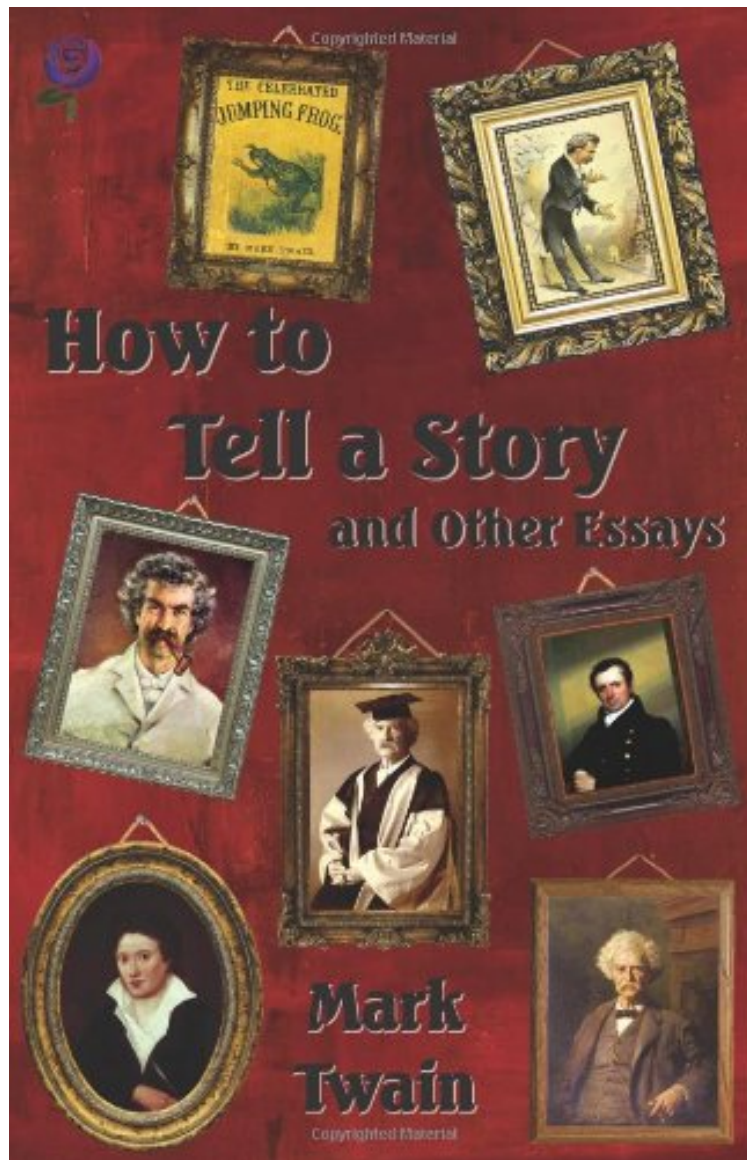


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## How to Tell a Story and Other Essays

Mark Twain

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**Mark Twain : How to Tell a Story and Other Essays** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Tell a Story and Other Essays:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A Small Book in Length but Large in EnjoymentBy Harold PohlIn 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. 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. 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.

How to Tell a Story and Other Essays (1897) is one of Mark Twain's most popular collections of essays. Containing advice on how to tell a story, with examples, criticism of a popular biography and some poorly written fiction, personal experience of the attempted reformation of public rights, the history and several versions of a story about a jumping frog, instances of telepathy, and more literary criticism, Twain's keen wit, caustic humor and incisive satire are never more strongly displayed. The contents of this English Rose edition are from the original edition: How to Tell a Story, In Defence of Harriet Shelley, Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offences, Travelling with a Reformer, The Private History of the "Jumping Frog" Story, Mental Telegraphy Again, What Paul Bourget Thinks of Us and A Little Note to M. Paul Bourget. This English Rose book is a high quality, well formatted edition. English Rose love books and think that every one is special, so our editions will always be distinctive, professional and unique. Visit English Rose at [www.englishrosebooks.co.uk](http://www.englishrosebooks.co.uk) and view our other titles and new releases.