

Twain...

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Stubblefield said the violence and bloodshed in Twain's work is another aspect you have to be conscious of when reading him.

He said his students generally like Twain, and often express surprise at the darker side of his later works.

"Twain's works were dependent on his own life," Stubblefield said. "Tom and Huck were based on places he knew and adventures he had as a child."

He said his later work — and marked misanthropy — was caused by his intense personal problems, including his bankruptcy, the death of his wife and favorite daughter and the epilepsy of his youngest daughter.

This side of Twain is especially evident in one of his later works, "The Mysterious Stranger."

Twain's output of work was immense and perhaps his most entertaining work was his earlier short stories. As a

matter of fact, Twain came into the public view through his short stories, most notably "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

Twain scholar Charles Noider wrote, "Mark Twain's special genius was his infectious humor — a humor that came from his penetrating insight into the foibles and follies of human nature. This ability to make people laugh (although they might blush at the same time) is..."

Samuel Clemens, humorist, social thinker, satirist, and most of all American provided entertainment and more. Chances are you have a copy of one of his novels, but chances are, too, that your insight into the man and his works stops with "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

Twain is definitely worth discovering or rediscovering. Some things, like Halley's Comet, for instance, are just as interesting the second time you see them.

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