My Life Compared to Mark Twain – Lesson Plan
Mark Twain Teachers Workshop – Mark Twain Museum
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Overview of the Lesson:
This lesson is designed for intermediate-age students but could easily be modified for other grade levels. The emphasis of this lesson is comparing students' lives to Mark Twains' life using Twain's quotes.

Grade Level: Intermediate

Missouri Standards: CA 5, 6

Missouri Goals: 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.9, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4

Objective:
Students will identify at least five quotes from Mark Twain that show how their lives relate to his and justify their choices by providing examples.

Background: This could be used as an introduction or a culminating activity for students to learn about Mark Twain. Before immersing the students with quotes, they would first need to know a little about Mark Twain. (Note: To make the most relevant connections, it is suggested that this activity be done as a culminating activity after studying Mark Twain and/or one of his books.)

There are many ways to do this:
- KWL chart (To be done over the course of a unit so they can learn about Mark Twain and better understand how their lives relate to his)
- Read selected excepts from his autobiography (Note: There are many passages that focus on his childhood to which students might relate.)
- Show video clips of his life by using the PBS site (link below), or show the Ken Burns documentary of Twain's life

Materials Needed:
- a variety of quotes (www.twainquotes.com)
- http://www.pbs.org/marktwain/
- PowerPoint (Mark Twain in 60 Minutes)

Time Frame: One to two weeks

Write a quote from Mark Twain on the board for the students to read. An example would be, "If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything." Facilitate a discussion about the meaning of this quote. The teacher would then give an example of a time in his or her life when he/she did not tell the truth and discuss the consequences. This could be a time when they were their students' age.

After listening to the teacher's example, the students would write down their own experiences. Students, who wanted to, would be able to share them later with the class.

The teacher will outline the expectations for their final assignment. Students will create a project that will show selected Mark Twain quotes and how their life relates to his. The students will have the option of making a scrapbook, a video, a PowerPoint, or other idea from student that meets objective.

The teacher will show the students how to use the internet to study Mark Twain's quotes. A suggested web site is: www.twainquotes.com. The class will look at a few quotes and discuss the meaning of them and how they could relate them to their lives. The students will need time to find quotes that relate to their lives.

The teacher will periodically check on the students to make sure that they are working at a pace that will enable them to have all their quotes to begin writing their stories that relate to them.

For each quote, students will need to write a paragraph or short story or provide some other type of justification that shows how the selected Twain quote relates to them.

Culminating Activity:
Listed are some options that students can use to show mastery:
- Scrapbook- students can create a scrapbook of their quotes and stories.
- Video- students can create a short video using quotes and orally telling their stories.
- PowerPoint- students can create a PowerPoint using quotes and their stories.
- Note: A scoring rubric should be provided to students ahead of time. It is also suggested that students can suggest an alternative option (with teacher approval).

Extension Activity: Students can make bookmarks with their favorite Mark Twain quotes to share with the school library or the local county library in order to spread the interest of Mark Twain's books.