



Unit 9 The Damned Human Race





Mark Twain

Structure

Part One: Warm-up

Part Two: Background Information

Part Three: Text Appreciation

Part Four: Language Study

Part Five: Extension





Part One Warm-up

Warm-up questions

1. What is your understanding of human nature?
2. Have you found any defect? Or nothing negative at all?
3. Please name three major defects of human nature.





PART TWO BACKGROUND INFORMATION

○ Contents

○ I. Author

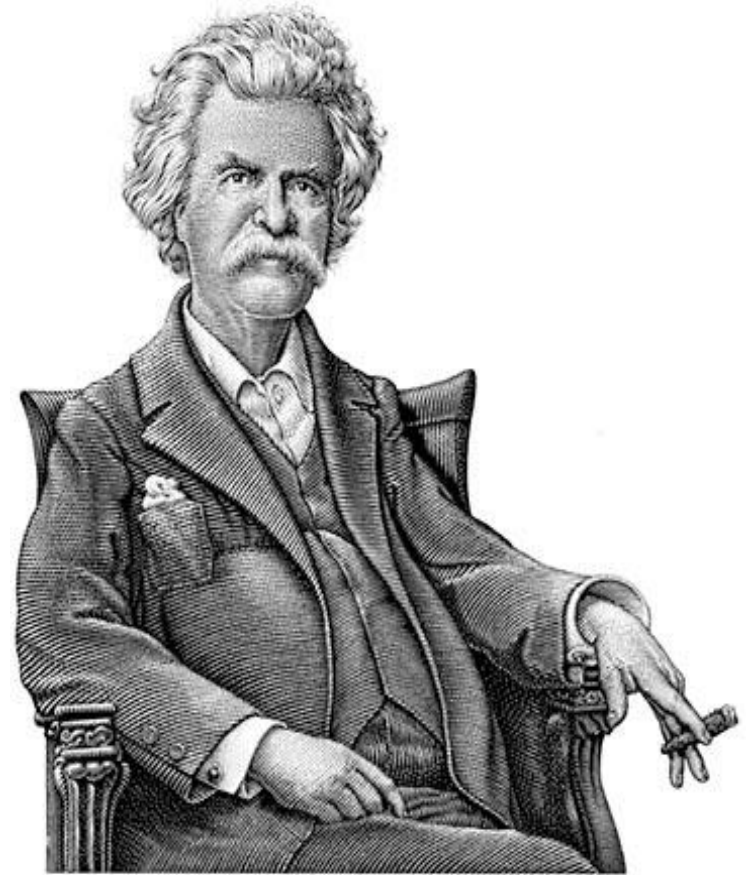
○ II. Background Information



I. Author

- **Samuel Langhorne Clemens**

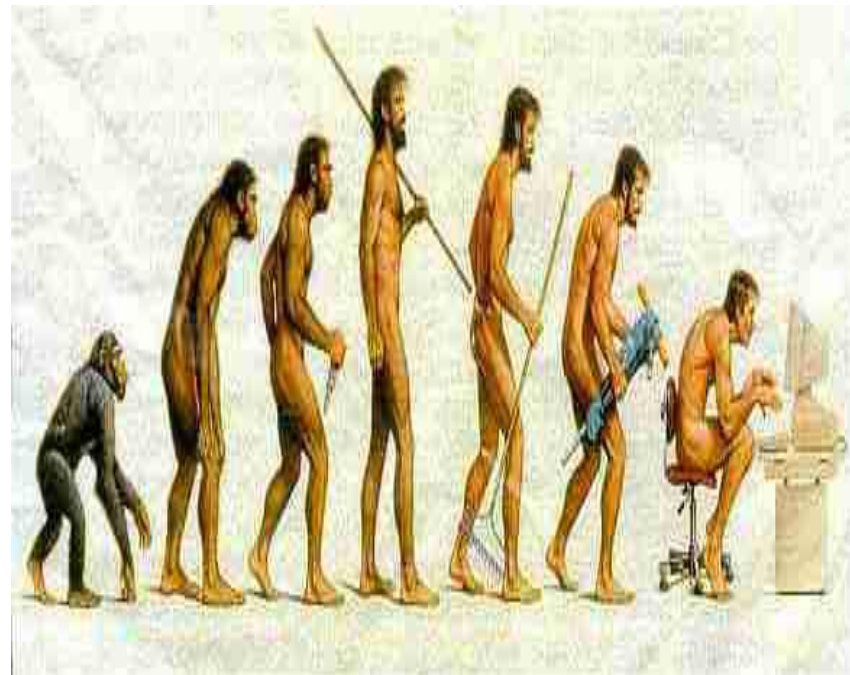
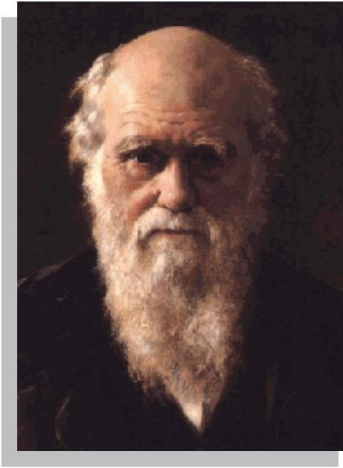
(November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), better known by his pen name **Mark Twain**, was an American author and humorist. He wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and its sequel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), the latter often called "the Great American Novel".



II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Darwinian theory

published the *Descent of Man*
which gave evidence to show
that man was derived from
animals that, if alive today,
would be classified as apes



- London Zoo was the World's first scientific zoo. Opened in 1828, it housed a collection of exotic (外来的) animals that were studied by eminent scientists of the day. Only later in 1847 did the Zoo open its doors to the public and, from then on, became the most



- **Anaconda**, common name for large South American snakes. Anacondas are among the largest and most powerful snakes in the world.
- A large adult may be 6 m long and weigh 107 kg. Anacondas kill their prey by constriction or squeezing.
- The common anaconda inhabits the river systems of northern and Amazonian South America east of the Andes (安第斯山脉). Female anacondas give birth to living young.



PART THREE TEXT APPRECIATION

- Contents

- I. Text Structure

- II. Theme

- III. Detailed Analysis



i STRUCTURE

- **Part 1 (para.1)** The thesis statement
- **Part 2 (para.2-9)** Introduction to the scientific experiment and the analysis related to various traits and dispositions of human beings as contrasted to the “higher animals” .
- **Part 3 (para.10-17)** believe in man’s superiority.
- **Part4 (para.18)** Men have descended and degenerated.



ii **THEME**

- Through the analysis of various traits and dispositions human beings as contrasted to the “higher animals”, the author finds that men have descended and degenerated.



iii DETAILED ANALYSIS

- I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the “lower animals”, and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me. (Para. 1)
- ◆ **Notice** the tongue-in-cheek way the author expresses his ideas. He makes it sound as if he were conducting and reporting on the result of a scientific investigation. In other words, he is deliberately using a pompous (夸大的) style to achieve humor.



- **2.Man is voracious and miserly and their desires can't be ended forever.**
- I was aware that many men who have accumulated more millions of money than they can ever use have shown a **rabid** hunger for more, and **have not scrupled to** cheat **the ignorant and the helpless** out of their poor savings in order to partially appease the appetite. (para4)



- **3...in our day in England a man is fined ten shillings for beating his mother nearly to death with a chair, and another man is fined forty shillings for having four pheasant eggs in his possession without being able to satisfactorily explain how he got them. (Para. 9)**
- ◆ Mark Twain is satirizing the fact that under the English law at that time, a mother's life was worth only one peasant egg because the latter was considered private property.



- **4. Man is the only one that deals in the atrocity of war.**
- The Hessians (黑森雇佣兵) were the German mercenaries (Soldiers who will fight anybody for wages are call mercenaries) serving with the British during the American Revolution.
- The Germans constituted about one third of the King's troop in America. For these mercenaries, Britain paid the German rulers a total of 1.77 million pounds.



- **5. Man is the only Slave and the only who enslaves.**
- **Man is the only Slave. And he is the only animal who enslaves. He has always been a slave in one form or another, and has always held other slaves in bondage under him in one way or another.(para12)**
- **to hold sb in bondage:** to keep sb in the state of being a slave
- Mark Twain is referring to the idea that in the history of human civilization, our society has always been based on some kind of exploitation of man by man. No one is free. Everyone is a slave of one form or another and at the same time enslaved those under him.



- **6. Man is the only Patriot.**

- .. And when they are not fighting each other, they will start talking about peace and universal brotherhood, but without any sincerity.

- Man, according to Mark Twain, is not only cruel and warlike, but also hypocritical.



- 7. And so I find that we have descended and degenerated, from some far ancestor--- some microscopic atom wandering at its pleasure between the mighty horizons of a drop of water perhaps... down the long highway of perfect innocence, till we have reached the bottom stage of development--namable as the Human Being. Below us--nothing. (Para18)
- the long process of our change from one insect into another, one animal into another and one reptile into another, all completely innocent, until we become human beings and lose all our innocence.



PART FOUR LANGUAGE STUDY

oContents

oI. Glossary

oII. Useful Phrases and Expressions



I. GLOSSARY

- 1. disposition
- 2. humiliate
- 3. harbour
- 4. brood



- **disposition:** n.
- (1) one 's customary manner or emotional response 性情, 性格 (Para.1, Line1)
- (2) one 's habitual tendency or inclination, (~to)
- 倾向, 意向
- (Para.3, L9)



humiliate /hju'milieit/

v. to make sb. feel ashamed or stupid and lose the respect of other people 羞辱, 使丧失尊严

adj. humiliated 感到难堪的, 感觉羞愧的

Eg.: 1, I did not want to humiliate her in front of her colleagues.

我不想当着她同事们的面让她难堪。

2, I have never felt so humiliated.



- **harbor** v.
- 1, to keep secretly in one's mind such feelings as resentment, suspicion, or thought of revenge 怀着, 怀有 (憎恨, 怀疑, 或报复等心理) (Para.5, L2)
- 2, to contain sth. and allow it to develop 包含, 藏有
- eg: Your dishcloth can harbor many germs.
- 你的洗碗布里可能包含许多病菌。



○ brood

- --over /on/about sth.
- to think a lot about sth. that makes you annoyed ,anxious or upset.
- 焦虑, 忧思 (使人厌烦、担忧或不安的事)
- eg: You aren't still brooding over what he said ,are you ?



EXPRESSIONS

- the rightful owner
- the universal brotherhood of man
- loose morals
- a soiled mind

- brute force
- a saving grace
- rabid hunger
- a religious zealot



PART FIVE EXTENSION

oContents

Translation



TRANSLATION

I sometimes think that God in creating man somewhat overestimated His ability.

—Oscar Wilde

Men! The only animal in the world to fear.

—D.H. Lawrence

