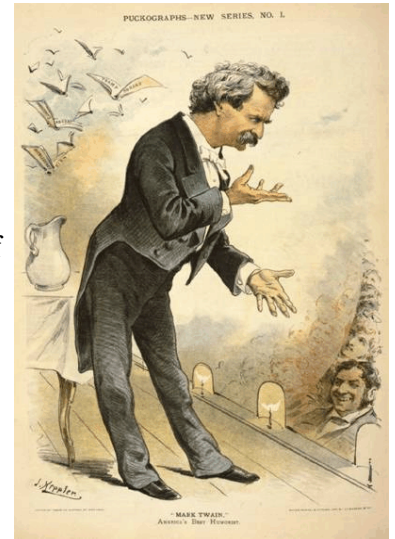


Instructions: Read Mark Twain’s essay, “The Notorious Jumping Frog” and Bruce Michelson’s “Mark Twain and the Escape from Sense,” from *Mark Twain on the Loose: A Comic Writer and the American Self* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1995): 1-37, 231-40 (basically, the “Hucksters” section of the course reader). Look for examples of ways in which Twain’s writing – both as you read in his own work and as represented in Michelson’s essay – is an example of what we have read and discussed as “American Humor.” Then, provide examples below of how those elements appear in his work. Due in class 10/3).



1. Which of the following looms largest in Twain’s writing (the examples provided here): “The shock between Business and Piety”; the clash between European settlers and the native peoples; or “The contrast between the vastness of American nature and the smallness of man”? Give two examples (directly from his writing) of these elements in his work. You may argue that more than one theme is central to his work.

2. Drawing on Rourke’s types, Twain chiefly employs the following in the works discussed here (see Nancy Walker, pp. 11-13, in packet 2).

- A. The Yankee
- B. The Backwoodsman
- C. The City-Slicker
- D. Americans Abroad

Give examples of where each types appear in “The Notorious Jumping Frog.”

3. Provide examples of Twain using the following:

- A. Irreverence:
- B. The venture into the wilderness:
- C. Incongruity:
- D. Linguistic and Thematic Violence:

4. Twain and the American Joke: here choose ONE of the elements below and discuss briefly how he uses that particular form of humor:

- A. Ironic
- B. Satirical
- C. Gallows Humor
- D. Surreal
- E. Ethnic
- F. Political
- G. Wordplay (including visual humor, typography)
- I. Shaggy Dog