

## 2.3 MARK TWAIN

### WARMING UP!

#### Quick Thinkers

- **Within one minute, write as many meaningful phrases as possible using the numbers given below. Do not repeat the ideas.**

One : one man a ball

Two : two roads two friends

Three : three lamps three leaves

Four : a four wheeler four pillars

Five : five frogs five pandvas

Six : six kites six stars

Seven : seven arrows seven ragas

Forty : forty flowers forty thieves

A hundred : a hundred dots a hundred lashes

### Anavi's Ramble

Anavi went to buy **a doll**. She looked everywhere but did not find it. At one shop she found a doll. She purchased it by giving its amount. As Anavi was going out, she met her **two friends**, they were searching for **three leaves** to offer lord Shiva. They got it near the temple which has **four pillars**. On the wall of the temple, there was a sculpture of **five Pandavas** with **six stars**. In the temple there was a music played in **seven ragas** by the musicians. But suddenly there came **forty thieves** to rob

the temple but the alertness of the guard they were caught and **a hundred lashes were** given to each of them as a punishment.

### MARGIN QUESTIONS

**1) What was Mark Twain's real name?**

**Ans:** Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

**2) Where else are the human values of liberty, equality and fraternity mentioned in the book? Find and copy the page in a beautiful hand.**

**Ans:** The human values of liberty, equality and fraternity are mentioned in 4.5- The last lesson.

**3) Why did Henry Irving ask Mark Twain if he had heard the story before?**

**Ans:** Henry Irving asked Mark Twain if he had heard the story before because he was telling him a humorous story and Mark Twain was not laughing or responding to it.

**4) Can you think of other examples of irregularities in English Spelling?**

**Ans:** Yes, there are various words that have irregular pronunciations such as- fall- shall, so-to, height-weight etc.

**5) Try to write a few sentences according to the improvements suggested for each year.**

**Ans:**

Year	Sentences	Improvements
1	I don't like cold water.	I don't like kold water.
2	He ate one cake.	He ate won kake.
3	She is singing a song merrily.	She is singing a song merrili.
5	Finally, he passed the exam.	Finali, he passed the exam.
6to12	I would be nice to eat peanuts.	I would be nice to eat peanuts.
15	The shirt is cheap.	Xe yirt is zeap.
20	She will come soon.	Ye wil kam sun.

**6) Which episode shows that Mark Twain did not believe in superstitions?**

**Ans:** Mark Twain received a letter from a reader who had found a spider in his paper. His reply shows that he did not believe in superstitions.

## **ENGLISH WORKSHOP**

**1. Answer the following questions:**

**(a) Did Twain tell the barber who he was?**

**Ans:** No, Twain did not tell the barber who he was.

**(b) Was Twain particular about how he dressed when he was visiting friends?**

**Ans:** No, Twain was not particular about how he dressed when he was visiting friends.

**(c) Was Twain particular about what words he used ?**

**Ans:** Yes, Twain was particular about the words he used.

**(d) Do you think Twain approved of spelling reforms? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans:** Twain did not approve of spelling reforms and this can be seen in the plan that he proposed for the improvement of English spellings. He wanted to convey through his plan that any further changes in English spellings would do harm than good and would be detrimental for the language.

**(e) How did Twain explain the spider in the paper? What did he want to highlight?**

**Ans:** Twain explained that the spider was on the paper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life undistributed peace afterwards. He wanted to highlight that there was no logical reason behind superstition as the spider just happened to be there on the newspaper by chance.

**2. Read the following and write the two meanings of ‘mind’ and ‘matter’: ‘Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.’**

**Ans:**

**In the part of the sentence “Age is an issue of mind over matter”, the words mind and matter are used as nouns.**

**Mind-** the part of person which is responsible for thinking, reasoning and understanding.

**Matter-** a physical substance.

**In the second half of the sentence “if you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter, the words mind and matter are used as verbs.**

**Mind-** the act of being worried or concerned

**Matter-** to be significant.

**3) Translate any five of the quotations you like.**

**i) “It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be.”**

**ii) “Positive attitude creates positive people.”**

**iii) “Not all those who wander are lost.”**

**iv) “Instead of cursing the darkness, be the one to light a candle.”**

**v) “A good deed is never lost.”**