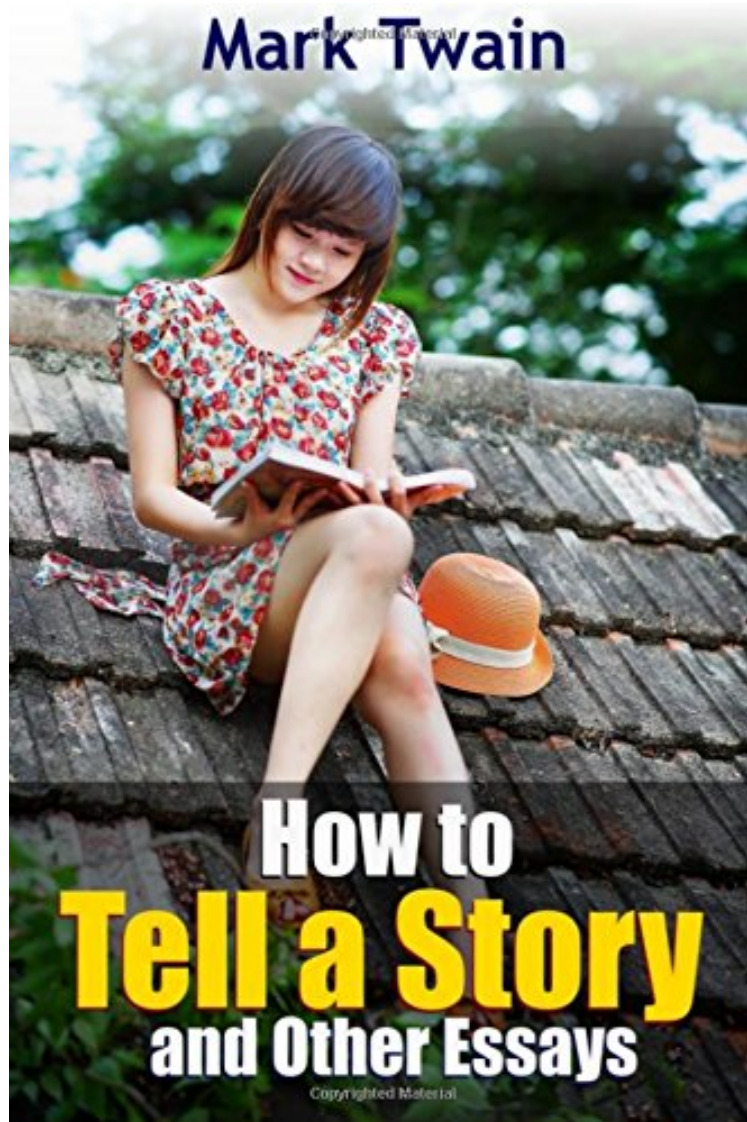


(Library ebook) How to Tell a Story and Other Essays (Writing Publishing References) (Volume 13)

## How to Tell a Story and Other Essays (Writing Publishing References) (Volume 13)

Mark Twain

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#5102492 in Books 2016-12-06 Original language: English 9.00 x .8 x 6.001, #File Name: 154087557134 pages | File size: 24.Mb

**Mark Twain : How to Tell a Story and Other Essays (Writing Publishing References) (Volume 13)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Tell a Story and Other Essays (Writing Publishing References) (Volume 13):

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A Small Book in Length but Large in Enjoyment By Harold Pohl In the primary essay in this small book, with more misdirection than modesty, Mark Twain starts by saying he

does not claim to know how a story should be told but knows a good one when he hears one. Now he's talking about "humorous" stories, the kind Americans can tell, and not the comic or witty stories that Englishmen and Frenchmen tell. The mark of a good humorous story is in the art of its telling and not in the subject matter, as are those told by foreign storytellers. The beauty of this essay is that after acquainting the reader with the technique of telling a good American humorous story, he presents a sample that proves his opening disclaimer false, by telling such a story to perfection, and by giving the reader the illusion of hearing it told aloud on a stage, as he was noted for. Alas, it is a story told in dialect that probably cannot be read by some today for its humor, but I think there is a spirit in it that transcends today's objections and believe that all Americans can revel in the good humor of the mentality behind this story. The other essays in this book are also good examples of the work of 19th century America's greatest storyteller and wit.<sup>3</sup> 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A bit biased By TWI have always enjoyed Mark Twain's books. Mainly because he understood the basic principles of storytelling, more than trying to sound overly-intelligent, he wanted to sound like someone who you wanted to talk to everyday. I've read this book three times now. Thanks Kindle for making me forget to download more books before heading into a non-wifi area of the mountains. The main points I have always taken from Twain are, don't alienate your audience, don't think too high of your vocabulary ability when making a simple point and enjoy living life so you can tell enjoyable stories about life. This book is no different. It makes you laugh some and makes you think about yourself inside. That's a trademark of Twain.<sup>9</sup> 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Very funny essays and stories By Israel Drazin Different editions of Twain's (1835-1910) writings contain different stories. This free book for kindle users has five short essays and stories. Twain differentiates between humorous stories, which he says is an American invention, and comic stories, which he claims is English. There is also, he says, the witty story, which is French, but he does not discuss it in this volume. The humorous story depends on how it is told, the other two "on the matter." The humorous story is told by word of mouth. It can go on and on with no apparent purpose other than to be funny. The joy is in the telling and it is an art to tell it well. He gives an example of a humorous story - The Wounded Soldier. He then gives an example of how a humorous story should be told - The Golden Arm. He shows by the dialect and by directions to the reader how it should be told. He emphasizes the importance of pauses and occasional noises just at the right time and with the right length. Included in this volume is an essay telling of four incidences that he says happened to him. The title is Mental Telepathy Again. In each tale, another person who is far from him thinks something and he senses it. This essay is followed by The Invalid's Story. It is a very funny tale of how a healthy man became an invalid when he thought he was transporting the dead body of his friend to his parents when, because of a mix up, the crate contains guns and smelly limburger cheese.

Why the Humorous Story Can Only Be Told by Americans I do not claim that I can tell a story as it ought to be told. I only claim to know how a story ought to be told, for I have been almost daily in the company of the most expert storytellers for many years. There are several kinds of stories, but only one difficult kind—the humorous. I will talk mainly about that one. The humorous story is American, the comic story is English, the witty story is French. The humorous story depends for its effect upon the manner of the telling; the comic story and the witty story upon the matter. The humorous story may be spun out to great length, and may wander around as much as it pleases, and arrive nowhere in particular; but the comic and witty stories must be brief and end with a point. The humorous story bubbles gently along, the others burst. The humorous story is strictly a work of art—high and delicate art—and only an artist can tell it; but no art is necessary in telling the comic and the witty story; anybody can do it. The art of telling a humorous story—understand, I mean by word of mouth, not print—was created in America, and has remained at home. The humorous story is told gravely; the teller does his best to conceal the fact that he even dimly suspects that there is anything funny about it; but the teller of the comic story tells you beforehand that it is one of the funniest things he has ever heard, then tells it with eager delight, and is the first person to laugh when he gets through. And sometimes, if he has had good success, he is so glad and happy that he will repeat the "nub" of it and glance around from face to face, collecting applause, and then repeat it again. It is a pathetic thing to see. Very often, of course, the rambling and disjointed humorous story finishes with a nub, point, snapper, or whatever you like to call it. Then the listener must be alert, for in many cases the teller will divert attention from that nub by dropping it in a carefully casual and indifferent way, with the pretense that he does not know it is a nub. Artemus Ward used that trick a good deal; then when the belated audience presently caught the joke he would look up with innocent surprise, as if wondering what they had found to laugh at. Dan Setchell used it before him, Nye and Riley and others use it to-day. But the teller of the comic story does not slur the nub; he shouts it at you—every time. And when he prints it, in England, France, Germany, and Italy, he italicizes it, puts some whooping exclamation-points after it, and sometimes explains it in a parenthesis. All of which is very depressing, and makes one want to renounce joking and lead a better life. Get Your Copy Now

About the Author Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835–1910), better known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American author and humorist. He is noted for his novels *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), called "the Great American Novel", and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876). Twain grew up in Hannibal, Missouri, which would

later provide the setting for Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. He apprenticed with a printer. He also worked as a typesetter and contributed articles to his older brother Orion's newspaper. After toiling as a printer in various cities, he became a master riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River, before heading west to join Orion. He was a failure at gold mining, so he next turned to journalism. While a reporter, he wrote a humorous story, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, which proved to be very popular and brought him nationwide attention. His travelogues were also well-received. Twain had found his calling. He achieved great success as a writer and public speaker. His wit and satire earned praise from critics and peers, and he was a friend to presidents, artists, industrialists, and European royalty. However, he lacked financial acumen. Though he made a great deal of money from his writings and lectures, he squandered it on various ventures, in particular the Paige Compositor, and was forced to declare bankruptcy. With the help of Henry Huttleston Rogers, however, he eventually overcame his financial troubles. Twain worked hard to ensure that all of his creditors were paid in full, even though his bankruptcy had relieved him of the legal responsibility. Born during a visit by Halley's Comet, he died on its return. He was lauded as the "greatest American humorist of his age", and William Faulkner called Twain "the father of American literature".