogation: _____

Synonymous: _____

- 3 “I put my head through the flames and pulled the baby out by its pyjamas.” Why is the baby described as a thing with “it”? **Choose** the correct pronoun in these examples.

The ship sailed to America on his / her / its first voyage.

The dog next door barks all night and he / she / it keeps me awake.

The baby next door cries all night and he / she / it keeps me awake.

My dog is a pedigree poodle and his / her / its puppies are too.

- 4 The dog's mother taught her the differences between the life of a dog and a human being. **Decide** which of these characteristics are a dog's and which are human.

grow up and be sold in this world for a good reason
do what people tell them to do long life
must do their duties without complaining short life
must take their life as they find it no heaven
must live for the good of others instinct
a beautiful reward in another world reason

Dog	Human

- 5 The narrator is called Aileen Mavourneen and the puppy's father is called Robin Adair - both names come from traditional Irish songs. Do you recognise the names of these famous dogs? **Identify** who they belong to.

Snowy belongs to _____

Snoopy belongs to _____

Pluto belongs to _____

Toto belongs to _____

Scooby-Doo belongs to _____

Dogmatix belongs to _____

Jake belongs to _____

Odie belongs to _____

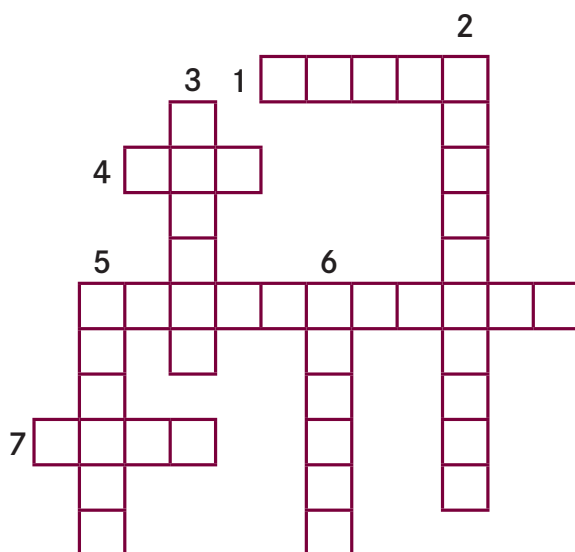
during reading

The £1,000,000 Bank-Note

- 1 The narrator of this story worked in the business of stocks and shares, securities and stock exchanges. **Identify** which cities these stock markets are in.

Stock Markets	Cities
Wall Street	
BME	
JSE	
OMX	
SIX	
TMX	
NASDAQ	

- 2 There is a lot of talk about money in this story. **Add** the money nouns, verbs and adjectives to the crossword.



Across

1. currency in the United Kingdom, equal to 100 pence
4. a document saying money has been borrowed and will be returned
5. coins of little value
7. to exchange notes or coins for a cheque

Down

2. owing a lot of money
3. currency in the United States, equal to 100 cents
5. regular monthly or yearly payment for work
6. financial status where sellers trust that customers will pay in the future

3 **Decide** who, where or when someone might wear these items of clothing.

Rags: _____

Overcoat: _____

Overalls: _____

Tie: _____

Gown: _____

Waistcoat: _____

Dinner jacket: _____

Morning suit: _____

4 The two old gentlemen who make the bet are very rich and have a man whose job is to open the door and welcome guests. They probably have a lot of other people working for them too. **Complete** the names of these jobs by adding the missing vowels.

S__RV__NT

G__RD__N__R

CH____FF____R

V__L__T

B__TL__R

P__RS__N__L SH__PP__R

C__ __K

H__ __RDR__SS__R

M__ __D

T__ __L__R

during reading

Eve's Diary

- 1 As Eve and Adam explore their world they discover things they don't understand, and so they invent theories to explain the phenomena. **Explain** what Eve and Adam really saw.

The moon came loose: _____

The stars were close to ground: _____

Her friend disappears in the water: _____

Water flowed uphill: _____

Rocks swim: _____

Flying feathers and rocks are an optical illusion: _____

The stars melt in the sky: _____

- 2 **Describe** how Eve's relationship with Adam changes.

At first, _____ . Then _____

_____ . Later _____

_____ , and so _____

_____ . But after that _____

_____ . After that _____

_____ . And finally _____

_____ .

- 3 Eve and Adam are very different in many ways. **Categorise** their characteristics.

is interested in every animal likes to talk pessimist
 wants to hit melons thinks the brontosaurus is a disaster
 likes beautiful things loves the painted sky at evening
 likes things which are good for something likes flowers

Eve	Adam

- 4 **Unjumble** Eve's reasons for loving Adam.

Not because of his CLENESSVER

Not because of his GINSING

Not because of his HORK WARD

Not because of his ECADUTION

But because he is LICUMASNE!

after reading

- 1 What do you know about the author of these tales? Answer the **quiz**.

How many brothers and sisters did Clemens have? _____

Why did Clemens leave school at the age of 11?

Where did Clemens continue his education?

How many pen names did Clemens use?

What was the name of Clemens' first famous story?

What did Clemens use as inspiration for his story "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"?

Which of his works has been called the first "Great American Novel"?

- 2 Henry Adams knows he is really living a lie as he lived "like the rich and the great" but that he was really poor and desperate. At night he was terrified, but by day he was very happy. **Match** the opposite concepts.

crazy

riches

sink

health

sickness

pessimist

superstitious

down

cruel

rational

up

swim

rags

sane

optimist

kind

3 Samuel Clemens was born on 30th November 1835, a few days after Halley's Comet passed by the Earth, and he always said "... these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together". He died on April 21st 1910, the day after the comet's next appearance. **Decide** if these facts about the comet are true (T) or false (F).

British astronomer Edmund Halley was the first man to discover the comet.

Halley's Comet orbits Venus every 75 to 76 years.

The oldest record of Halley's Comet is from 240 BC in China.

Halley's Comet shines because it is made of diamonds.

Halley's Comet is about 8 kilometres long and 15 kilometres wide.

People believed the comet was a bad omen.

Halley's Comet last appeared in 1986 and will come again in 2061.

4 Eve invents her own maxims - expression with a moral message, but Mark Twain would have been familiar with the maxims written by Benjamin Franklin, the famous American statesman who published annual collections in *Poor Richard's Almanack* between 1732 to 1758. **Choose** the correct words to **complete** these well-known messages.

A long / short life may not be good enough, but a good life is long enough.

Eat to live, and also / not live to eat.

Early to work / bed and early to rise,

Makes a man healthy / happy, wealthy, and wise.

Money / Success has ruined many a man.

He that lies down with dogs will get up with fleas / a friend.

Fish and visitors are gone / smell in three days.

God helps them that help themselves / others.

after reading

- 5** Mark Twain made and lost a lot of money in his lifetime. A lot of his stories talk about the importance of both money and love. **Decide** which you think was most important for him? Think about the role each plays in the stories in this collection. After that, decide which one is most important for you.

- 6 Match** these words from the stories with their definitions.

Ashamed	Someone has hurt you and you decide not to be angry with them
Bear	Feel embarrassed and uncomfortable for not having done something
Bet	Accept a situation
Forbidden	An agreement where money is risked on the result of a game
Forgive	Feel confidence in someone
Gossip column	Text in a newspaper about the private lives of famous people
Pray	Prohibited, not permitted
Trust	Speak to God and ask for help or give thanks