

Discussion Questions for *A Student's Guide to Mark Twain* by MaryAnn Diorio

1. Mark Twain's given name at birth was Samuel Clemens. How did he acquire the name "Mark Twain"?
2. Twain employed his dry sense of humor in his works to expose the hypocrisy in society. Do you think he did so well? What are some examples of hypocrisy that he exposed?
3. What theme does *Huckleberry Finn* reflect? How about *Tom Sawyer*?
4. Which is your favorite of Twain's works? Why? Do you find him relatable as an author? Why or why not?
5. How extensive a role did the Mississippi River play in Twain's literary works? How? Why?
6. When Twain visited what is today the land of Israel, it was a wasteland.
7. Twain was a master of the tall tale. What is a tall tale and which works of Twain are tall tales. Why do you think Twain wrote tall tales?
8. Perhaps the two most famous works of Twain's works are *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Why do you think these two books are Twain's most popular?