

Mark Twain---Mirror of America

Unit 6



National Geographic Magazine

- **National Geographic Magazine, with a circulation of more than 10 million copies annually, is the third biggest only next to TV Guide and Reader's Digest (more than 16 million). It is a monthly journal run by the National Geographic Society based in Washington DC, a non-profit scientific and educational organization.**

biography

- **A biography is, by definition, an account of someone's life that has been written by someone else. Or a written history of someone's life.**
- **Generally, a biography is about sb. who enjoys certain reputation, who has acquired certain fame by his / her success in certain area. The protagonist can be a positive or negative character.**



Pre-reading Questions

- 1. How do you understand the title?**
- 2. What do you know about Mark Twain?**

Mirror



1. **“Mirror” here means a person who gives a true representation or description of the country.**
2. **Generally speaking, all literary giants in human history are also great historians, thinkers and philosophers. Their works often reveal more truth than many political essays.**
3. **Mark Twain was one of these giants, and his life and works are a mirror of America of his time.**

United States

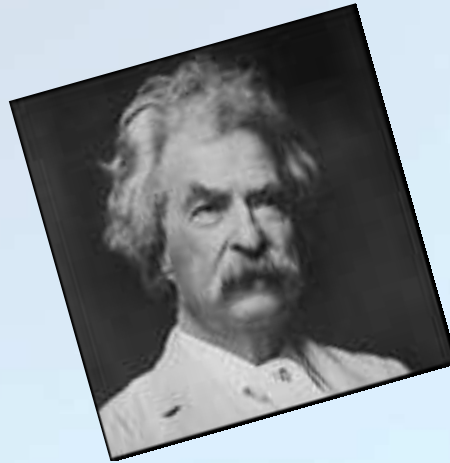


Briefing of Mark Twain

- **Mark Twain was the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), America's most famous humorist and the author of popular and outstanding autobiographical works, travel books and novels. The first 36 years of Clemens' life as a boy in a little town in Missouri, as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi, as a reporter on the far western frontier and as a traveler abroad supplied him with copious material which he used later for his best and most successful writings.**

Mark Twain

- Real Name
- Meaning
- Life
- Works
- Assessment



Mark Twain: (1835-1910)
Samuel Langhorne Clemens

Two Fathoms deep—
the depth of water necessary for
the steamer boats to pass safely



works

He became
nationally
famous

- “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”
- “卡拉韦拉斯县著名的跳蛙” a frontier tale

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
《汤姆索耶历险记》

“the two
advantages”

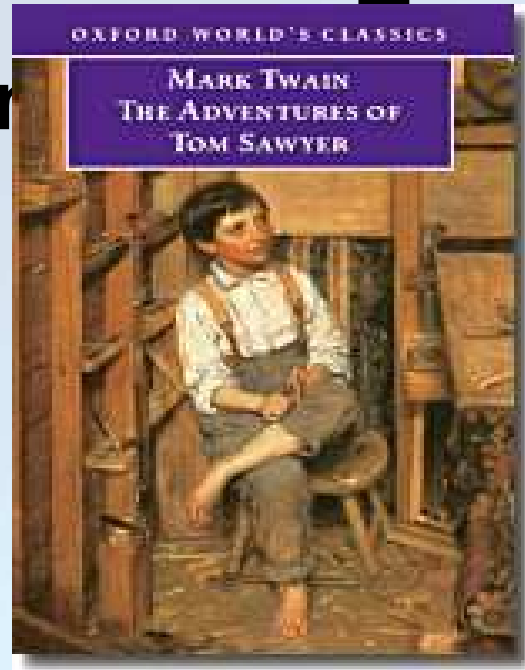
*The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn*
《哈克贝里费恩历险记》

“all modern
American
literature comes.”

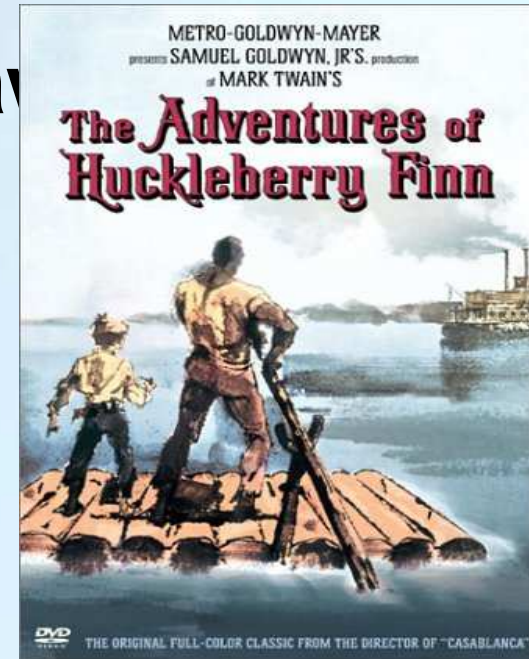
main

works

- The Adver



Tom Sawyer



The Adventure of
Huckleberry Finn

Long novels

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Hemingway once wrote, "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*... it's **the best book we've had**.... There was nothing before. There has been nothing so good since."

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

- **The main idea of the book.**
- **Satire:** This novel shows Twain's satire on southern culture before the Civil War, around 1850, when the Mississippi Valley was still being settled. Twain condemned racial discrimination.
- **Style:** Vernacular language and dialect.
- **Local Color:** Twain depicted social life through descriptions of local places and people he knew best.
- **Significance:** the carefully controlled point of view, with its implicit ironies expressed through the voice of a semiliterate boy; the masterful use of dialects; the felicitous balancing romanticism and realism, humor and pathos, innocence and evil. This novel creates the most memorable characters in all of American fiction.

Other Works

- ***The Gilded Age*** 《镀金时代》 written in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner
- ***Life on the Mississippi*** 《密西西比河上》
- ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*** 《亚瑟王朝里的康涅狄格州美国佬》
- ***The Man That Corrupted Hardleybug*** 《败坏了哈德莱堡的人》
- ***The Mysterious Stranger*** 《神秘的陌生人》
- ***Autobiography***
- **These works contain bitter attacks on the human race**

Other Works

- ***The Innocents Abroad*** 《傻子国外旅行记》
- ***Roughing It*** 《艰难岁月》
- ***Pudd'nhead Wilson*** 《傻瓜维尔逊》
- ***The Prince and the Pauper*** 《王子与贫民》
- ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*** 《在亚瑟王朝的美国佬》
- ***American Claimant*** 《美国申请人》

Other Works

- ***Disgraceful Persecution of a Boy*** 《残害一个男童》
- ***Goldsmith's Friend Abroad Again*** 《哥德斯密斯的朋友又出国了》
- ***The Treaty with China*** 《与中国的条约》
- ***To the Person Sitting in Darkness*** 《致坐在黑暗中的人》
- **These works show Mark Twain's attitude towards the Chinese**

Mark Twain's Writing Features

local colour

represented social life through portraits of local places which he knew best

drew from his own rich fund of knowledge of people and places

tall tales (highly exaggerated)

a texture of most local color literature, a kink of humor

Mark Twain was **the first truly American writer**, and all of us since are his heirs, who descended from him."

he used **colloquial language, vernacular language, dialects**

words { short
concrete
direct in effect

a master of language

American dialect
an American language

sentence & structures → **simple, even ungrammatical**

Mark Twain's Writing Features

humour

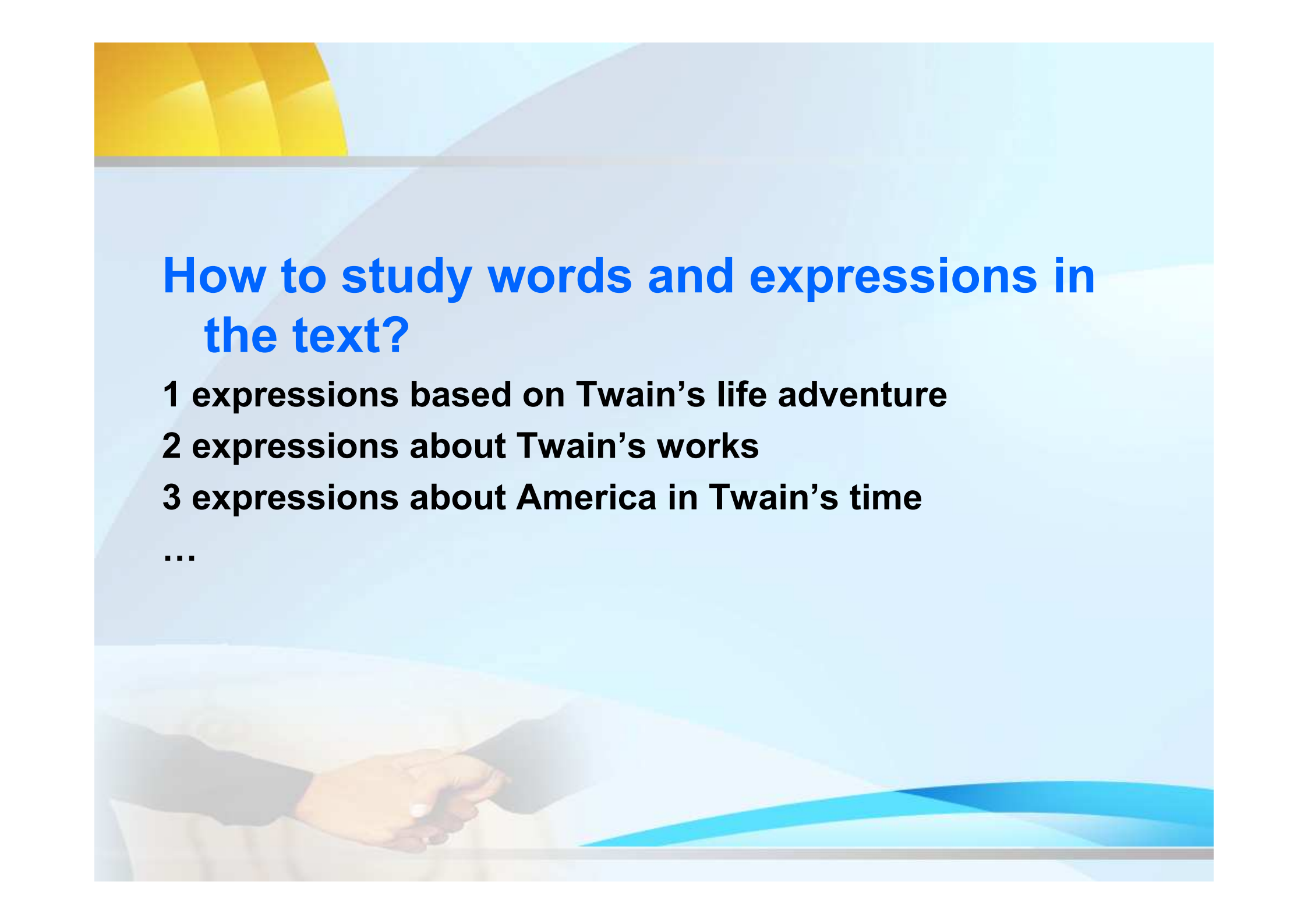
is of witty remarks mocking at small things and making people laugh

is a kind of artistic style used to criticize the social injustice

A Brief Assessment

Remarks: *Mark Twain is a part of America. His personal success and failure were those of America. He moved, along with America, from innocence to experience.*

Ernest Hemingway : *All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn. ... There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since.*



How to study words and expressions in the text?

1 expressions based on Twain's life adventure

2 expressions about Twain's works

3 expressions about America in Twain's time

...

1: expressions based on Twain's life adventure

River pilot: •	a keen perception of the human race, of the difference between what people claim to be and what they really are, acquainted with every possible type of human nature
Confederate guerrilla	"...I knew more about retreating than the man that invented retreating"
Prospector	succumbed to the epidemic of gold fever; flirted with the colossal wealth
Reporting trade	his pen would prove mightier than his pickax; honed and experimented with his new writing muscles
Nation's best-loved author	Digesting the new American experience: adventurous, patriotic, romantic, humorous vs. cynical, bitter, saddened with profound personal tragedies, obsessed with frailties of the human race, ahead with a black wall of night; personal tragedy haunted his entire life


2: expressions about Twain's works

Descriptions of the rough-country settlers	Slow, sleepy, sluggish-brained sloths stayed ...vs. getting up astounding enterprises, rushing through with a magnificent dash and daring and a recklessness of cost or consequences
<i>The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County</i>	With descriptive genius; establishing a national reputation as “the wild humorist of the Pacific slope”
<i>The Innocents Abroad</i>	Unusual glowing travelogue ; instant best-seller
<i>Tome Sawyer</i>	To be studied in American schools as is the Declaration of Independence

2: expressions about Twain's works

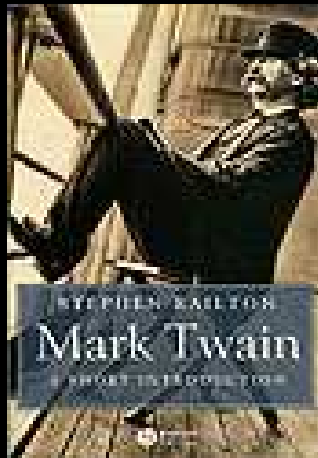
<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> • •	The best ever written about Americans; the ultimate expression of escape from the pace he lived by and often deplored, from life's regularities and the energy-sapping clamor for success
<i>The Mysterious Stranger</i>	The gloves came off with biting satire; man drop his religious illusions and depend upon himself, not Providence
autobiography	The last of his illusions crumbling near the end; a crushing sense of despair on men's final release from earthly struggles

3: expressions about America in Twain's time

<p>The Mississippi River In Twain's early years</p>	<p>Geographic core; main artery of transportation; the vast basin drained three quarters of the settled US before the climax of Westward Expansion</p>
<p>Epidemic of gold and silver fever</p>	<p>Colossal wealth available to the lucky and the persistent; the instant riches of a mining strike; mistreatment of Chinese; rough-country settlers</p>
<p>...</p>	

Macro-structure

Mark Twain — Mirror of America



Part I (Para. 1,2): It serves as an introduction of the whole text.

Part II (Para 3-19): It provides his early life, his success and comments on his works.

Part III (Para. 20-22): It devotes to his personal tragedy and conclusion.

Detailed Study

Part I

Most Americans remember Mark Twain as the father of Huck Finn's idyllic cruise through eternal boyhood and Tom Sawyer's endless summer of freedom and adventure. In-deed, this nation's best-loved author was every bit as adventurous, patriotic, romantic, and humorous as anyone has ever imagined. I found another Twain as well – one who grew cynical, bitter, saddened by the profound personal tragedies life dealt him, a man who became obsessed with the frailties of the human race, who saw clearly ahead a black wall of night.



Detailed Study

Part II

Tramp printer, river pilot, Confederate guerrilla, prospector, starry-eyed optimist, acid-tongued cynic: The man who became Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens and he ranged across the nation for more than a third of his life, digesting the new American experience before sharing it with the world as writer and lecturer. He adopted his pen name from the cry heard in his steamboat days, signaling two fathoms (12 feet) of water -- a navigable depth. His popularity is attested by the fact that more than a score of his books remain in print, and translations are still read around the world.

Detailed Study

Part III

Personal tragedy haunted his entire life, in the **deaths of loved ones**: his father, dying of pneumonia when Sam was 12; his brother Henry, killed by a steamboat explosion; the death of his son, Langdon, at 19 months. His eldest daughter, Susy, died of spinal meningitis, Mrs. Clemens succumbed to a heart attack in Florence, and youngest daughter., Jean, an epileptic, drowned in an upstairs bathtub .

Bitterness fed on the man who had made the world laugh. The moralizing of his earlier writing had been well padded with humor. Now the **gloves came off with biting satire.** He pretended to praise the U. S. military for the massacre of 600 Philippine Moros in the bowl of a volcanic, crater .

Most Americans remember...freedom and adventure:

- Father: **metaphor**.
- Endless: **hyperbole**. [rhetorical devices](#)
- The whole sentence: **parallelism**.
- 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 light-hearted, carefree and peaceful that it made his boyhood seem to be infinite, while Tom's independent mind and his exciting and dangerous activities made the summer seem everlasting.
- 在大多数美国人的心目中，马克·吐温是位伟大作家，他描写了哈克·费恩永恒的童年时代中充满诗情画意的旅程和汤姆·索亚在漫长的夏日里自由自在历险探奇的故事。

Huck Finn's idyllic cruise through eternal boyhood:

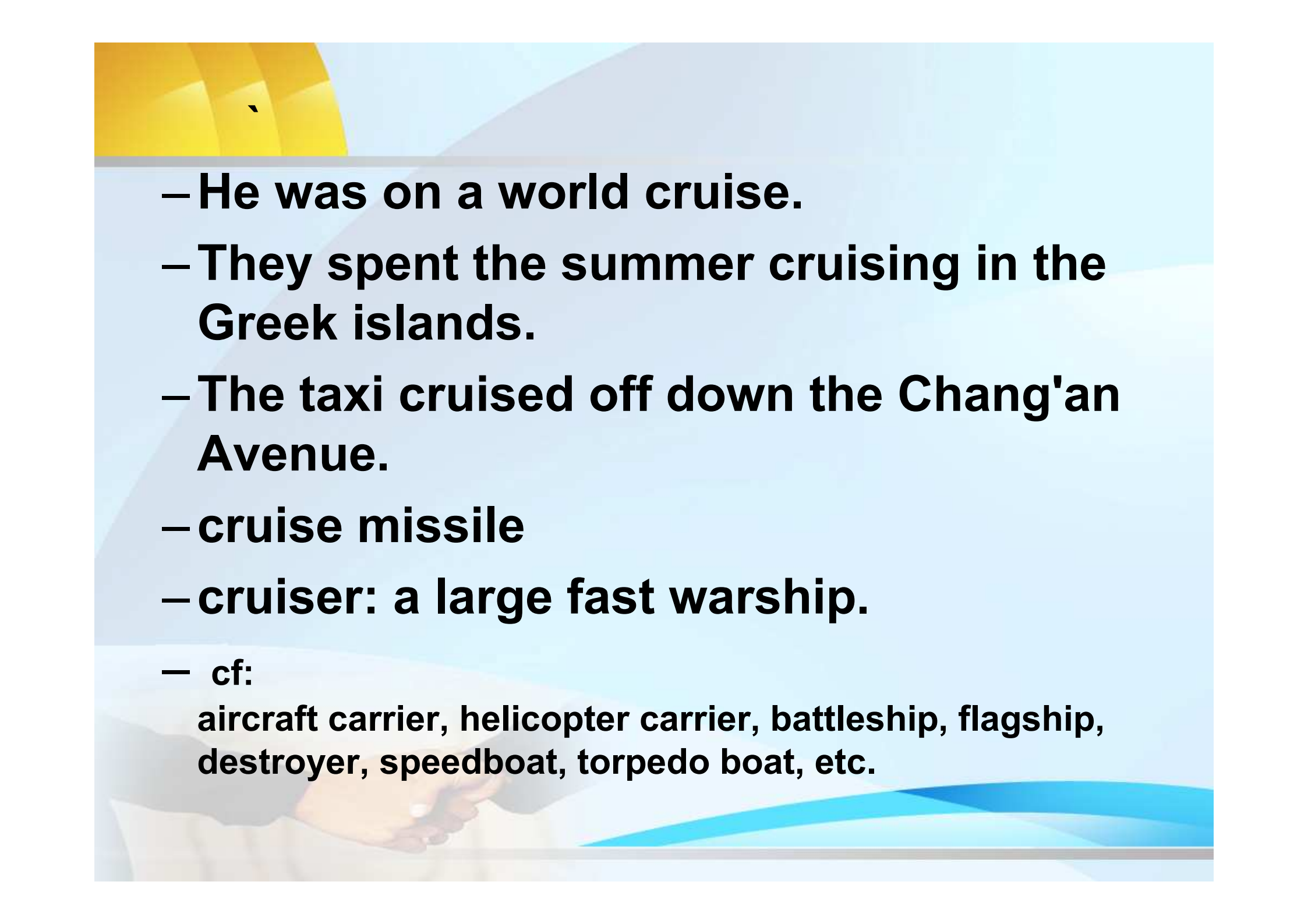
- Huck Finn's simple and pleasant journey through his boyhood which seems eternal. *Eternal* is a hyperbole; Huck Finn is the "eternal boy" immortalized.
- *idyllic*: [i / ai] a simple happy period of life, often in the country
- an idyllic setting, holiday, marriage
- idyll [ˈidil, / aidl] n. short piece of poetry or prose that describes a happy and peaceful scene or event, esp. of country life


- ...the idyllic calm of the South Seas...
- 南太平洋质朴宜人的宁静
- ...books and films which have portrayed an idyllic life with your new baby... 描绘出一幅家庭有了新生儿后田园诗般生活的书籍和电影
- They've retired to a cottage in Wales. Don't you think that sounds idyllic?




Detailed study of the text:

- ***cruise***: 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.

- 
- **He was on a world cruise.**
 - **They spent the summer cruising in the Greek islands.**
 - **The taxi cruised off down the Chang'an Avenue.**
 - **cruise missile**
 - **cruiser: a large fast warship.**
 - **cf:**
aircraft carrier, helicopter carrier, battleship, flagship, destroyer, speedboat, torpedo boat, etc.




Tom Sawyer's endless summer of freedom and adventure:

- *Endless* is also a hyperbole; it parallels the word *eternal*. *Summer*, because all the adventures of Tom Sawyer described in the book are supposed to have taken place in one particular summer.
- 

Indeed, thisever imagined:

- **every bit as...as:** infml, **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.**
 - **Every bit: altogether entirely**





as adventurous, patriotic, romantic,
and humorous as anyone has ever
imagined:

- ***Adventurous:*** Mark Twain was adventurous in every sense of the word. He was always trying new things, and always going to new places. Even in his literary career, he was never satisfied with what he had achieved.
- ***Patriotic:*** Refers to Mark Twain's profound love for his country with its robust people and beautiful scenery and its lofty ideals. It may also refer to his pride in the American traditions and the American language.
- ***Romantic:*** (in art, literature and music) marked by feeling rather than by intellect; preferring grandeur, passion, informal beauty, to order and proportion.
- ***Humorous:*** His works are so full of humor that he is considered America's greatest humorist.

One who grew cynical, bitter, saddened by ...black wall of night:

- *cynical*: sarcastic, sneering: A cynical person believes that all men are selfish. He sees little or no good in anything and shows this by making unkind and unfair remarks about people and things.
- **cynic**: 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
 - They've grown rather cynical about democracy, i.e. no longer believe that it is an honest system.

Obsessed with the frailties of the human race:

- Continually distressed by the moral weaknesses of the human race
- **obsess:** 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.

A black wall of night

- Metaphor, meaning hopelessness and despair
- 这位美国最受人喜爱的作家的探索精神、爱国热情、浪漫气质及幽默笔调都达到了登峰造极的程度。但我发现还有另一个不同的马克·吐温——一个由于深受人生悲剧的打击而变得愤世嫉俗、尖酸刻薄的马克·吐温，一个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。

Tramp printer, river pilot, Confederate guerrilla, prospector, starry-eyed optimist, acid-tongued cynic:

- ***tramp***: vagrant: a person who has no home or permanent job and very little money. A woman who is thought to have sex with a lot of men is cursed to be a tramp..
 - There's a tramp at the door begging for food.
- ***pilot***: a steersman, a person licensed to direct or steer ships into or out of a harbour or through difficult waters
- ***prospector***: a person who examines the land in order to find gold, oil, etc.
- ***acid-tongued***: If sb. is acid-tongued, he makes unkind or critical remarks. Sharp, sarcastic in speech

- **starry-eyed**: romantic, dreamy; with the eyes sparkling in a glow of wonder, romance,
- **visionary**: 1) a visionary is someone who has visions, especially about how things might be different in the future: left-wing visionaries 左翼空想家
- 2) used as an adjective: imaginative or something that is visionary seems to have been imagined by or to exist in the mind of an unusually imaginative person: a place of such mystic and visionary loveliness. 这般神秘和梦幻般可爱的地方
- **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.
 - We were all starry-eyed about visiting London.



the new American experience

- Twain lived in the stirring years in American history---the American-Mexican War; the Civil War; the Gold Rush; the westward expansion; the American Spanish War; the rapid development of capitalism and later the emergence of imperialism along with the first economic depression, etc.

as writer and lecturer:

- When denoting professional status, sometimes, no article is used, especially when two or more professions are mentioned together, e.g. soldier and statesman, poet and diarist.
- 印刷工、领航员、邦联游击队员、淘金者、耽于幻想的乐天派、语言尖刻的讽刺家：马克·吐温原名塞缪尔·朗赫恩·克莱门斯，他一生之中有超过三分之一的时间浪迹美国各地，体验着美国的新生活，尔后便以作家和演说家的身分将他所感受到的这一切介绍给全世界。

He adopted his pen name...a navigable depth:

- **adopt**: to take and use as one's own
 - The US government decided to adopt a hard line towards terrorism.
 - Having no children of their own they decided to adopt an orphan / dog.
 - adopt a name, a custom, an idea, a style of dress
- **adept**: ~ (in sth); ~ (at/in doing sth)
 - He's an adept in carpentry.
- **adapt**: make sth suitable for a new use, situation, etc.
 - This novel has been adapted for TV from the Russian original.
 - Our eyes slowly adapted to the dark.



- **para 3---7**

- the Mississippi River -- main artery of transportation -- cub pilot
- railroads dried up the river/ Civil War--- soldiering
- Gold rush/epidemic (Nevada's Washoe region) -- prospector

the Mississippi River:

- 1 main artery of transportation in the young nation's heart... the first major commerce
- 2 In the 1850s, ... Westward Expansion, the vast basin drained three quarters of the settled US
- 3 Mark as cub pilot on a steamboat: cast of characters set ... a cosmos.
- 4 All would resurface in his books, with the colorful language he soaked up with a memory ...phonographic
- 5 Steamboat decks teemed not only with the main current of pioneering humanity, but its flotsam of hustlers, ...
- 6 a keen perception of human race, of the difference between what people claim to be and what they really are:
- 7 He tried soldiering... with a motley band...diligently avoided contact with the enemy.
- 8 ...succumbed to the epidemic of gold and silver fever in Nevada's Washoe region.
- 9 he flirted with the colossal wealth available to the lucky and the persistent, and was rebuffed.

main artery of transportation in the young nation's heart:

- Main channel of transportation in the young nation's central part. Both *artery* and *heart* are used **metaphorically**.
- ***artery***: blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body
- ***vein***: any of the tubes carrying blood from all parts of the body to the heart

Keelboats, flatboats...the first major commerce:

- ***Keelboats:*** a large shallow freight boat with a keel, formerly used on the Mississippi, Missouri, etc. (**A keel** is the chief timber or steel piece extending along the entire length of the bottom of a boat or a ship and supporting the frame.)
- ***raft:*** floating platform made from large pieces of wood, oil-drums, etc, that are tied together. Also rubber raft.
- ***the first major commerce:*** **An abstract noun used concretely**, here the word commerce refers to various commodities merchandise. They were the first major commerce because later other commodities such as oil and steel took their place.

Detailed study of the text:

- ***delta country***: Delta is the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet, which is shaped like a triangle. Therefore anything in the shape of a delta, esp. a deposit of sand and soil formed at the mouth of some rivers is called a delta.
- ***molasses***: a thick dark syrup drained from raw sugar when sugar is refined. It is used in cooking; usually used in a singular noun
- cf: ***syrup***: a thick sticky solution of sugar and water, often flavoured

2 In the 1850s, before the climax of ... the settled US:

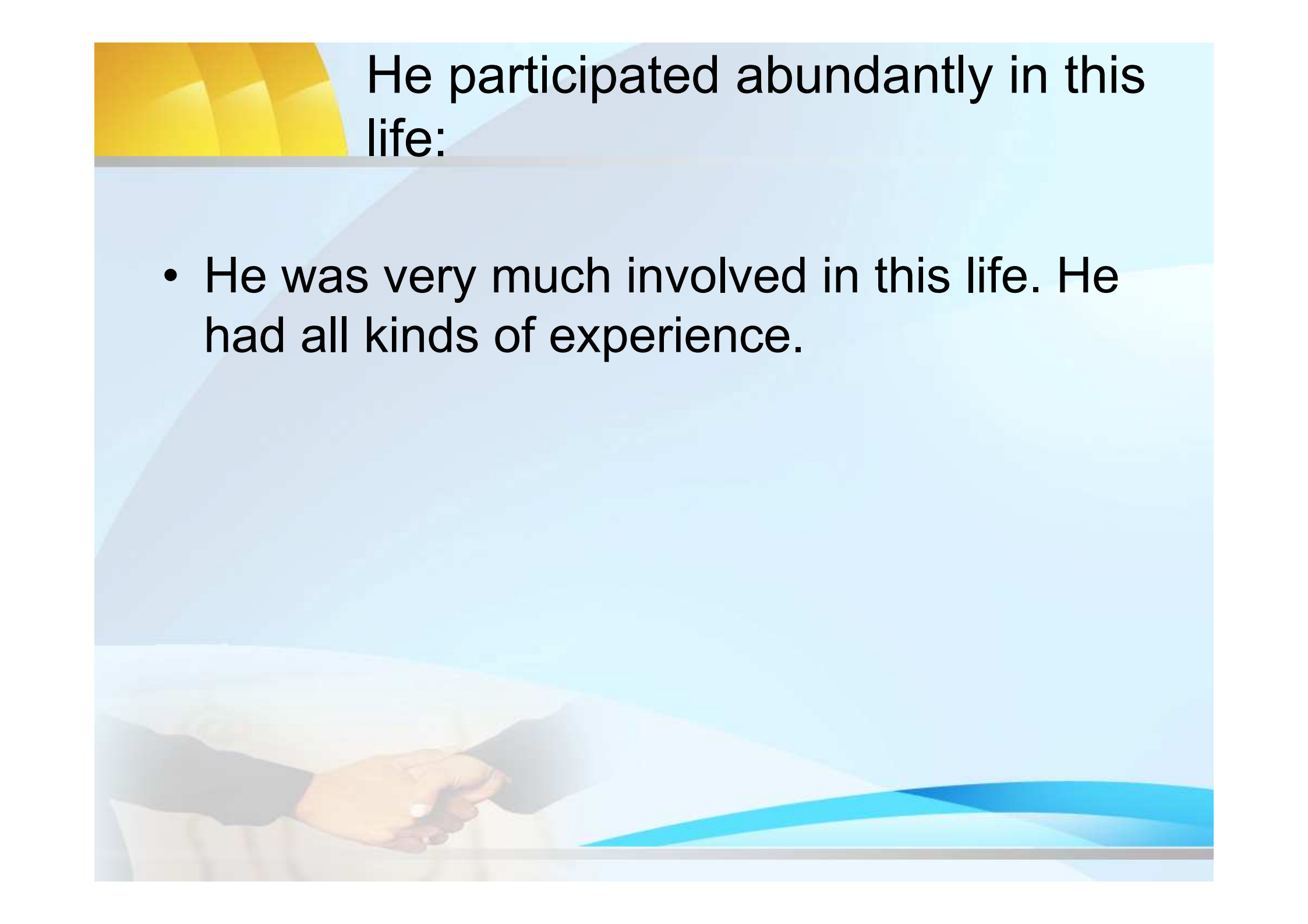
- *westward expansion:*
- When America became independent, there were only 13 states along the Atlantic Ocean. By 1850, the United States had expanded to the Pacific coast.
- **Events in this westward expansion include :**
 - the massacre of the native Indians,
 - the Louisiana Purchase (1803),
 - Texas Annexation (1845),
 - the push into Oregon (1846),
 - Mexican Cession (1848),
 - the Gadsden Purchase.
 - “gold rush”: In 1848, gold was found in California. The news spread far and wide and people rushed there to seek their fortune. It was known in American history as the “gold rush”, and this rush reached its climax in the 1860s.

- ***drain***: to cause to become gradually dry or empty
- **Boil the vegetable for 2 minutes and then drain the water.**
 - brain drain
 - It is important to drain the wound.
 - All the sewage drains off into the river...
 - The seas drained away and the sea bed became dry...
 - These veins
 - Put those plates on the rack to drain.
 - drain the blood from the brain
 - He drained what was left of his drink.
 - Slowly the red drained from Jack's cheeks.
 - Gradually he feels his reluctance draining away...
 - The project is already draining the charity's funds.
 - This kind of work drains you.
 - The banks suddenly are facing a very large drain on their funds.
 - ... a heavy drain on military manpower

- 在马克·吐温青年时代，美国的地理中心是密西西比河流域，而密西西比河是这个年轻国家中部的交通大动脉。龙骨船、平底船和大木筏载运着最重要的商品。木材、玉米、烟草、小麦和皮货通过这些运载工具顺流而下，运送到河口三角洲地区，而砂糖、糖浆、棉花和威士忌酒等货物则被运送到北方。在**19世纪50年代**，西部领土开发高潮到来之前，辽阔的密西西比河流域占美国已开发领土的四分之三。

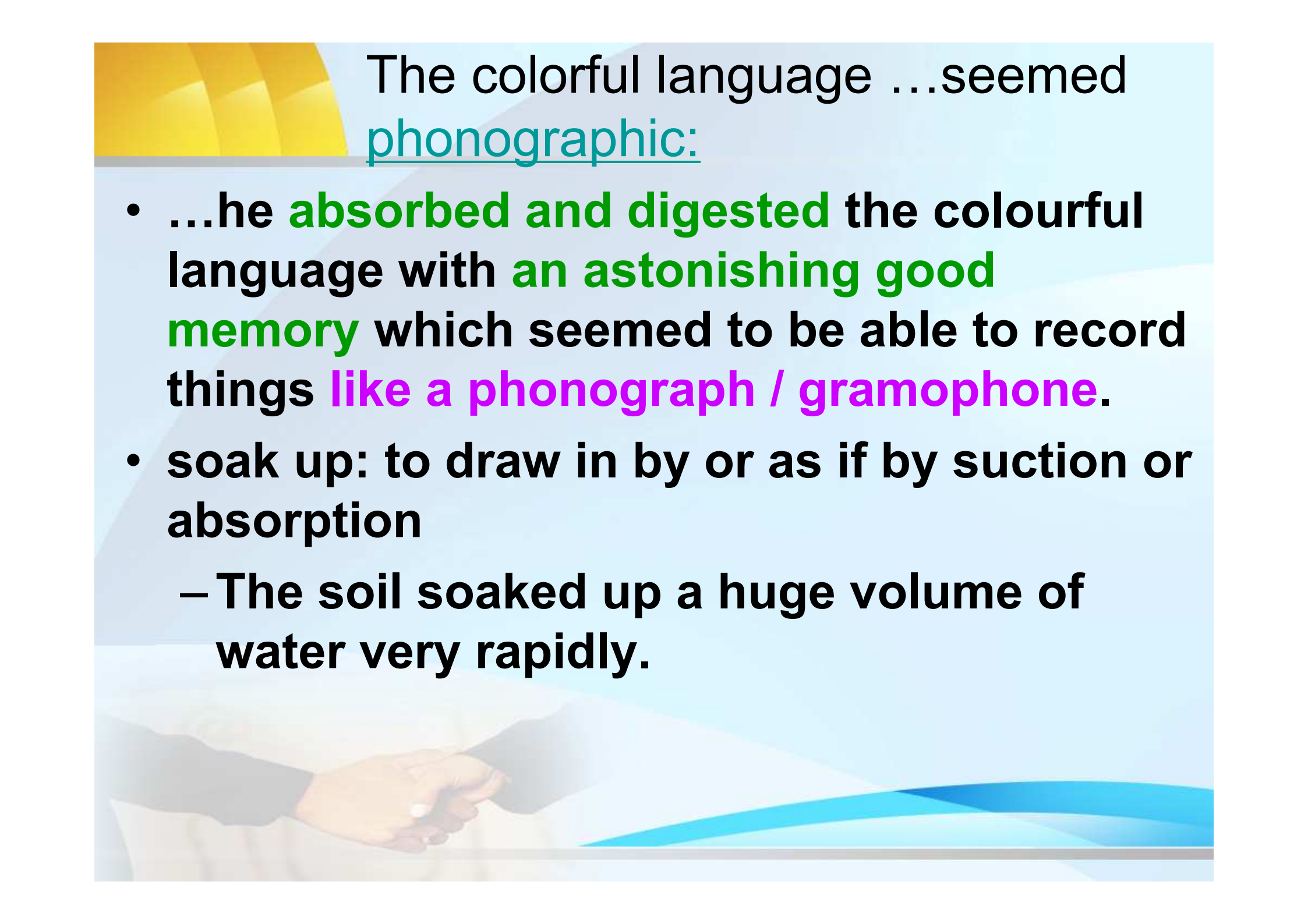
The cast of characters... a cosmos:

- ***cast of characters:* (alliteration)** the cast of a play or a film consists of all the people who act in it. Used here figuratively, it means people of all sorts.
- ***cosmos:*** the whole universe considered as an ordered system, used **figuratively** or **metaphorically** here, meaning a place where one can find all types of characters



He participated abundantly in this life:

- He was very much involved in this life. He had all kinds of experience.



The colorful language ...seemed phonographic:

- ...he **absorbed and digested** the colourful language with **an astonishing good memory** which seemed to be able to record things **like a phonograph / gramophone**.
- **soak up: to draw in by or as if by suction or absorption**
 - **The soil soaked up a huge volume of water very rapidly.**

5 Steamboat decks teemedbut its flotsam of....:

- Steamboat decks were filled with people of pioneering spirit (people who explored and prepared the way for others) and also lawless people or social outcasts such hustler, gamblers and thugs.
- *teem with*
 - If a place teems with animals or people, it is very crowded and the animals or people are moving around a lot. “... teemed with the main current” is not very suitable.
 - The water teems with fish and shrimps.
 - Fish teems in this river.
 - The marshes teem with mosquitoes in summer.
 - His mind teems with plans.

- ***current***: a stream of water or air
- ***humanity***: human beings in general
- ***flotsam***: rubbish, wreckage such as bits of wood, plastic, and other waste materials that is floating on the sea, parts of a wrecked ship or its cargo found floating in the sea.
- Both *current and flotsam* are used metaphorically here.

6 From them all... what they really are:

- ***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.

- ***perception***: natural understanding
 - extra sensory perception
- ***perceive***: realize, notice, see or hear sth. esp. when it is not obvious to other people
 - Just as a good artist must have good perception of colour, a good musician must have good perception of sound.
 - Alcohol reduces your perception of pain.

the difference between what people claim to be and what they really are:

- (antithesis) 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.

In later life Twain acknowledged...nature:

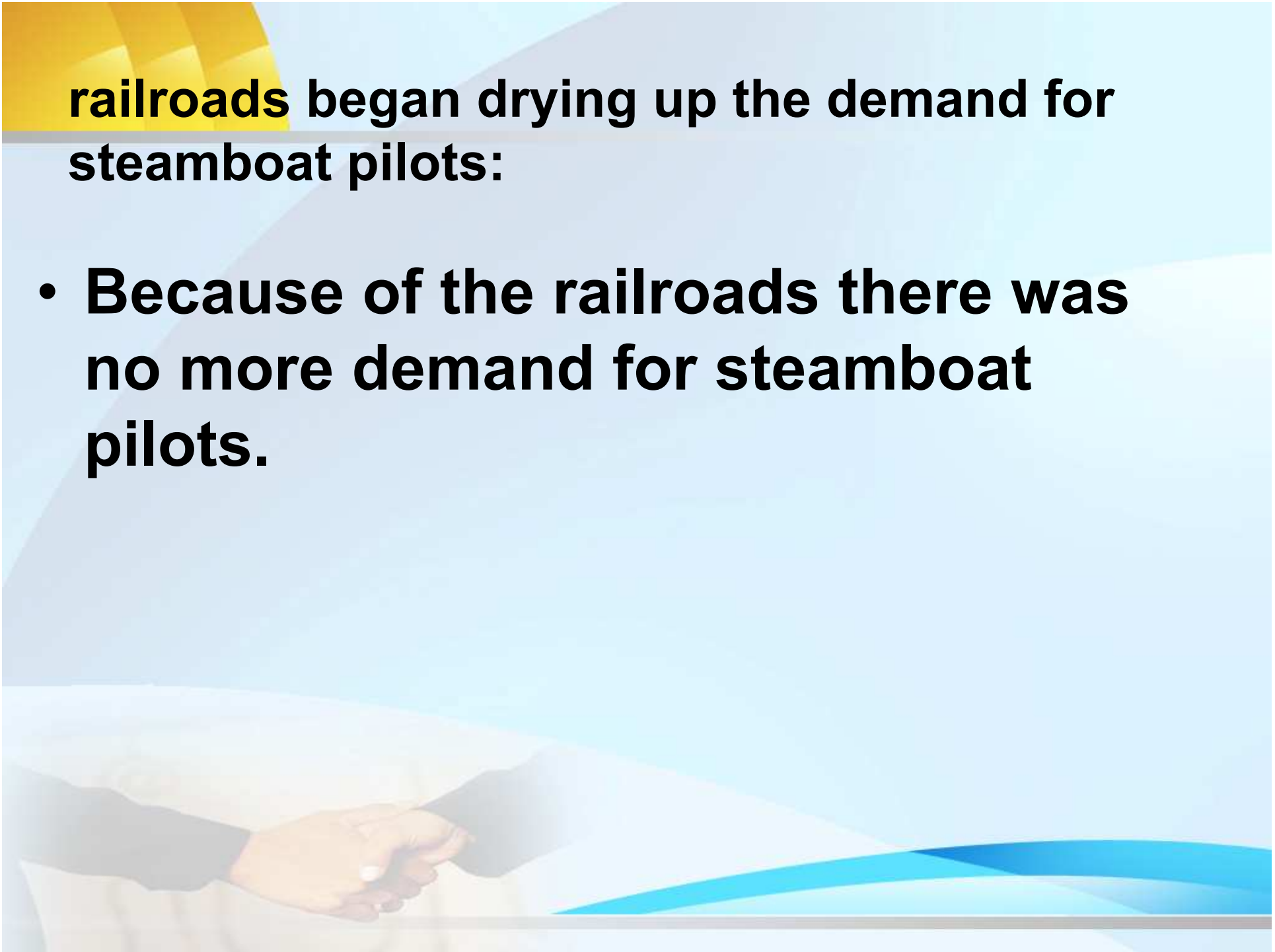
- **acknowledge: recognize the fact, agree to the truth.**
 - If you acknowledge a fact or situation, you accept or admit that it is true or that it exists.
 - This is a fact even our enemies abroad have to acknowledge.
 - He is an acknowledged expert on antique-examination.
- **express thanks for sth.**
 - His services to the country were never officially acknowledged.
- **acknowledgement:**
 - We are sending you some money in acknowledgement of your valuable help.
 - If you quote somebody's theory, you must send him your acknowledgement.

Those acquaintanceships strengthened...:

- ***acquaint***: cause to know personally, make familiar with,
 - You must acquainted yourself with your new duties.
- ***be acquainted with***
 - I have heard about your friend but I am not acquainted with him.
- ***make acquaintance of sb. / make sb's acquaintance***
 - Where did you make his acquaintance?
 - Very pleased to have made your acquaintance.
 - nodding acquaintance / bowing acquaintance

railroads began drying up the demand for steamboat pilots:

- **Because of the railroads there was no more demand for steamboat pilots.**



The Civil War halted commerce:

- The Civil War brought commerce to a temporary stop. Commerce means trade here, that is the buying and selling of goods, especially when done on a large scale between cities, states, or countries.

7 He tried soldiering...invented retreating

- He experimented with soldiering. To **soldier** means to serve as a soldier. It suggests a profession.
- With a group of Confederate guerrillas of various sorts.
- **motley**: 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.)
- Constantly and carefully avoided clashes with the enemy. This is a roundabout way of saying “avoided fighting” or “retreated” ---**euphemism**

8 he went west by stagecoach and succumbed to the epidemic of ...:

- **stagecoach:** horse-drawn public vehicle carrying passengers or mail along a regular route, going by stages and putting up at designated points along the way for the night. Later it was supplanted by railways.
- **Succumbed to:** Gave way to, (yielded to, submitted to) the prevailing gold and silver fever. Note the **metaphor** used here (epidemic, fever). The author describes the gold and silver rush as a fever and an epidemic that is a disease spreading rapidly among many people in the same area at the same time.

- **succumb:** a. (fml) stop resisting (temptation, illness, attack, etc)
 - He finally succumbed to the temptation to have another cigarette / drink.
 - The city succumbed after only a short offence.
 - Several children have measles (麻疹), and the others are bound to succumb to it.b. to die (because of)
 - He succumbed to SARS.
- **epidemic:** the occurrence of a disease which affects a very large number of people living in an area and which spreads quickly to other people
 - an influenza epidemic
 - Football hooliganism is now reaching epidemic proportions.

9 He flirted with the colossal wealth... and was rebuffed:

- He tried but not very hard or persistently enough to get the enormous wealth available to those lucky and persistent ones, and he failed. **It is a metaphor. Words like flirt, lucky, persistent, rebuff are often associated with love.**
- **flirt**
- a. If you flirt with someone, you behave as if you are sexually attracted to them, in a not very serious way.
 - Don't take her seriously, she is only flirting with you.
 - She flirts with every man in the office.
- b. If you flirt with the idea of doing or having sth. , you consider doing or having it, without making any definite plans.
 - We flirted with the idea of going abroad but decided against it.
- **rebuff:** refuse unkindly, bluntly and contemptuously
- cf: refuse
 - The friendly dog was rebuffed by a kick.
 - He refused / rebuffed the suggestion.

to literature's enduring gratitude:

- If Twain had not accepted that job offered to him by Territorial Enterprise, literature might have lost that literary giant. Therefore world literature is forever grateful to this turn of events.
- **endure:** continue to exist without any loss in quality or importance
 - His fame will endure eternally.
 - enduring memories / peace
 - His influence was the most enduring of all.

Writing career I (8—11)

- Regional fame as a reporter and humorist
- Boarding the stagecoach for San Francisco
- Honing and experimenting with his new writing muscles
- Description of the rough-country settlers
- In Angels Camp, notebook, **an entry that would determine his course** forever
- *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* --- national reputation as “the wild humorist of the Pacific slope”



digging his way to regional fame as a reporter
and humorist:

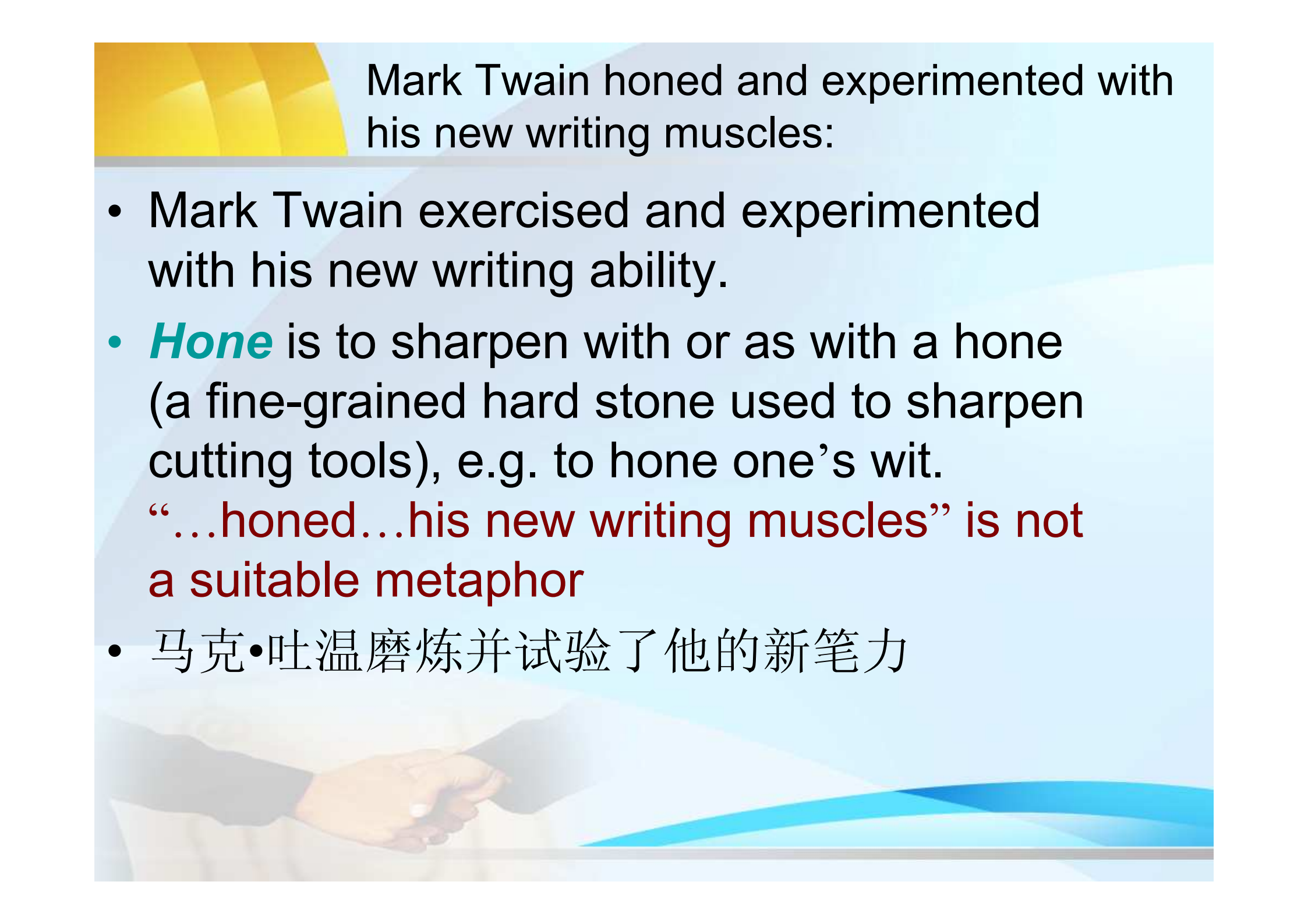
- working hard to gain regional fame or become well known locally
- **mining strike**: sudden discovery of mine
- **strike**: sudden discovery of some mineral ores. It comes from the phrase to **strike gold, oil, etc.**
 - a lucky strike: fortunate discovery

The instant riches of mining strike would not .. For making money, his pen would prove mightier than his pickaxe:

- He did not succeed in his reporting trade and become rich overnight as a goldminer might have done at that time by discovering a vein of gold. Yet, his reporting brought him more money than his unsuccessful mining or prospecting might have.
- The figure of speech here is **metonymy**.
- He could not become rich overnight as a gold miner. Yet his reporting brought him more money than his unsuccessful mining which was thought to get by luck. (group 2)

Then and now:

- Set phrase. Cf.
- here and there
- Up and down
- In and out
- To and fro
- Back and forth
- High and low
- Right and left
- Day and night
- Pros and cons



Mark Twain honed and experimented with his new writing muscles:

- Mark Twain exercised and experimented with his new writing ability.
- **Hone** is to sharpen with or as with a hone (a fine-grained hard stone used to sharpen cutting tools), e.g. to hone one's wit.
“...honed...his new writing muscles” is not a suitable metaphor
- 马克·吐温磨炼并试验了他的新笔力

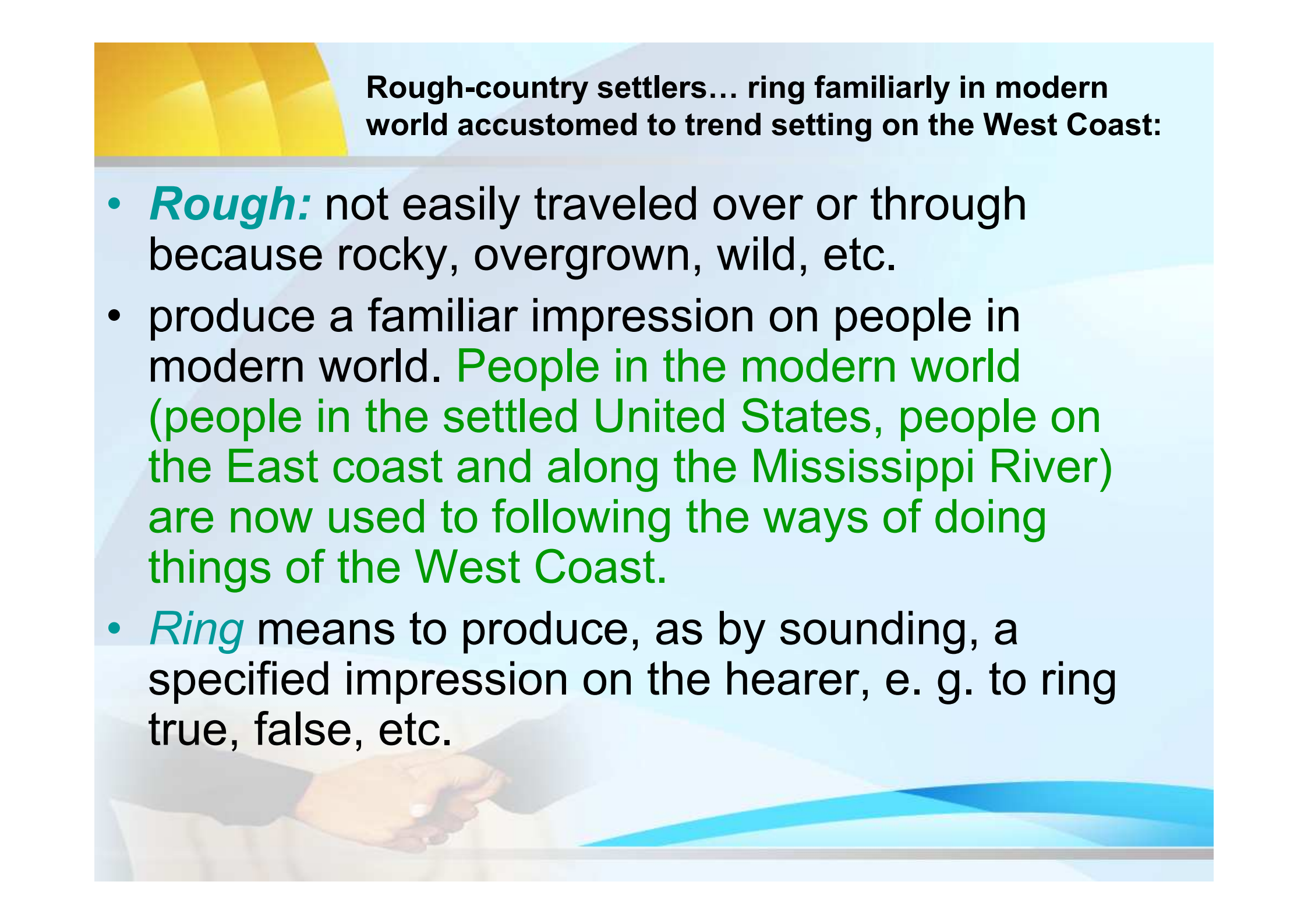
Scathing columns: severe and harsh articles.

- **column:** a. one of two or more vertical sections of printed material on a page
 - Each page of this dictionary has two columns of text.
- b. part of a newspaper or regularly dealing with a particular subject or written by the same writer
 - the fashion / financial column
- **columnist:** journalist who regularly writes an article commenting on politics, current events, etc. for a newspaper or magazine
 - a political columnist
- **scathing:** (of speech or writing) bitterly cruel in judgement, sharp and hurtful; cutting, scornful
 - She could be...scathing in her criticism.
 - his scathing rejection of violence

但他却因写了一些尖锐的评论文章而被迫暂时离开这座城市。

In The Sacramento Valley:


- **On the Sacramento River, some 70 miles north of San Francisco, formerly a colony set up by John Sutto from Switzerland in 1839, where gold was found in 1848 and the gold rush started the following year.**
- 萨克拉门托山谷的金矿区




Rough-country settlers... ring familiarly in modern world accustomed to trend setting on the West Coast:

- ***Rough***: not easily traveled over or through because rocky, overgrown, wild, etc.
- produce a familiar impression on people in modern world. **People in the modern world (people in the settled United States, people on the East coast and along the Mississippi River) are now used to following the ways of doing things of the West Coast.**
- ***Ring*** means to produce, as by sounding, a specified impression on the hearer, e. g. to ring true, false, etc.

- ***be accustomed to:*** be in the habit of, be used to, be familiar with
 - He is accustomed to working hard.
 - You will soon get accustomed to that kind of thing.
 - He was not accustomed to **LEAVE** home during the winter.
Notice:
- a. ***Be accustomed to*** can be followed by a verb.
 - He was not accustomed to **leave** home during the winter.
 - He is not accustomed to **work** under such noisy condition.
- b. “**Accustomed**” can be used as an attribute
 - He sat in his accustomed chair.
 - her accustomed smile
 - his accustomed attitude of optimism
- c. **accustom oneself**
 - He has to accustom himself to the cold weather.



It was a splendid population ---for all the slow, sleepy, sluggish-brained sloths....:

- Because all the slow, dull and lazy people stayed at home, hence implying that all those who came pioneering out west were energetic, courageous and reckless people
 - **Alliteration** in the sentence: with so many words beginning with s put together, this instance of alliteration seems **a little overdone.**
 - Sluggish-brained: dull-brained
 - Sloth: lazy person
- 

Gave to California a name for:

- Made California famous for:
- Gave California a reputation for

Getting up astounding enterprises

- Starting, contriving or organizing astounding undertakings, especially one that needs courage or offers difficulties

rush them through

- Carry them out, develop them at a high speed

With a magnificent dash and daring and a recklessness of cost or consequences

- **(alliteration)** energy and courage; a combination of bravery and style, enthusiasm and courage
- Regardless of money, time and effort and disregard for risks or adverse consequences

Bear unto this day

When she projects a new surprise, the grave world smiles as usual, “Well, that is California all over.”

- **(personification)** The “grave world” refers to dull, solemn dignified people in other states of the U. S.
- That is typical of California, or that is just like California

- **consequence:** result, outcome
 - The rise in lung cancers is a consequence of cigarette smoking.
 - The consequence of the flood is still under estimation.
 - Some films may have / produce bad consequences.
 - Someone or sth. that is of consequence is important or valuable.
- **RESULT** implies a direct relationship with an antecedent action or condition, usu. suggests an effect that terminates the operation of a cause, and applies to concrete objects.

His limp was the result of an automobile accident.
The results of the research are to be published soon.
The fire was the result of carelessness.
The result of the match was 1 - 0.
- **OUTCOME**, though often interchangeable with result, may put less stress on the notion of finality than result.

These were a direct outcome of the strike.
The outcome of the war was doubtful.
This book was the outcome of a tremendous amount of scientific work.
What was the outcome of your interview?
Five minutes from the end, the outcome of the match was still in doubt.

- **When meaning something that happens or exists because of sth. else that has happened, result is equal to consequence.**

The result / consequence was ...

Twice he followed his own advice, with disastrous results / consequences.

- **When meaning the final situation that exists after a public event, result is equal to outcome.**

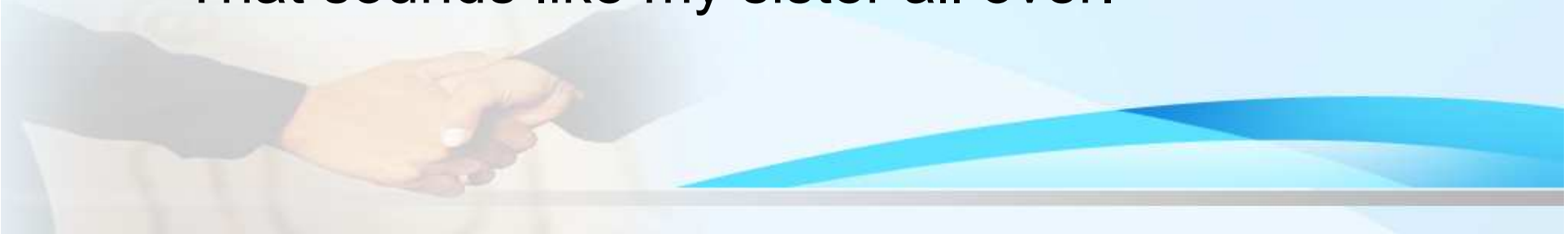
- Compare:

The consequence of the war is doubtful. (后果)

The outcome of the war is doubtful. (结局)



- **Which she bears unto this day:** **Which** stands for a name. **Unto** (meaning up to, until) is old or literary, used only in set phrases and quotations.
- **When she projects a new surprise:** when she (California) proposes or makes plans for a new surprise
- **Surprise:** unexpected or unusual enterprises or undertakings
- **all over:** (colloquial) as one characteristically is; in every respect, thoroughly
 - She is her mother all over.
 - That sounds like my sister all over.



– It was these pioneers that brought California a reputation. California was made famous for organizing surprising businesses and developing them with great bravery and courage, without caring cost or result. And California keeps this fame until now. When she makes plans for a new surprise, the dull, solemn, dignified people in other parts of the States smile as usual and say: “Well, that's typical of California, that's just California style.”



— 他对那儿的拓荒者们的描写使西海岸地区富有创新精神的现代人倍感亲切。“这儿的人们真是了不起——因为那些笨手笨脚、无精打彩、呆头呆脑的懒汉都呆在家里……正是那些人们为加利福尼亚赢得了这样的声誉：当他们着手进行一项宏伟的事业时，他们会不计代价或风险而以一种豪迈的气概和闯劲勇往直前，一干到底。加利福尼亚人至今仍保持着这样的声誉，因而，每当他们发起一项新的惊天动地的壮举时，那些素来稳重的人便会像往常一样微笑着说：‘看吧，这完全是加利福尼亚的风格’”。

Scattered among notations ...entry that would determine his course forever

- ***Angels Camp***: a mining camp
- ***notations***: a brief note jotted down, as to remind one of something
- **Scattered among notations about the weather...lies an entry: inverted sentence order**
- ***entry***: an item in his notebook
- ***Shot***: quantity of tiny balls of lead used in a sporting gun against birds or small animals


Writing career II (12-19)

- A distinctly American look at the Old World in a pleasure cruise to Europe and the Holy Land
- *The Innocents Abroad* --- an instant best-seller.
- *Tom Sawyer* --- a classic tale of American boyhood, to be studied as is the Declaration of Independence
- *Huck Finn* --- a book often considered the best ever written about Americans

- **Take a distinctly American look at the Old World:** take a typically American look. The Old World is opposed to the New World, which is America.
- **A pleasure curise:** a voyage for pleasure of sightseeing, a tourist expedition by ship
- ***The Holy Land:*** Palestine, region on the east coast of the Mediterranean, the country of the Jews in Biblical times. The region where Jesus Christ preached and lived.
- a milestone, of sorts: ***Milestone*** is something marking a new stage in history.
- ***of sorts*** = of a sort, (infml. derog.) of a poor or inferior type. here in a sense, in a way. It suggests that what is referred to here does not really deserve the name. Eg. He is a historian of sorts.

- ***Glowing travelogue***: *A travelogue* is a lecture or article on travels, sometimes accompanied by the showing of pictures of it's a lecture. *Glowing* means showing enthusiasm, full of praises.
- **-logue**: (also) –log: comb. form
- a. forming ns: talk or speech
 - *dialogue*
 - *monologue*
- b. = -logist,
 - *ideologue (ideologist)* 思想家
 - *Sinologue Sinologist*, 汉学家





One could set a trap anywhere and catch a dozen abler men in a night.

- This shows Twain's contempt for the Sultan of Turkey.



Casually he debunked revered artists and art treasures:

- **debunk:** (infml) to point out the truth about (over-praised people, ideas, etc).
 - If you debunk an idea or belief, you show that it is false or not important.
 - debunk fashionable opinions
- **bunk:** sl. nonsense
 - Don't talk bunk!
- **de:** to remove from
- **debunk:** to remove the nonsense
- **revered:** (fml) to give great respect and admiration to
 - He was a revered figure with a great national reputation.
 - They revered him.

- He exposed the pretensions of respected artists and the false glamour of art treasures. He did this as if unintentionally and in a nonchalant manner.
- “... The *Last Supper* is painted on the dilapidated wall of what was a little chapel attached to the main church in ancient times. I suppose. It is battered and scarred in every direction, and stained and discoloured by time, and Napoleon’s horses kicked the legs off most the disciples when they (the horses, not the disciples,) were stabled there more than a half century ago.

“I recognized the old picture in a moment... the picture from which all engravings and all copies have been made for three centuries. Perhaps no living man has ever known an attempt to paint the Lord’s Supper differently. The world seems to have become settled in its belief, long ago, that it is not possible for human genius to outdo this creation of Da Vinci’s. I suppose painters will go on copying it as long as any of the original is left visible to the eye...” (From *The Innocents Abroad: The Old Masters*)

Took unholy verbal shots at the Holy land


- Ridiculed the Holy Land; attacked the Holy Land orally
- **“It is a singular circumstance that right under the roof of this same church, and not far away from that illustrious column, Adam himself, the father of the human race, is buried. There is no question that he is actually buried in the grave which is pointed out as his ---there can be none—because it has never yet been proven that that grave is not the grave in which he is buried...**

“The tomb of Adam! How touching it was, here in a land of strangers, far away from home, and friends, and all who cared for me, thus to discover the grave of a blood relation... The fountain of my filial affection was stirred to its profoundest depths, and I gave way to tumultuous emotion. I leaned upon a pillar and burst into tears. I deem it no shame to have wept over the grave of my relative. Let him who would sneer at my emotion close this volume here, for he will find little to his taste in my journeyings through Holy Land.” (From *The Innocents Abroad: The Tomb of Adam*)





America laughed with him

- (personification, hyperbole) The American people laughed with him.



...the book version of his travels, *The Innocents Abroad*, became an instant best-seller:

- **version:** a form of sth in which certain details are different or have been changed from the previous forms
 - Did you read the short or full version of the book?
 - There have been several translations of the Bible, including the Authorized Version and the Revised Version.
- 
- 

The Innocents Abroad:

- In this book Twain combined serious passages (history, statistics, descriptions, explanations and argumentation) with humorous ones. The chief attraction of the book to the American readers was its humor. The author sharply satirized tourists who had no ideas of the lands they saw except what the guide books fed them. He assumed the role of a sharp-eyed shrewd westerner with gross-roots common sense, who was refreshingly honest and vivid in describing foreign scenes and his reactions to them. It is probable that Americans like the implication that an unsophisticated Yankee could judge the Old World as well as any man.

Juneau

Edmonton

Calgary

Winnipeg

Vancouver

Seattle

Helena

Bismarck

Montreal

Salem

Ottawa

Boise

Pierre

Saint Paul

Hamilton

Cheyenne

Lincoln

Des Moines

Hartford

Carson City

Topeka

Harrisburg

San Francisco

Santa Fe

Oklahoma City

Raleigh

Los Angeles

Phoenix

Dallas

Atlanta

San Diego

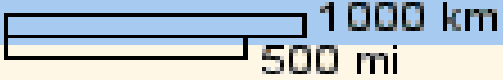
El Paso

San Antonio

Houston

Jackson

Tallahassee



Tom Sawyer:

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.* One of the two best novels written by Mark Twain (the other being its sequel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.*) It is a narrative of innocent boyhood that inadvertently discover evil as Tom and Huck witness a murder by Ingin Joe in a graveyard at midnight. The boys run away, are thought dead by drowning, but turn up at their own funeral. They decide to seek out the murderer and win the reward offered for his capture. It is Tom and his little girlfriend who, while lost in a cave, discovers the hiding place of Ingin Joe.

- **classic:** having the highest quality; of the first or highest class or rank
- cf:
 - classical: being in accordance with ancient Greek or Roman models in literature or art (古典)
 - classical music as opposed to popular, jazz, or folk music.
 - 四书 (大学, 中庸, 论语, 孟子) : **The Four Books (*The Great Learning, The Doctrine of Mean, The Analects of Confucius and Mencius*)**
 - 五经 (诗经, 书经, 易经, 礼记, 春秋) : **The Five Classics (*The Book of Songs, The Book of History, The Book of Changes, The Book of Rites, and The Spring and Autumn Annals*)**

第15段

" Tom's mischievous daring, ingenuity, and the sweet innocence of his affection for Becky Thatcher are almost as sure to be studied in American schools today as is the Declaration of Independence."

Language Point:

1、 mischievous: irresponsibly playful, eager to have fun, especially by embarrassing people or by playing harmless tricks.

淘气的；（人、行为等）恶作剧的；


Eg: He was continually being called in before the principal for his mischievous deeds.

2、 ingenuity: skill and cleverness in making or arranging things


Eg: The boy showed ingenuity when solving the difficult maths problem.

Rhetorical Devices:

Analogy（类比）

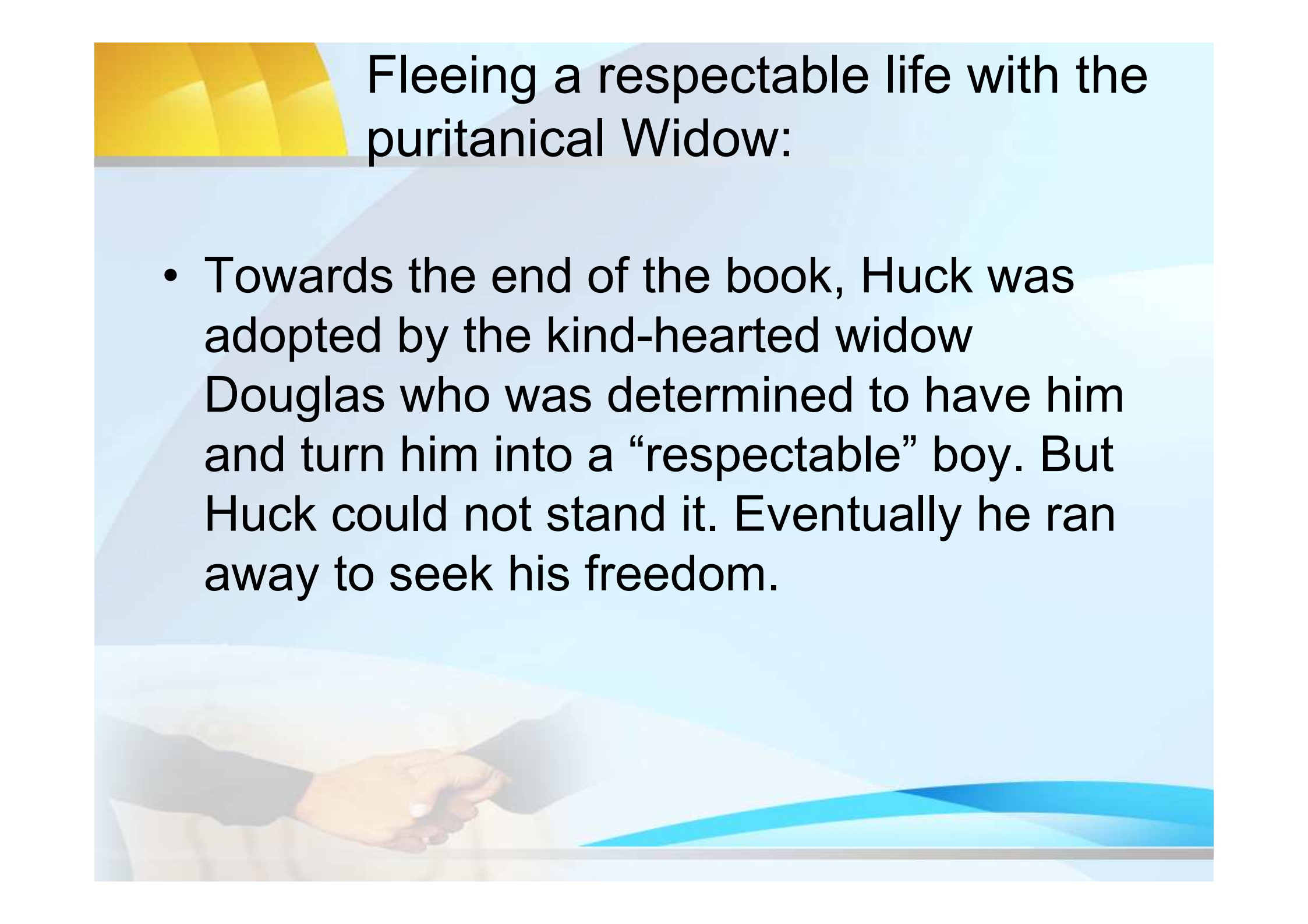


Tom's mischievous daring, ingenuity, and the sweet innocence of his affection for Becky Thatcher....:

- *Mischievous*: teasing, full of tricks
 - cf:
 - *naughty*: behaving badly & disobediently
 - A mischievous child is often naughty but does not do any real harm.
 - He was called in before the principal for his mischievous deeds.
 - *Ingenuity*: cleverness, originality
 - *Innocence*: quality of being unsophisticated, simple, naive
 - *Becky Thatcher*: Tom's girl-friend
- 

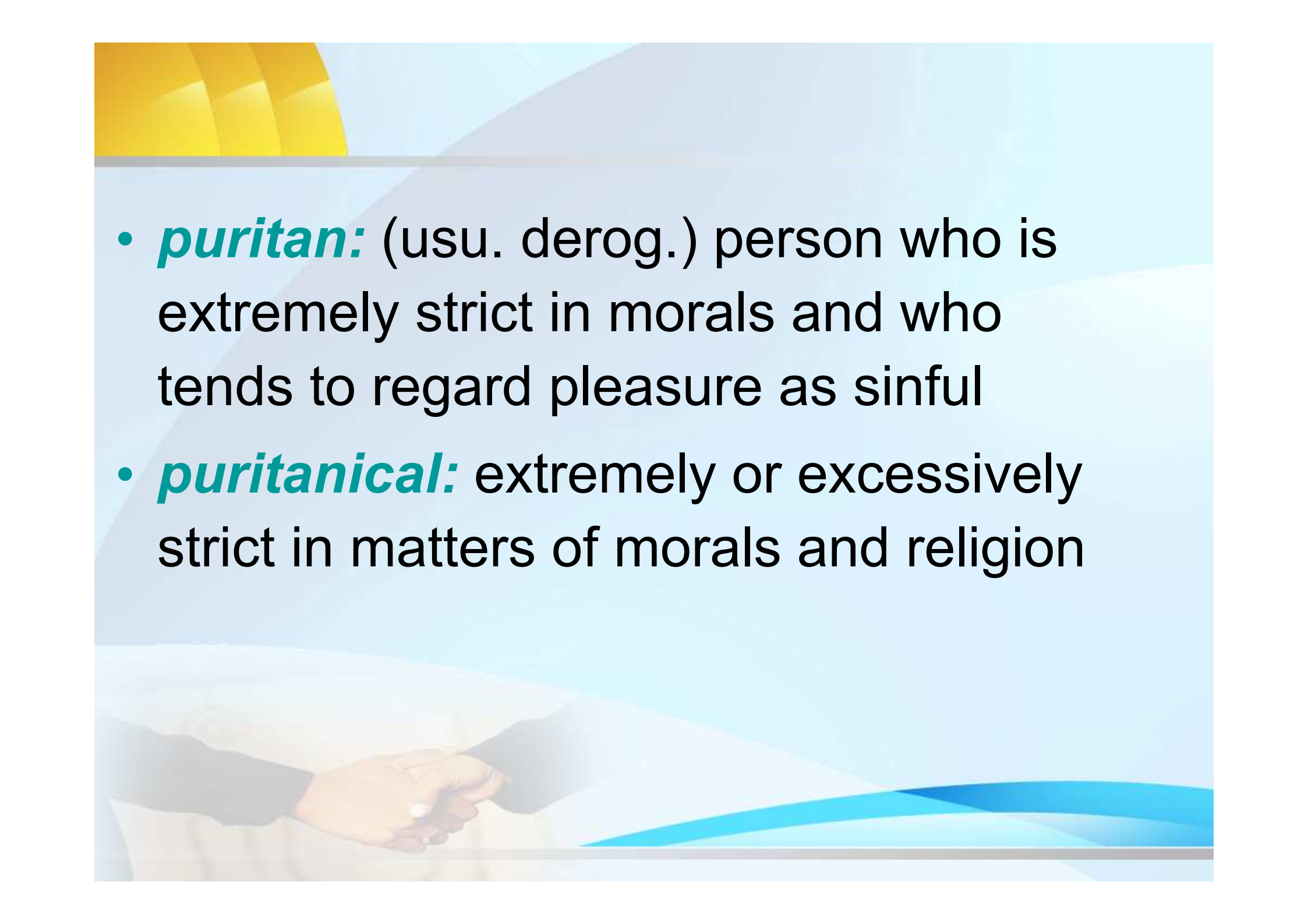
as is the Declaration of Independence:

- As the Declaration of Independence is sure to be studied in American schools. Note the clever way of linking two paragraphs, namely through the repetition of certain words or phrases in the preceding paragraph, with the meaning adroitly changed.
- 这部描写汤姆的顽皮、勇敢、机智以及他对贝琪·莎切尔的天真纯洁的感情的故事几乎像《独立宣言》一样成了今天美国学校里的必读书本。

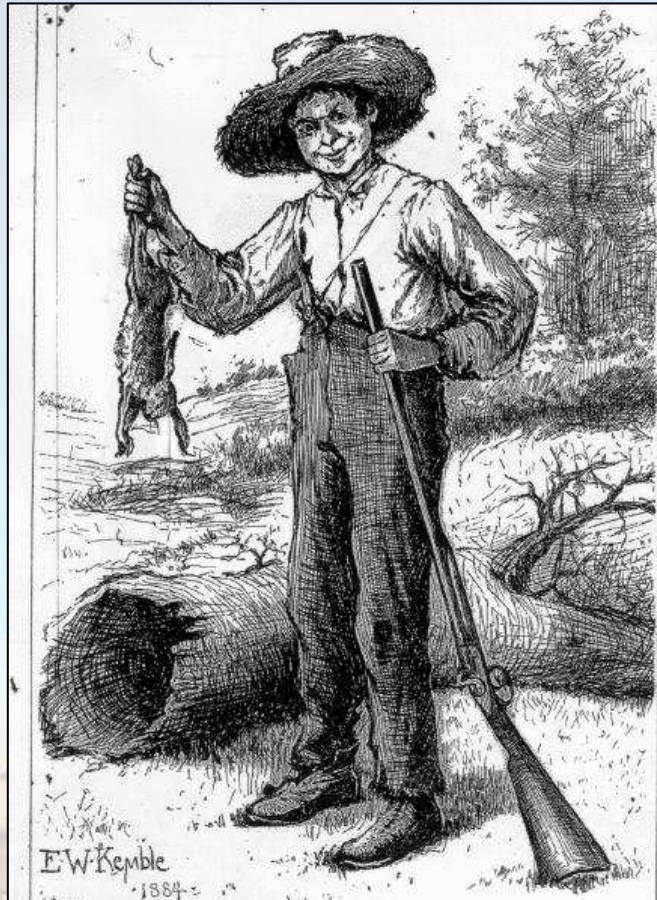


Fleeing a respectable life with the puritanical Widow:

- Towards the end of the book, Huck was adopted by the kind-hearted widow Douglas who was determined to have him and turn him into a “respectable” boy. But Huck could not stand it. Eventually he ran away to seek his freedom.

- 
- ***puritan***: (usu. derog.) person who is extremely strict in morals and who tends to regard pleasure as sinful
 - ***puritanical***: extremely or excessively strict in matters of morals and religion

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn



2013-2-28

Background Notes

- The story is set in the USA, in the period of about 1830/40. This was before the American Civil War (1861-65) which was fought (mainly) over the issue of slavery. So, at the time of the book, slavery was a way of life. This mostly concerned the Southern States, but there was an unevenness throughout those states in the harshness with which the laws and customs of slavery were applied. Generally though, a slave was regarded as the property of his or her owner, that is the person who had purchased them. A slave who ran away was punished very severely indeed, lashing was the 'easiest' of those punishments. Death was a possibility, but not too frequently used since it robbed the owner of a slave, but life was made very cruel indeed for a recovered slave.

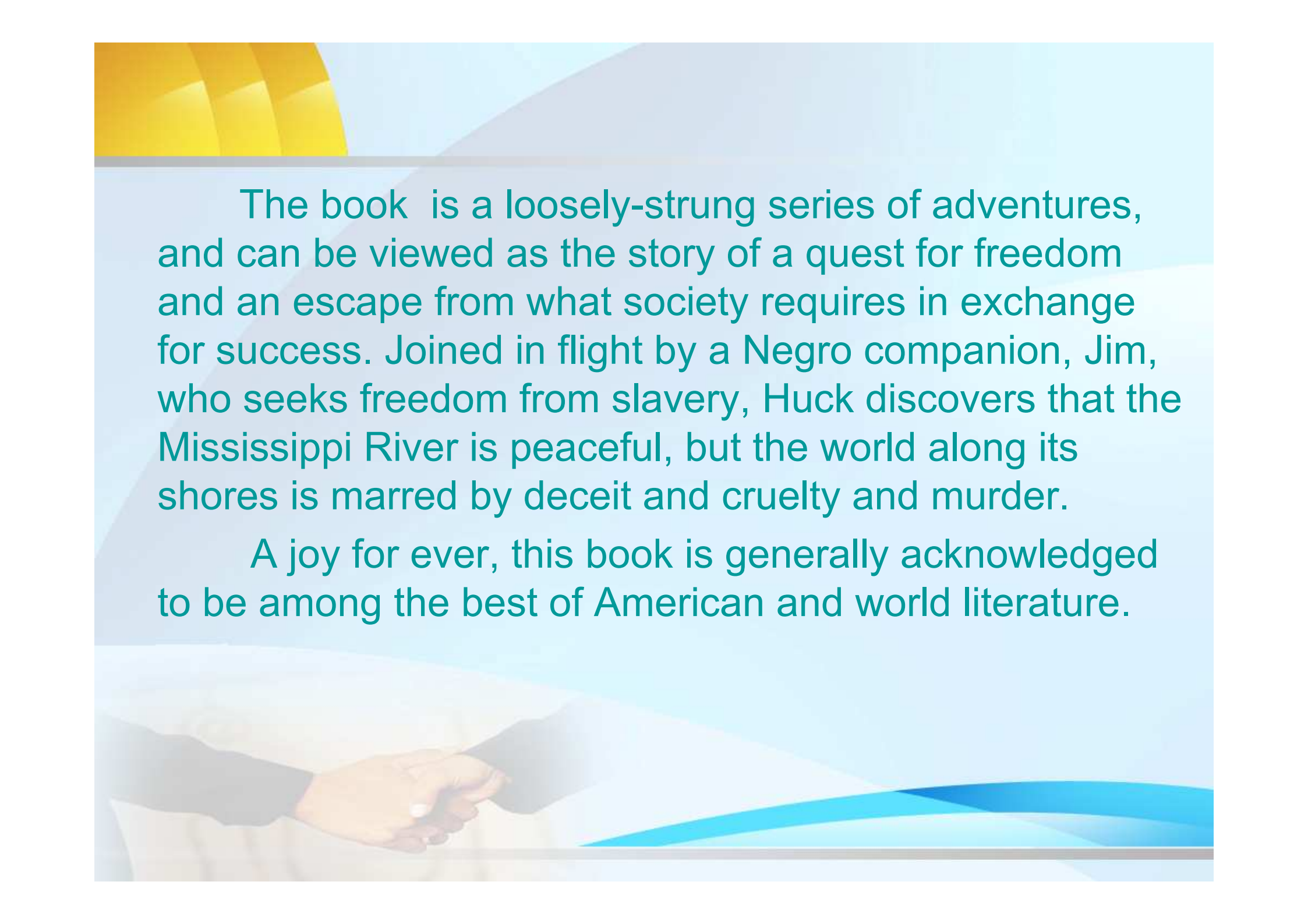
The Novel

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was written after *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
- At the end of *Tom Sawyer*, Huckleberry Finn, a poor boy with a drunken father, and his friend Tom Sawyer, a middle-class boy with an imagination too active for his own good, found a robber's stash of gold.
- As a result of his adventure, Huck gained quite a bit of money, which the bank held for him in trust. Huck was taken in by the Widow Douglas, a kind but stifling woman who lives with her sister, the self-righteous Miss Watson.

Para. 17

Huck was given a life of his own, in a book...:

- Huckleberry Finn was published in 1884. It is Mark Twain's finest creation, a symbol of simple honesty and conscience. Huck lacks Tom's imagination. He is a simple boy with little education. The son of the town drunkard, a homeless river rat, cheerful in his rags, suspicious of every attempt to civilize him, Huck has none of the unimportant virtues but all the essential ones. The school of hard knocks has taught him skepticism, horse sense has given him a tenacious grasp on reality. But it has not toughened him into cynicism or crime. Nature gave him a staunch and faithful heart, friendly to all underdogs and instantly hostile towards bullies and all shapes of overmastering power. He is obviously a universal character, the free soul that every boy would wish to be before the world breaks him.



The book is a loosely-strung series of adventures, and can be viewed as the story of a quest for freedom and an escape from what society requires in exchange for success. Joined in flight by a Negro companion, Jim, who seeks freedom from slavery, Huck discovers that the Mississippi River is peaceful, but the world along its shores is marred by deceit and cruelty and murder.

A joy for ever, this book is generally acknowledged to be among the best of American and world literature.

on the river, and especially with Huck Finn, Twain... escape...:

- By describing the river (the Mississippi), and especially Huck Finn, Twain best expressed the desire of escape...

- **Paraphrase:**

Through the story of Huck Finn, Twain found the best way to express his desire to get rid of the life pace he kept up with and criticized, the rules of everyday life and the exhausting struggle for success.

- 通过对密西西比河，尤其是对哈克·费恩这一人物的描写，马克·吐温将自己想从那束缚着自己并常常令自己苦恼的生活步调中摆脱出来，从生活中的各种清规戒律以及为了事业成功而进行的艰苦挣扎中解放出来的愿望表达得淋漓尽致。

- **pace:** rate of activity, tempo, speed, esp. of walking or running
 - She slowed down her pace so I could keep up with her.
 - He gave up his job in advertising because he couldn't stand the pace, ie found the pressure of work too great.
 - Are wages keeping pace with inflation?
- **energy-sapping : energy-consuming**
- **sap:** gradually weaken sb / sth by taking away; drain away
 - I was sapped by months of hospital treatment.
 - She's been sapped of her optimism.
 - Stop sapping her confidence!
- **clamour:** a continuous strong demand or complaint
 - The government has made a decision in defiance of the public clamour.
 - The public are clamouring for a change of government.
 - The baby clamoured to be fed.

Para. 19

lay ourselves on the shelf

occasionally and renew our edges:

- Relax, rest, or stay away from all this crazy struggle for success occasionally and keep our edges sharp. Mark Twain thinks the Americans should keep their daring and enterprising spirit.
- **edge:** sharp cutting part of a knife
 - a knife with a sharp edge
 - renew our edges:* to remodel, re-sharpen our edges, to recharge the battery

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is a literary masterpiece, written in 1876 by the famous author Mark Twain.
- Tom Sawyer is a mischievous young boy who lives in the small town on the Mississippi River called St. Petersburg. The story line is simple, the book reads like a biography or a memoir of a summer in Tom Sawyer's life.



The book is filled with Tom's adventures playing pirates and war with his friend Joe Harper. Tom has a trusted friend, Huck Finn, who few of the adults approve of. The book is filled with ideas of how the world works, such as how pirates and robbers work, that are so innocent, they could only come from a child. It is a story filled with action, adventure, ingenious ideas, love, and schoolyard politics. The whole story is seemingly a complication of what people did or wish they did during their childhood.

The background features a stylized landscape. In the top left corner, a portion of a bright yellow sun is visible. The sky is a gradient of light blue. In the foreground, a hand is shown holding a white cloth, which is draped over a surface. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

**the dark side of Mark Twain ---personal
tragedies and more? (20-22)**



personal tragedy haunted his entire life:

- Personal tragedies occurred repeatedly throughout his life
 - **haunt:** to visit, appearing in a strange form
 - The old house is said to be haunted by a headless ghost.
 - A spirit haunts the castle.
 - The memory still haunts me.
 - Poverty and poor health haunted that famous musician.
- 
- 

meningitis

- **-itis: is a suffix referring to some diseases involving disease or inflammation**
 - **bronchitis** 支气管炎
 - **appendicitis** 阑尾炎
 - **hepatitis** 肝炎
 - **tonsillitis** 扁桃体炎
 - **arthritis** 关节炎

Now the gloves came off with biting satire

- Now he became mercilessly bitter and satirical.
 - “*the gloves are off*” derives from the idiom “*an iron hand in a velvet glove*” (ruthlessness concealed by good manners, soft speech, etc.) ready for a fight
- *biting*: causing a smarting pain
 - a biting wind
- *satire*: ridicule or irony or sarcasm that is used to show how foolish or wicked some people's behaviour or ideas are.
- Now Mark Twain threw away the pretended softness and gentleness he used to adopt and became outspoken, bitter and sarcastic.

The Mysterious Stranger:

- Published posthumously in 1916, this book is the greatest story of Mark Twain's later period, too often neglected in the appraisal of his work. The story is that of some boys who are really Tom Sawyer's gang in medieval dress, in a small village in Austria, who strike up an acquaintance with a supernatural visitor who calls himself "Satan" and is able to work miracles and juggle with human lives. At last he grows bored with his own game. He then said to the boys: "It is true, that which I have revealed to you, there is no God, no universe, no human race, no early life, no heaven, no hell. It is all a dream---a grotesque and foolish dream. Nothing exists but you. And you are but a thought---a vagrant thought, a useless thought, a homeless thought, wandering forlorn among the empty eternities!"

Here in the closing pages of the story, Mark Twain tries to solve his riddle of grief and self-reproach, and clothe his soul in the invulnerable armor of desperation. Good and evil, like reality itself, are to him only illusions.

- 这位曾令全世界欢笑的人自己却饱尝了人世的辛酸。他早期作品中的道德说教厚厚地包着一层幽默的外衣，现在幽默换成了辛辣的讽刺。对于美国军队在一个火山口上屠杀六百名菲律宾摩洛人的行为，他没有直接进行抨击，而是假装为之高唱赞歌。在《神秘的陌生人》中，他指出人类应该抛弃宗教幻想，依靠自己而不是上帝的力量去创造一个更加美好的世界。

Para. 22

- **crumble:** be broken into very small pieces
 - crumble one's bread
 - Their marriage is crumbling.
- **A crushing sense of despair:** an overwhelming sense of despair, e.g. a crushing defeat
- **Final release from earthly struggles:** euphemism for death
- **Earthly:** adj. meaning worldly. **-ly** is an adjective-forming suffix, meaning like, characteristic of, suitable to, e.g. fatherly, manly, brotherly, etc.
- **vanish:** to disappear, go out of sight
 - The thin mysterious woman passenger vanished.
 - As soon as you put the dog-skin plaster on, your pain will vanish.
- **lament:**
 - If you lament sth., you express your sadness, regret or disappointment about it.
 - They lamented the death of their mother.
 - His examination results were lamentable.

- 他自己的最后一个幻想到后来似乎也破灭了。在晚年口述自传的时候，他以极端绝望的心情谈到人从尘世的苦难中的最终解脱：“……他们从世界上消失了，在这个世界上他们无足轻重，无所成就；甚至他们的存在本身就是个错误，是个失败，是种愚蠢。这个世界上也没有留下丝毫能表明他们存在过的痕迹。这个世界赠给他们的只是一日的哀伤和永久的遗忘。”

This excerpt is a brief yet impressive introduction of Mark Twain, one of the greatest writers in America. His adventurous, patriotic, romantic and humorous characteristics are known by most people. Before becoming a writer, he had done various kinds of jobs which greatly enriched his writings. His experience on the Mississippi River left such a profound and permanent influence on him that his beat when he wrote about this river. He came to fame with a short novel about the *Calaveras jumping frog*, and then reached the peak of his career by *Tom Sawyer* and *Huk Finn*.



However, the bitterness of his life, especially the successive deaths of his family members, is seldom made known to the public. And it is this dark side of his life that makes his later works filled with a satiric tone. Ironically, the man who makes the world laugh is made bitter by his all misfortunes. Thus his bitter life experience seems to be in contradiction with his own humorous works. And by presenting both sides of his life, the author presents to his readers a fuller picture of Mark Twain that will help them understand his works much better.



VI. Devices of figuration

- **Metaphor**
 - Mark Twain --- *Mirror of America*
 - saw clearly ahead *a black wall of night...*
 - main *artery* of transportation in the young nation's *heart*
 - the vast basin *drained* three-quarters of the settled United States
 - All would resurface in his books...that he *soaked up...*

VI. Devices of figuration

- **Hyperbole**
 - ...cruise through *eternal* boyhood and ...*endless* summer of freedom...
 - The cast of characters...--- a *cosmos*.

VI. Devices of figuration

- **Personification**

- *life* dealt him profound personal tragedies...
- the *river* had acquainted him with ...
- ...to *literature's* enduring gratitude...
- *Bitterness* fed on the man...
- *America* laughed with him.

VI. Devices of figuration

- **Antithesis**

- ...between what people claim to be and what they really are...
- ...took unholy verbal shots at the Holy Land...
- ...a world which will lament them a day and forget them forever

VI. Devices of figuration

- **Euphemism**
 - ...men's final release from earthly struggle
- **Alliteration**
 - ...the *slow, sleepy, sluggish-brained sloths* stayed at home
 - ...with a *dash and daring*...
 - ...a recklessness of *cost or consequences*...

VI. Devices of figuration

- **Metonymy**
 - ...his *pen* would prove mightier than his *pickaxe*
- **Synecdoche**
 - Keelboats, ...carried the first major *commerce*.

Questions for understanding

- 1 Why was Mark Twain viewed as the mirror of America?
- 2 What was the real picture of Mark Twain from the text?
- 3 What did Twain satirize in his book *The Innocents Abroad*?
- 4 How do you view Twain's two masterpieces, *Tom Sawyer* and *Huck Finn*?
- 5 What was the missing ingredient in the American ambition according to Twain?

Questions for understanding

- 6 Why did Mark Twain become cynical and bitter in his late years?
- 7 What was Twain's disillusion in his autobiography?
- 8 Could you list jobs done by Mark Twain in his life and what contribution these jobs have done to Mark Twain's writing career?
- 9 Could you compare any literary figure in Modern Chinese literary field with Mark Twain? Why?
- 10 What is the meaning of "Mark Twain" and how did the name come from?