***Twain’s Epigrams***

Remember that when reading Twain, you can’t just take the words at face value. You have to dig deeper and think about what he’s really saying about humans, their behavior, and their tendencies.

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

"Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life."

"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read."

"Never put off till tomorrow what may be done day after tomorrow just as well".

"Go to heaven for the climate and hell for the company."

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."

"A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

"Classic' - a book which people praise and don't read."

"Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it."

"Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint."

"The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time."

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

"In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them."

"Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."

"Don’t go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first."

"Substitute 'damn' every time you're inclined to write 'very;' your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be."

"But who prays for Satan? Who, in eighteen centuries, has had the common humanity to pray for the one sinner that needed it most?"

"I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said I didn’t know."

"God created war so that Americans would learn geography."

"I did not attend his funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."

"Wrinkles should merely indicate where the smiles have been."

"Loyalty to country ALWAYS. Loyalty to government, when it deserves it."

"The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."

"Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't."

"Life is short, Break the Rules.

Forgive quickly, Kiss SLOWLY.

Love truly. Laugh uncontrollably

And never regret ANYTHING

That makes you smile."

"Never allow someone to be your priority while allowing yourself to be their option."

"Books are for people who wish they were somewhere else."

"What would men be without women? Scarce, sir...mighty scarce."

"Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society."

"Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live."

"Sanity and happiness are an impossible combination."

"Always do what is right. It will gratify half of mankind and astound the other."

"I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it."

"The trouble is not in dying for a friend, but in finding a friend worth dying for."

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and man."

"If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed."

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear."