

**MARK TWAIN: HIS DEVELOPMENT AS A WRITER.**



by

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Abstract

Mark Twain was one of the greatest American writers of the second half of the 19th century. From the West, he brought the distinctive voice and attitudes of the West to American literature for the first time. He was one of the founders of American literary realism, for the first time raising vernacular dialogue to high art and always insisting that the exact word be chosen and the decorative word be shunned. Although remembered as one of America's greatest comic writers, his vision of life and America darkened so much during his last decades that he is also America's most pessimistic writer. His masterpiece, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, is one of the greatest books America has produced. None of his other works achieves this high excellence, but they are all in varying degrees invaluable components of the American literary tradition.



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