

American Fiction Classics - Mark Twain

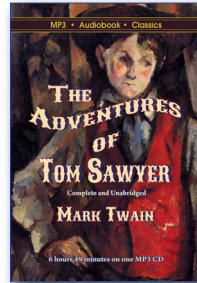


Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Author: Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)
Read by: John Greenman
Length: 10 hours
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Huckleberry Finn captures a time when most Americans lived on farms and worked the land. We were on it, immersed in it, tied to it, and when we traversed it we did so on foot, on horseback, by carriage, and by way of great rivers. Nature gave us our sense of place and identity. This was nowhere more true than in the lives of young'uns like Huck Finn, a motherless boy with a violent drunkard for a father. Huck's a boy of the earth and its rivers. He's a survivor and nature sustains him. He thumbs his nose at respectability the way nature thumbs its nose at the affectations of city life. Considered by many to be the great American novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which Twain described as a "hymn to boyhood", is one of the rarest of literary accomplishments. It's a masterpiece wrapped in the folds of a good yarn, a story that's captivated young and old alike for over a hundred years.

Catalog: DB-1027
UPC: 0684758936257
MSLP: \$11.99

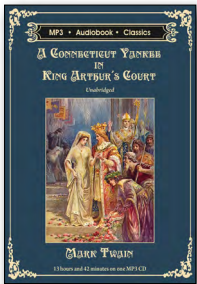


The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Author: Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)
Read by: John Greenman
Length: 6 hours 49 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Catalog: DB-1028
UPC: 0684758936264
MSLP: \$10.99

Tom Sawyer is an All-American Boy living in a time when America is still young and unencumbered by the complexities of modern life. He's in sync with the country about him, as the country about him is in sync with itself. The result is a portrayal of those halcyon days when we ran fast and wild and free toward a wide, infinite horizon. Tom's adventures make up a wonderful novel, a classic, in love with youth and its courage, curiosity, wisdom, humor, foibles, energy and optimism. When was the last time anyone convinced anyone to white-wash a fence and then pay for the privilege? It's the kind of "clever" people admire even as they shake their heads with the set-up and the fall-out. Tom Sawyer, an embodiment of Whitman's vision, an American boy, given to hooky, adventure and those first tugs on the heartstrings, reminds us that everyone lives several lives when they're young, when everything is possible.

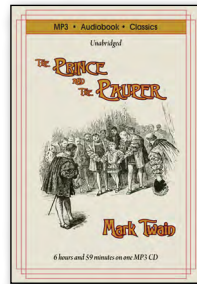


A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Author: Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)
Read by: John Greenman
Length: 13 hours 42 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889) is a comic satire that chronicles the adventures of Hank Morgan, an engineer living in 19th century Hartford, who gets knocked out and wakes up in medieval England during the time of King Arthur. Condemned to be burned at the stake, he threatens to blot out the sun and does so. He industrializes the country and educates the peasantry behind the backs of the ruling class, who he outwits to become the effective leader of Camelot. The Catholic Church incites a revolt and sends 30,000 knights into battle. He and a small cadre defend against the attack, hunkering down in Merlin's cave with electric wire, mines, and Gatling guns. The knights are all killed, but, alas, Hank and his rangers are trapped in the cave by a mountain of carnage and succumb to disease. With plots and gags worthy of Mel Brooks or the Marx Brothers, Twain deflates the romantic notions of chivalry and pretensions of caste that he saw in the character of the Old South that, in turn, helped foster the tragedy of the Civil War.

Catalog: DB-1026
UPC: 0684758936271
MSLP: \$12.99

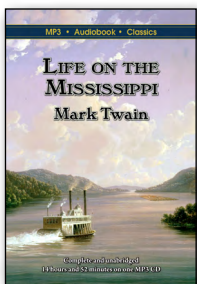


The Prince and the Pauper

Author: Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)
Read by: John Greenman
Length: 6 hours 59 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Catalog: DB-1029
UPC: 0684758936301
MSLP: \$10.99

The Prince and the Pauper (1881) was Mark Twain's first attempt at historical fiction and a success with the public and critics alike. Two boys from very different backgrounds exchange places because of their identical physical resemblance and experience the kind of lives they never would have known otherwise. Tom Canty is a pauper and Prince Edward is the only son of Henry VIII and heir to the throne of England. The story takes place in 1547 London when the Tudors ruled and excesses at court and within the judicial system called out for reform and moderation. Prince Edward's time with Canty teaches the future king about the gritty underside of London, the stress of poverty, and the punitive system that tortures and executes in the name of justice. Tom's experience is no less enlightening as he is called upon to mediate claims and then to take the reins of a grand and powerful kingdom. Of course, all is set aright by the novel's end, with the characters returning to their prior stations, though with the well-deserved advancements gained through their respective experiences as a prince and as a pauper.



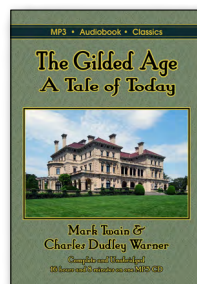
Life on the Mississippi

Author: Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)
Read by: John Greenman
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 14 hours and 39 minutes
Genre: Autobiography & Biography, Memoir

Life on the Mississippi (1883) is a memoir by Mark Twain in two parts. The first recounts Twain's memories of a halcyon time before the Civil War when Twain was in training to become a steamboat pilot on the river. The second part recounts the trip Twain made down the river many years later after the Civil War. The two parts reflect that as the Mississippi River separates America, east from west,

Catalog: DB-1069
UPC: 0684758936295
MSLP: \$12.99

the Civil War separated America, north and south, and continues to separate America, its past and its future. The first part of the memoir is brilliant with the light of youth, potential, and promise. The second part, coming after the Civil War, is the work of a man who has suffered both the good and the bad in a life fully lived. Take the trip down the river with Mark Twain, the writer who knew America so well, its east and west, its north and south, its past and future.



The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today

Author: Mark Twain (1835 - 1910) & Charles Dudley Warner
Read by: John Greenman
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 16 hours and 8 minutes
Genre: Fiction, Satire

Catalog: DB-1068
UPC: 0684758936288
MSLP: \$13.99

Mark Twain, who had turned a skeptical eye on the advancements of the post-Civil War urbanization of America, focuses here on the pretensions of those striving for wealth. The wealthy elite saw their time as an American Golden Age, when the right people enjoyed the bounty of a Calvinist god who had finally got it right. Twain saw through the pretense and laughed, and his target is equally those who've arrived and those who aspire to arrive, who mimic the greats, all the while mistaking arrogance for class. Written with Charles Dudley Warner, his neighbor and friend, *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today* (1873) is Twain's only collaborative work. Its title soon became synonymous with greed, materialism, and corruption in public life. Twain used satire and humor to pull back the gilded veneer to lay bare the sad remnant underneath – human beings, flawed, greedy, fearful, and ultimately comical, though with no intention to be thought of as such.