

13/14 MARCH 2017



Mark Twain on the porch at Quarry Farm, Elmira, New York.
Photo courtesy the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies
image from <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/legacies/NY/200003366.html>

Greetings, AmLit Scholars—

If you are half as eager as I am to return to talking about some American Literature, why, then, you must be very excited indeed!

Please place your copy of the novel out where I can check your active reading.

Here's how we'll roll:

1. WEDGE—At this point, you've read the first seven (7) chapters of one of the great American novels. For roughly ten minutes, jot down your initial impressions of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Push yourself past your visceral responses and begin to move toward the larger questions. How does the story fit the sweep of American literature that we've seen so far? Is it distinctly "American"? How does it construct its narrative and narrator? Which literary terms are on display?

2. Extending Our Guided Look at the Opening Bits of the Novel—If your section needs to do so, we'll return for a couple of minutes to the introduction of the main narrator's voice.

3. Move Along, People! There's Nothing to See Here!

4. Decentered Discourse about *AoHF*—First, we'll dig out our Reader's Guide and divvy up the themes/motifs that appear on the handout. Next, we'll take a few minutes to craft conversation starters based on the motifs. Then we'll share all the conversation starters in a GoogleDoc. Finally, we'll respond to the conversation starters in order to talk about the opening chapters of the novel, doing our determined best to keep the instructor quiet.

5. Reading Time!—Time permitting, of course.

Tappa! Tappa! Tappa!—
Mr Leo

Homework:

Actively read Chapter 8-15 of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.