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Mark Twain's Europe

The Prince and the Pauper takes place in sixteenth-century England, and Twain is very careful and accurate in his description of that time, paying great attention to historical details. In Twain's personal and literary life, Europe occupies a very important place. From a young age, he is very interested in European history. Indeed he visits Europe many times and writes travel books about it. And he uses European settings and characters not only in this novel, but also in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and *Joan of Arc*, as well as in some of his short fiction and his essays.

Why Europe?

But why Europe? Twain lives in a period in which Americans seem to have a particular interest in Europe. It is a fixed reference point in historical, cultural and political matters. Europe's beautiful buildings and cultural treasures reflect in their eyes the incredible richness of its past.

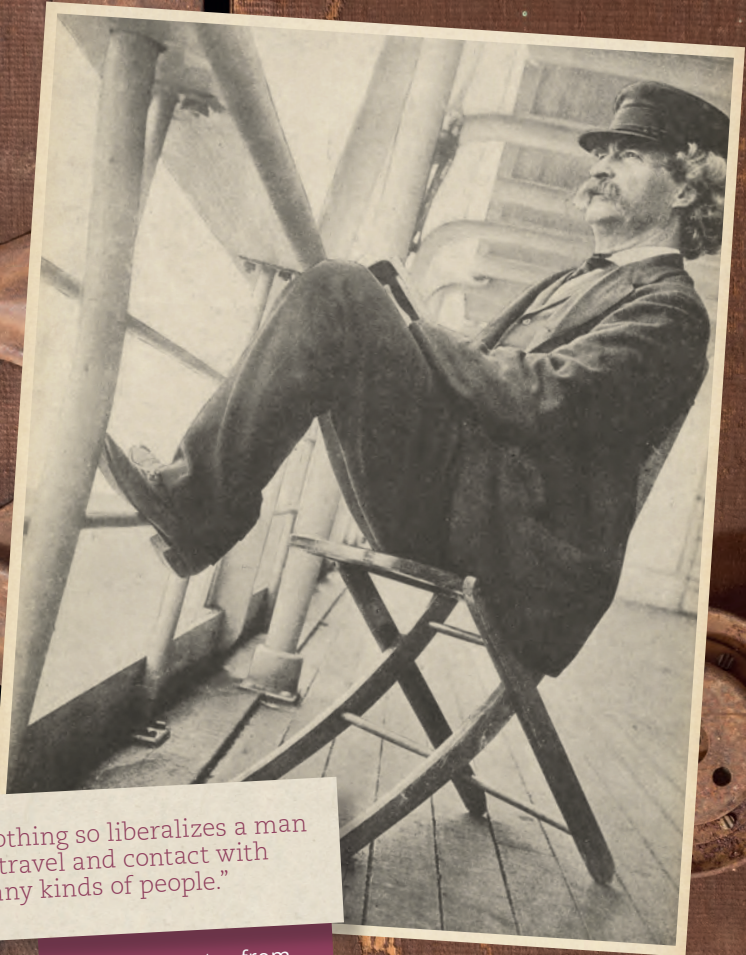
GLOSSARY

- **essays:** short pieces of writing
- **inspiration:** (here) ideas
- **matters:** subjects or situations
- **monarchic:** of kings and queens
- **occupies:** (here) has
- **outdated:** old and not up-to date
- **particular:** special
- **prejudice:** dislike for a person, for no real reason, usually based on race, religion, etc.
- **settings:** (here) places
- **treasures:** special and important things
- **ultimately:** in the end

Twain's Europe

Travelling to Europe allows Twain to put some distance between himself and his homeland. But it is also very important for his career as an author. The **Old World** is a great source of inspiration for new settings, new characters and new ideas for his writing. However, Twain clearly has conflicting feelings about Europe. The Europe that we find in his novels is also a place that suffers from an outdated political system, from monarchic oppression, poverty, corruption, and other social and political problems. Ultimately for Mark Twain, life in America is better than that in Europe.

What problems does Europe present for Twain? Check the meanings. As you read the book, look for examples of them.



“Nothing so liberalizes a man as travel and contact with many kinds of people.”

Find other quotes from Mark Twain about travel. Share them in class.

Although after many journeys Twain is no longer so enthusiastic about travelling to Europe, he always suggests it as a way of getting to know new ways of living and looking at life. And in both his novels and his life he encourages contact with other cultures as a way of avoiding intolerance and prejudice.

THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER



Prince Edward

Tom Canty

Grandma Canty



Mr John Canty



Mrs Canty



Lady Jane Grey



Miles Hendon




Hugh Hendon



King Henry VIII



1 A poor boy in London

 This story takes place in London in the 16th century. It is the story of two boys, born on the same day, into two very different families.

One of the boys is rich. He is the Prince of Wales[•]: Prince Edward Tudor, the son of Henry VIII, King of England.

The other boy is poor. He is Tom Canty the pauper and the son of John Canty, a cruel[•] beggar[•] and thief[•]. Tom lives with his mother and father, his two sisters, Nan and Bet, and his grandmother in Pudding Lane in the City[•]. Pudding Lane is a very poor area of London. Tom's father sends him out to beg for money every day. Tom's father often beats[•] him.

But Tom's life isn't all difficult. He is friends with Father Andrew, a kind priest with lots of books. Father Andrew tells Tom stories and teaches him about the world. Tom loves Father Andrew's stories and he dreams of a new life with beautiful clean clothes, good food and a nice house.

One day, Tom is walking around London, dreaming and looking at the palaces of the rich nobles[•]. He walks and he walks. He then arrives at the palace of Westminster. He looks up at the stone towers, the magnificent statues of lions and the big golden gates.

'Here is a real king's palace,' he thinks.

GLOSSARY

- **beats:** hits
- **beggar:** poor person who asks for money or food in the street
- **City:** an area of London
- **cruel:** wicked; bad
- **nobles:** aristocrats
- **Prince of Wales:** title of the first son of the king or queen of England
- **thief:** person who takes things without paying for them

Poor little Tom walks over to the gates.

Two soldiers dressed in shining armour are standing on guard. Tom looks into the palace garden. There is another boy, in beautiful silk clothes, playing in the garden. Tom can't believe his eyes: the boy is a real prince.

Tom watches the laughing prince. The prince looks like Tom. He puts his face close to the golden gate.

Suddenly, a soldier grabs Tom by the collar of his jacket. He throws Tom onto the ground.

'Move away, you dirty beggar,' says the soldier.

The people outside the gate laugh at Tom. The young prince turns around and sees Tom on the ground. He runs to the gate and shouts:

'Stop, brute. Open the gates. The boy can come in.'

Then the prince turns to Tom and says, 'You look tired and hungry. Come with me.'

And the prince takes Tom into the palace.

'Bring the boy some food,' the prince orders his servants.

As Tom eats, the prince asks him questions.

'What is your name, boy?'

'Tom Canty, sir.'


'Where do you live?'

'In the City, sir. In Pudding Lane.'

NICE

Edward is nice to Tom.

Think of something nice YOU can do today.

 Tell a friend.



GLOSSARY

- **armour:** metal clothes for battle
- **brute:** bad and violent person
- **can't believe his eyes:** is surprised to see
- **dirty:** not clean
- **grabs:** takes with force
- **on guard:** (here) protecting; watching
- **orders:** tells them to do things
- **silk:** expensive material for clothes

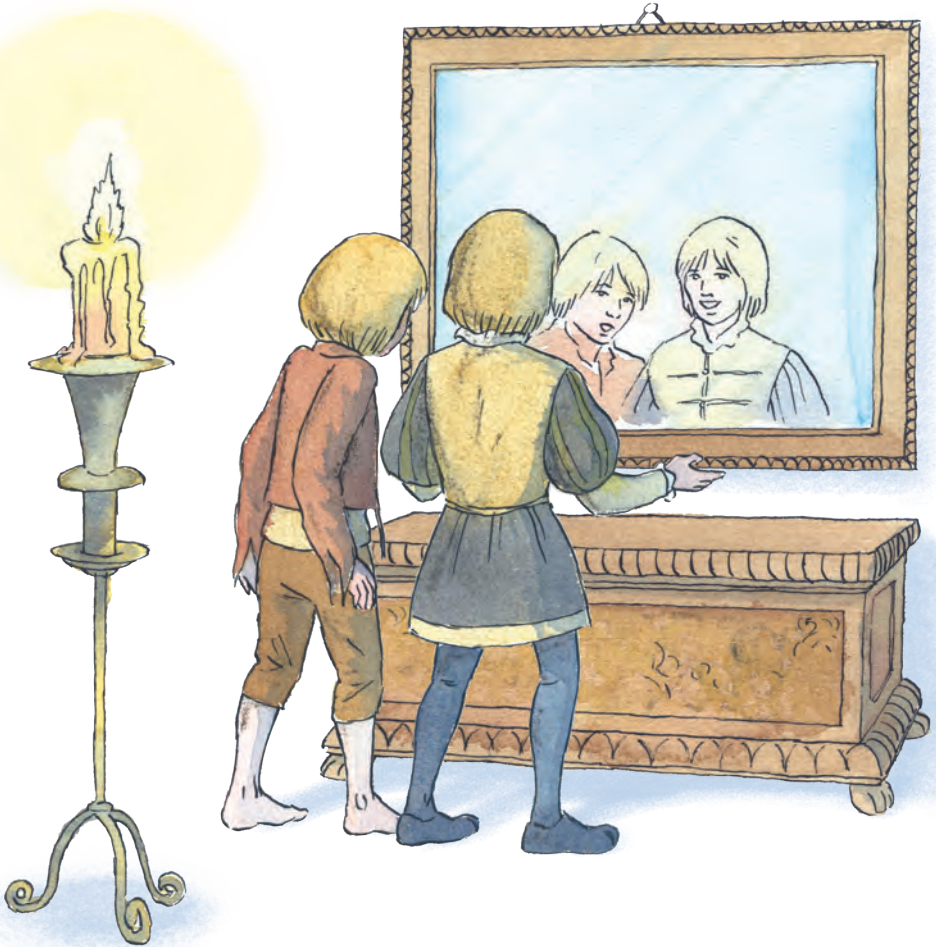


And so Tom tells the prince everything. The prince listens in wonder to his story. Then the prince tells Tom about his life. Tom also listens in wonder to the prince's story.

The boys then decide to exchange clothes. The prince wears Tom's clothes and Tom wears the prince's clothes.

'Now I can understand your life, Tom,' says the prince. 'And you can understand my life.'

'I am the prince and you are a pauper,' says Tom to the prince. They look in the mirror. The two boys' faces, hair, eyes and bodies are the same.



Then Edward sees a cut on Tom's hand.

'The soldier at the gate hurt you.'

'It's nothing, sir,' replies Tom.

'No,' cries Edward. 'Wait here! I want to punish the brute.'

Edward runs out of the palace. He forgets about his clothes. He is wearing Tom's dirty old clothes.

He runs to the gates and shouts, 'Open the gates.'

The soldier laughs at Edward. He lifts him up and throws him out of the gates into the road.

He closes the gates behind Edward.

'Go home, you dirty beggar, and don't come back,' shouts the guard.

'I am Edward, the Prince of Wales and I order you to open the gates for me,' Edward shouts.

But the soldier laughs. Now lots of people are laughing and shouting at the boy.

The crowd of ruffians lift Edward up and they carry him down the road. They throw him up and down and shout, 'Here is the Prince of Wales. Long live the Prince of Wales!'

Prince Edward shouts and shouts, 'I *am* the Prince of Wales.' But nobody listens to him.



GLOSSARY

- **crowd:** large group of people
- **hurt you:** caused you pain
- **Long live the Prince of Wales:** We hope he has a long life
- **punish:** hurt; make suffer
- **replies:** answers
- **ruffians:** violent people
- **wonder:** great surprise and positive feelings

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1  **Three words are related to each other but one is not. Which one? Find the odd one out. Then explain why to a partner.**

- a** BANQUET SEAL PROCESSION CORONATION
- b** COURAGE TROUBLE INJUSTICE TORMENT
- c** DRAWER TAPESTRIES CURTAINS BROOK
- d** CALF RUFFIAN BRUTE IMPOSTER
- e** ROBE COSTUME SILK TRAY
- f** BEGGAR KNIGHT ALTAR TRAMP
- g** CROWD ARMOUR BLADE SWORD
- h** BARN STRAW REFLECTION STICK

2  **Complete the word formation table below with words from the text. Make sentences with a partner.**

ADJECTIVE	NOUN
HAPPY	<i>HAPPINESS</i>
REAL
.....	CRUELTY
DIRTY
.....	ELEGANCE
GREEDY
.....	BEAUTY
HORRIBLE
.....	KINDNESS
IMPORTANT
.....	ILLNESS

K Cambridge English: Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Complete the text about the story by choosing the best word (A, B, or C) for each space.

In 1882, six years after *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Twain writes another story about two young boys who share (1) adventures in life. The two boys (2) identical, but they are not related and come from very different backgrounds. *The Prince and the Pauper* is a children's book and in (3) preface, Twain dedicates the book to his young daughters, Clara and Susy. But like most of Twain's novels written (4) children, it is also a social and political satire, full of Twain's sense of irony. Readers can find many comparisons (5) this story and the others. There are scenes that remind the readers both of *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*. But experts think that *The Prince and the Pauper* is more of a children's book (6) the other novels because the story is very simple. However the book also criticizes the importance that (7) give to appearances and image. Most of (8) books contain passages that make fun of people and situations that he doesn't agree with.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1 | A their | B exciting | C for |
| 2 | A seem | B wear | C look |
| 3 | A a | B its | C it's |
| 4 | A with | B about | C for |
| 5 | A between | B among | C in |
| 6 | A than | B over | C for |
| 7 | A person | B he | C people |
| 8 | A the | B those | C his |