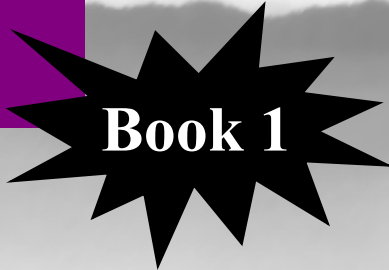


... Mirror ...

M

...



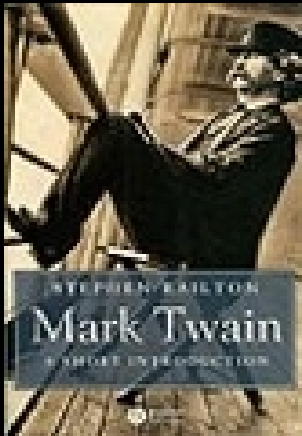
**Book 1**



- Structural analysis
- Part 1: (the first para.)
- Introduction
- The first paragraph serves as an introduction of the whole text. It provides an general appraisal of Mark Twain, the father of Hack and Tom, the nation' s best-loved author, and the good news and bad news .
- The author adopted some rhetorical devices to illustrate the picture, and some very emphatic adjectives, adverbs, such as eternal, endless, every bit, profound, etc.
- The fist paragraph is highly conclusive.

# Macro-structure

## Mark Twain — Mirror of America



*Part I (Para.1): It serves as an introduction of the whole text.*

*Part II(Para2-18): It provides his early success and comments on his work.*

*Part III (Para.19-21): It devotes to his personal tragedy and conclusion.*

# Rhetorical Devices



- Metaphor
  - Hyperbole
  - Personification
  - Euphemism
  - Metonymy
- Simile  
Parallelism  
Antithesis  
Alliteration  
synecdoche



- **Most Americans remember Mark Twain as the father...**
  - **Father: metaphor.**
  - **Endless: hyperbole.**
  - **The whole sentence: parallelism.**



- **Mirror** of A mirror reflects or reveals the truth of something America:
- or somebody.



- **cruise 乘船航行**: A cruise is a holiday during which you travel on a ship and visit lots of places. When it is used as a verb, it means to move at a constant speed that is comfortable and unhurried.
- **Idyllic cruise 诗情画意的旅程**



- idyllic 平和漂亮的，完美无瑕的  
: [i / ai] a simple happy period of life, often in the country
- an **idyllic** setting, holiday, marriage





### III. Detailed study of the text:

- Mark Twain is famous to most Americans as the creator of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. Huck's sailing / travel on the river was so peaceful that it made his boyhood seem to be infinite, while Tom's independent mind and his dangerous activities made the summer seem everlasting.



- 5. every bit as...as: just as...as, quite as...as
  - He is **every bit as** clever as you are.
  - I'm **every bit as** sorry about it as you.



- **Adventure:** Mark Twain was adventurous in every sense of the word. He was trying new things, and always going to new places. Even in his literary career, he was never satisfied with what he had achieved.
- **Patriotic:** His profound love for his country with its robust people and beautiful scenery and its lofty ideals; it also refers to his pride in the American traditions and American language.



Detailed study of the text:

- cynic 愤世嫉俗的人: n. a person who believes that people do not do things for good, sincere or noble reasons, but only for their own advantage
  - a **cynical** remark, attitude, smile



- 7. deal 给, 赋予, dealt: to give ,  
to give out, to strike, to  
distribute
  - Who **deals** the cards next?
  - to **deal** sb. a blow



obsess **念念不忘, 牵挂**: to worry continuously and unnecessarily.

- If sth. obsesses you or if you are obsessed with it or by it, you keep thinking about it over a long period of time, and find it difficult to think about anything else.
- She is **obsessed** by the desire to become a great actress.



- frailty 缺陷: a weakness of character or behaviour.
  - One of the frailties of human nature is laziness.
  - There is only a frail chance that he will pass the examination.



...a man who became obsessed with the frailties...

Para: a man who was continually distressed by the moral weakness of human race.





- I found another Twain as well----one who grew cynical, bitter, obsessed with the frailties of the human race, who saw clearly a black wall of night.
- 但我还发觉还有另一种不同的马克吐温---因为深受人生悲剧打击而变得愤世嫉俗，尖酸刻薄的马克吐温，为人类品质上的弱点而忧心忡忡，明显地看到前途是一片黑暗的人。
- A black wall of night (metaphor)
- Hopelessness and despair



- tramp: 流浪汉 a person who has no home or permanent job and very little money.



- prospector: **勘探者** a person who examines the land in order to find gold, oil, etc.
- starry: full of stars in the sky, indicating sparkling, glowing, and flashing. **充满星星的, 闪闪发光的, 不切实际的**



- starry-eyed: full of unreasonable or silly hopes.
- If you are **starry-eyed**, you are so full of dreams or hopes or idealistic thoughts that you do not see how things really are.
- Starry-eyed optimist **耽于幻想的乐天派**
  - We were all **starry-eyed** about visiting London.



- **acid-tongued**: If sb. is acid-tongued, he makes unkind or critical remarks. 语言尖刻的挖苦家
- **range**: to travel without any definite plan or destination
- Range across 浪迹



- navigable: 适于通航的 deep and wide enough to allow ships to travel
- attest: 证明 to show to be true, to give proof of, to declare solemnly
  - Historic documents and ancient tombstones all attest to the fact that this is a historic



- artery: blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body 干线, 要道
- vein: any of the tubes carrying blood from all parts of the body to the heart



- delta country: 三角洲

**basin: 盆地**

**the Yellow River Basin**

**The basin made up 3/4 of the populated area of the US of that time.**





- drain: flow off gradually or completely, to cause to become gradually dry or empty; receive the waters of this area and carry them to the ocean. Here, **metaphor**: cover; occupy; take up 占
- drained three-quarters of the settled United States: The river drained a vast basin, and the basin made up 3/4 of the populated area of the U. S. of that time.
- settled: populated, inhabited



Detailed study of the text:

- cub: the young of various types of meat-eating wild animals, such as lion, bear **阅历尚浅的年轻人**



- **cast of characters:** the cast of a play or a film consists of all the people who act in it-----  
--alliteration, metaphor
- **cosmos:** the whole universe considered as an ordered system. ----metaphor



- The cast of characters set before him in his new profession was new rich and varied---the cosmos.
- 在这个新的工作岗位上，他接触到的是各式各样的人物，看到的是一种多姿多彩的大千世界。



- He participated abundantly in this life:
- -- He was very much involved in this life.
- listening to pilothouse talk of feuds, piracies, lynchings, medicine shows, and savage waterside slums:
- --- listening to the gossip in the pilothouse about feuds, etc.



- **feud**: 争吵 (n. & v.) bitter quarrel between persons, families or countries over a long period of time
- a family feud (家族世仇)
- a tribal feud (部落争端)
- a feud between labor and management (劳资间的一场争议)
- the **feud** between Romeo's family and Juliet's



- piracy: **海上抢劫** robbery of ships on the high seas
  - pirate: a robber on the high seas
  - copy right piracy



- **lynching**: the murder of an accused person without trial 处私刑
- **medicine show**: show given by entertainers who travel from town to town selling cure-alls, snake-bite medicine, etc.
- **savage slums**: slums that are crude, lack polish or are violently lawless





- He participated abundantly in this life, listening to pilothouse talk of feuds, piracies, lynching, medicine shows, and savage waterside slums.
- 他完全投身到这种生活之中，经常在操舵室里听着人们谈论民间争斗，海盗抢劫，死刑案件，游医卖药以及河边某些话外居民的故事。



- All would resurface in his books:  
(Metaphor)
- --- All would reappear in his books.  
“Resurface” 再次出现 means to reappear after a period of submersion or hiding. Here the word is used figuratively.
- soak up: take in, absorb



- the colorful language that he soaked up with a memory that seemed phonographic:
- --- (Simile)
- *Or: He absorbed and digested the colorful language with an astonishing good memory which seemed to be able to record things like a gramophone.*



Steamboat decks teemed not only with the main current of pioneering humanity, but its flotsam of hustlers, gamblers, and thugs as well. (para.5)

- Steamboat decks were filled with people with pioneering spirit (people who explored and prepared the way for others) and also lawless people such as hustlers, gamblers and thugs



- teem with=to be full of=be filled with
  - The water **teems with** fish and shrimps.
  - His mind **teems with** plans.



- **current**: a stream of water or air; (fig.) the flowing of people with pioneering spirit
- **main current of pioneering humanity:** (**metaphor**) people with pioneering spirit who forms the majority; the main part of them were people with devotion/dedication to open up new areas and prepare ways for others



- **flotsam**: the wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on the sea; figuratively here (**metaphor**), people without homes or work, who move helplessly through life (流离失所者；无业游民)



- **hustler**: 耍阴谋骗钱的人 a person who tries to earn money or gain an advantage from any situation they are in, often by using dishonest or illegal method. Now in the U. S. the word means **a prostitute, or streetwalker**
- **thug**: 暴徒 a person who is very violent and rough, esp. a violent criminal, **hooligan, villain, or**





**perception**: natural understanding

- **keen**: (with the five senses, the mind, the feelings) good, strong, quick at understanding
- **keen perception**: intense insight, understanding or knowledge gained by perceiving (observing)



- **keen:**
- a. sharp
- b. (with the 5 senses, the mind)  
good, strong, quick at understanding
  - My hearing is not as **keen** as it used to be.
  - He has a **keen** brain.



the difference between what people claim to be and what they really are.  
(para. 5)

- The difference between words and deeds, between what they preach and what they practice.
- People often claim to be kind, generous, honest, etc., whereas in reality, they are seldom what they say they are



...the railroads began drying up the demand for steamboat pilots and the Civil War halted commerce. (para. 6)

- Because of the railroads there was no more demand for steamboat pilots and the Civil War brought commerce to a temporary stop.



- **motley: 混杂的** having or composed of many different or clashing elements
  - a **motley** crowd / crew, ie a group of many different types of people
- **band:** a group of people joined together for a common purpose (derog.)



- **succumb**: a. (fml) to stop resisting (temptation, illness, attack, etc)
  - He finally **succumbed** to the temptation to have another cigarette / drink.
  - b. to die (because of)  
He succumbed to cancer.



- **epidemic**: 流行病 the occurrence of a disease which affects a very large number of people living in an area and which spreads quickly to other people



- succumbed to the epidemic of gold and silver fever: gave way to (yielded to, submitted to ) the prevailing gold and silver fever
- **metaphor** used here (*epidemic, fever*).



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