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EVALUATION OF 'LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI' WRITTEN

BY MARK TWAIN

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Abstract

Mark Twain is the pet name of Samuel Langhorne which he kept after writing one of his famous novels named 'A Life on Mississippi'. The novels were written by Mark Twain to show his interest in the adventures. He mostly wrote the novels which were inspired by his adventures of travels which shows that how adventure freak he was. Mark Twain is inspired by most of the writers of today's generation. A Life on Mississippi is the autobiographies of the adventures of Mark Twain. In the novel, Mark Twain describes the past, present, and future of the Mississippi river which includes the people and their ways of lifestyle around the Mississippi river. Other novels such as The Prince and the Pauper and The Adventures of Tom Sorwey are also some remarkable novels of Mark Twain.

Key words: Samuel Langhorne, Mark Twain, A Life on Mississippi, Tom Sorwey, and adventure freak

Introduction

In this article, we will discuss one of the most popular novels of Mark Twain which is named 'A Life on Mississippi'. Mark Twain was an adventure freak person who wrote most of the novels based on the adventure. In the novel, A Life on Mississippi Mark Twain describes his own experience of travels and about the historical concept of the Mississippi River. In the article, we will also see the overview of Mark Twain how he started to write novels. We will discuss some of his famous novels such as The Prince and the Pauper and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. We will also analyze his novel 'A Life of Mississippi', the works and achievements of Mark Twain will be also covered in this article.

Overview of Mark Twain

Mark Twain is an American writer, author, and humorist whose most of the stories are of funny concepts inspired by the adventures. According to twain (2017), the original name of Mark Twain is Samuel Langhorne Clemens, and was born on 30 November 1835 in Florida. Mark Twain lived in the small town of Hannibal, Missouri which is located near the Mississippi River. The novels written by him are mostly based on his adventures on the river. At the age of 11, he started to learn writing and his writing was based on funny concepts that show his personality. He was influenced by the adventures and under the influence of adventures of rivers he took a pen name Mark Twain which is related to steamboats. According to Meyers (2020), there are several books written by him that are funny concepts inspired by his adventures.

Roughing it and Innocents Abroad is the book that is inspired by his travel. The other famous books of Mark Twain are The Prince and the Pauper, Life on the Mississippi, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court, and Pudd'nhead Wilson. After writing the novel A Life on the Mississippi he took a pet name, Mark Twain. The mind of Mark Twain was always an innovative, creative, and adventure freak. He was greatly influenced by the adventures and the maximum number of novels written by him is about the adventures. According to Steven (2018), the life of Mark Twain was the inspiration for those who want a positive life as there is a statement of Mark Twain that "the man who hasn't experienced poverty can feel the curse of it. In the starting days of life he felt various difficulties however, he didn't forget to laugh.

Most writings are in the humorous format which shows his humorous personality. He almost discusses the adventures in his novel. In the most famous novel 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' he shows the adventure by portraying the characters of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. In the novel he tries to show the happiness of childhood felt by two boys who have some similar qualities like both are brave and some of the different qualities like one character are rude and one is helpful. In this novel, he imagined a life full of adventures without having any responsibilities of family. This shows the ability of imagination of Mark Twain and this novel was inspired by his boyhood. According to Fields et al. (2017), he has also written The Prince and the Pauper which is a historical story.

In this novel, he tried to show the difference between the lifestyle of the two children who are the same in appearance but different in the living

standard. One was the paper and the other was the prince and both wanted to exchange their lifestyle. Through this novel, Mark Twain shows that nobody is happy with them and liked the lifestyle of the other person. The famous novel 'A Life on the Mississippi' which we will discuss in this article. In the novel, he tries to show the changes and progress of culture and technology. Mississippi is the river where he lived in his childhood days. This novel is about the adventure in travels and the power of value.

Works and achievement of Mark Twain

The most famous novel of Mark Twain is 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' in which he showed the boyhood adventures of two friends. Later this novel was adapted by the filmmaker. According to Roark (2021), another popular work of Mark Twain is the novel 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' which is the second part of his first book 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and this book also got more famous and popular among the readers. Mark Twain also tried to explore his writing skills through historical fiction. He wrote 'The Prince and the Pauper' which also got famous and liked by the people. According to Twain (2020), in this book, he tried to show the difference of social classes by portraying the two characters which are twins and born in different social classes.

In the year 1901, he got the honorary Doctor of Letter degree from Yale University. In 1907, he also got the honorary Doctorate of Letters from Oxford University. The writing of Mark Twain is inspiring the writers of today's generation. He got the Master of Arts Degree (Honorary) from Yale University in the year 1888. According to Gribben (2018), he is also

well known for being the fastest type in Missouri. The Newberry Award is also given to him for his amazing stories. Mark Twain has a major contribution in the writing field and he wrote short stories, poetry, articles, and novels. The novels though he became famous were 'The Gilded Age' which was published in 1873, 'A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court' which was published in 1889, and 'The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson' which was published in 1894.

Critical analysis of the Life on the Mississippi

'Life on the Mississippi' was an evolutionary work of Mark Twain, who was an American humorist, novelist, journalist, and lecturer. Mark Twain has international fame due to his travel narratives. 'The Innocents Abroad', 'Life on the Mississippi', and 'roughing it' were his popular travel narratives. On the other hand, many adventure stories are also written by him such as 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer', and 'Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'. To become a popular public figure he can transcend the apparent limitations of his origin. With the help of many resources, it is observed that Mark Twain is treated as the most popular and beloved writer of America. He spent his time in a frontier village of Florida, Missouri. 'Life on Mississippi' is written by Mark Twain on the basis of adventure on the Mississippi River. He conducted this adventure first as a pilot of a steamboat and then as a passenger. His realistic and down-to-earth point of view can increase the efficiency of his writings (Messent 2016).

It is the novel which is used to characterize the river based on different observations related to the functions of different fact based on the

significance of the steamboat era on the river of Mississippi based on the tragedy of the river. It is used to provide a suitable expanse in terms of different analyses based on the discovery of different phases of the writer. It is the longest river that is used to provide miles based on the parameter of the given basin. It is based on the strategy of different approaches related to the life of a Mississippi. It is based on the effect of a river which is remarkable in the growth strategy of a novel. It is used to build history based on the analysis which is not a commonplace river used to identify the functionality in the given novel (Krause 2019).

The function of Mississippi is remarkably based on the structure of the land. It is the most instructive novel which is used to provide a suitable parameter related in terms of different consequences. It provides a suitable transcript of the phase of different existence which is used to describe the functionality of the novel. The novel is used in terms of different trade based on the character used to extract different appearances to transfer from one river to the other. The idea is based on terms of the different scenarios of the novel which is used to reflect different changes related to the progress of the given experience. It is based on the adventure in the navigation and the construction of the river-related to the large cities of the river occurred in the vision of the given life of the Mississippi River (Bird 2018).

The Author's conflicting goal arises through his writing in Life on the Mississippi. He can provide essential information about the power and romance of Mississippi. Mark Twain's finest piece of writings can provide

essential information about life on the Mississippi. Twain's own experience as a pilot of the steamboat is also illustrated in his writing. Along with this brief history of the river is provided by Mark Twain in his novel *Life in Mississippi*. In the second portion of this novel, Mark Twain can share his experience on a steamboat from New Orleans to St. Paul. On the other hand, his competition with railroads is also justified in the *Life on the Mississippi* novel by Mark Twain.

He can provide information about his struggle with new and large cities, bad architecture, tragedy, greed, and gullibility, which he experienced during his journey on the Mississippi River. *Life on the Mississippi* is published also as a film, where David Knel was performed on the character of Sam Clemens and Robert Lansing as Horace Bixby. In this novel, Horace Bixby can be mentored by Sam Clemens when he conducts his journey as a pilot in a steamboat. On the other hand *Life on the Mississippi* can provide information about the present, past, and future history of the Mississippi River, as well as town, people, and ways of life are also justified in this novel. The historic stand of the Mississippi River is also justified by his writings in *Life on the Mississippi*. He provides an effective comic sense in his life during his travels as a pilot. *Life on the Mississippi* novel can provide information about the history of an explorer, DeSoto. DeSoto first saw the Mississippi River, which is also included in this novel. The transformation of the Mississippi river as a medium of transportation is justified properly by Mark Twain in his novel *Life on the Mississippi*.

On the other hand, he can provide all essential information about building industry upon this river, as we as the history of America is also illustrated in this novel of Mark Twain. Initially, Mark Twain wanted to travel to Amazon, after that he joined a "cub" or trainee pilot. In his novel, it is observed that Mr. Bixby teaches him to drive a steamboat. However, he became a war reporter, when the civil war started in America. According to Toman (2017), twenty years later again he comes to the Mississippi River to see the changes in the river. In his novel, he can provide information about major changes in the steamboat industry of Mississippi. He describes the transformation of the railroad as a main mode of transportation, which is treated as an effective cause behind the war. Along with this few progression of the steamboat, the industry is also justified by Mark Twain. He can provide information about new rules and regulations of the steamboat industry, which can increase the efficiency of this industry. In this novel, first-hand narratives, anecdotes, and stories are used by Mark Twain, which is treated as an effective capability of Mark Twain. Mark Twain was a prominent storyteller, a trademark humor is present in his writings, which can increase the efficiency of this novel. On the other hand growth of the Mississippi River is also highlighted by his novel (Ladd 2019).

Mark Twain as a novelist

Mark Twain was an exemplary novelist and writer of his time and his writings involved a lot of the experiences that he either obtained from his childhood activities or from the recollections of his early years. Novels like Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and the

respective novel *Life on the Mississippi* are some of his celebrated works that dignify Mark Twain from other contemporary writers of his generation. As per Bridgman (2018), his novels constituted a wide array of social, political, and relative issues of American society; which included aspects such as racism, education access, class barriers, and much more. Most of Mark Twain's works pose a common resemblance to a satirical form of writing, which also demonstrates the humorous capability of the expert writer.

Almost all of his works consist of characters that learn and evolve through their storylines, and this helps in making connectivity between the readers and the characters of his novels and story. As for the respective novel *Life on the Mississippi*, it is simply an autobiographical translation of the novelist's personal life during his early days when he wanted to lead his life as steamboat personnel. The secondary data sources related to Mark Twain showcases his early lifestyle which consisted of a huge amount of part living in Hannibal, Missouri. The town was a river town that is located beside the Mississippi river. Through the evaluation of his novels and writings, it can also be observed that the writer tries to relieve his best memories through his writings, which consist of characters that are somewhat or most similar to that of himself (Hayes 2017). Another important aspect that needs to be considered is the thematic trend of the writer's writing style. Mark Twain's writing style, though having a humorous and satirical side to it, consists of an amalgamated combination of his own life values with the values and norms of the then established American society.

Therefore, the novels though seemingly address the problems within the societal norms, do not seem to be too harsh for the concerning readers and the literary critics. One common thing that is found out in most of his novels is that most of his main protagonists tend to be young kids who are yet to be matured with the societal and traditional regulations within them. Therefore, most of his works consist of a degree of maturation build-up, which helps him connect to the readers on a personal level (Caron 2018). The best age group that the writer targets are 12-15, but his novels and writings seem so light-hearted that they can be rejoiced by even the elderly in their 50s and 60s. Life on a Mississippi is all about hope, aspiration, and the theme of travel, which builds up a sense of adventure and happiness within the readers. It also consists of the situational hardships that a boy has to go through during his journey from a country boy to steamboat personnel, which in a way resembles the struggle that everyday common people do to achieve their goals.

Conclusion

A Life on the Mississippi is one of the famous adventures novels of Mark Twain which is based on his adventure of travel. Mark Twain always wrote novels that were based on the adventures as he was an adventure freak person. In childhood, Mark Twain lived near the river Mississippi and he started loving the adventures. His novels describe his personality that he always focused on the funny and adventurous topic. He has got so many degrees of master and doctorate from Yale University and Oxford

University. His novels and short stories are an inspiration to the writers of today's generation.

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