

Mark Twain

# The Jumping Frog



Audio CD



Vicens Vives - The Jumping Frog (Blackcat. Reading & Training)

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Mark Twain

# The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County



## Curing a Cold



## Mrs McWilliams and the Lightning



Text adaptation and activities  
by **Gina D. B. Clemen**

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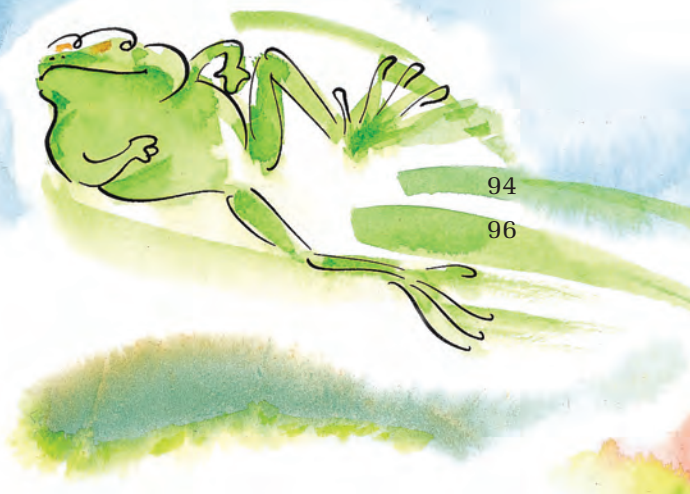
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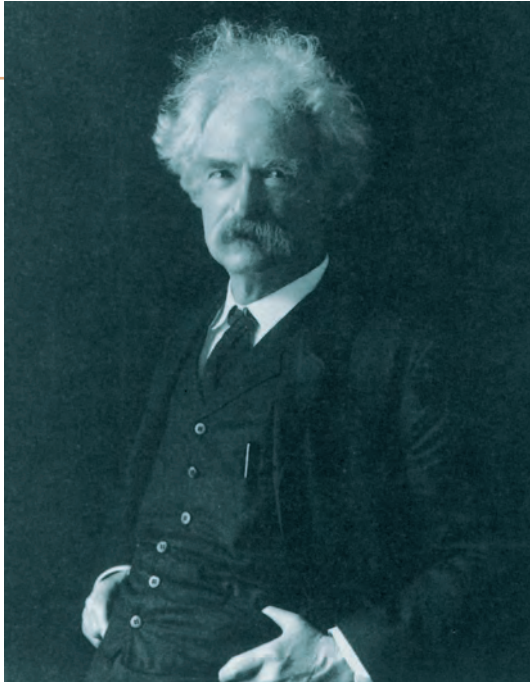
Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADES 4/5 Trinity-style exercises (Grades 4/5)



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts and activities.





Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910).

## A Note on Mark Twain

Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born in Florida, Missouri, U.S.A. in 1835. When he was a young boy he lived a happy life in Hannibal, Missouri, on the Mississippi River. In 1857 he worked as a pilot on a steamboat on the Mississippi. He liked traveling on this big river.

After the American Civil War started in 1861, Mark Twain went to California to look for gold. This was the time of the California Gold Rush. <sup>1</sup>

1. **Gold Rush** : the quick movement of people to California to look for gold.



# 1 A Letter from the East



O

ne day a friend of mine from the East wrote me a letter. He asked me to visit an old man named Simon Wheeler. My friend wanted me to ask Simon

Wheeler about a childhood companion,<sup>1</sup> Leonidas W. Smiley.

I found Simon Wheeler sleeping by the stove<sup>2</sup> of the old tavern in Angel's Mining Camp. I noticed that he was fat. His face was simple and peaceful. When he woke up, I told him that a friend of mine wanted to know about a childhood companion named Leonidas W. Smiley.

1. **childhood companion** : a friend from infancy.

2. **stove** :



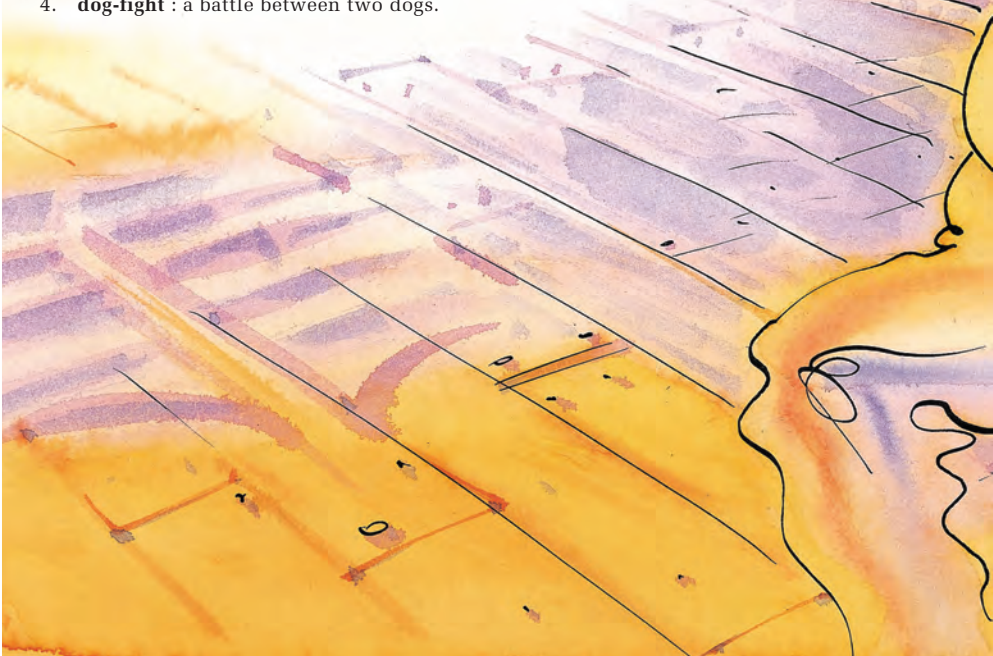
# The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County

Simon Wheeler blocked me with his chair in a corner of the tavern. Then, very seriously, he began to tell me the story that follows.

There was once a fellow <sup>1</sup> at the mining camp named Jim Smiley. It was the winter of 1849 or maybe the spring of 1850. He was an unusual man. He always bet <sup>2</sup> money on anything that happened at the mining camp, and he usually won. Jim Smiley was a very lucky <sup>3</sup> man. When there was a horse race, a dog-fight, <sup>4</sup> a cat-fight or a chicken-fight he always bet on them.

END

1. **fellow** : man.
2. **bet** : risked money on the uncertain result of a future event.
3. **lucky** : fortunate.
4. **dog-fight** : a battle between two dogs.



**PET 1** Look at the statements below about Part 1.  
Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect.  
If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

- |   | A                        | B                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A friend of mine from the West sent me a book.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Simon Wheeler was drinking at the tavern.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Simon was a fat man.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. He blocked me with his chair in a corner<br>of the tavern. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. He wanted to tell me a story.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The story was about a horse race.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2** Read Part 1. Tick (✓) the adjectives referring to Simon Wheeler.

- peaceful     fat     crazy     old     lucky

Now tick the adjectives referring to Jim Smiley.

- young     curious     lucky     unlucky

**3** The Past Simple of a verb is often used to tell a story. Put the correct verb next to the Past Simple. You'll find the anagram of the infinitive in the box.

kas    tbe    ibeng    eawk    pehanp  
nwi    llte    eb    olckb    teiwr

**PAST**

- wrote  
asked  
woke  
told  
blocked  
began  
bet  
won  
was  
happened

**INFINITIVE**

- .....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



- 4 Look at the letter Mark Twain received from his friend in the East and try to fill in the gaps using the words in the box. Now listen and check your answers.

California	York	remember	gold	named
about	want	Mountains	travel	
visit	childhood	you	friend	live

Dear Mark,

Do you still (1) ..... me?

I'm William Brown, your (2) .....  
from New (3) .....

I (4) ..... to go to California to  
look for (5) ..... My dream is to  
(6) ..... in a mining camp in the  
Sierra Nevada (7) .....

Can you go to Angel's Mining camp to  
(8) ..... an old man (9) .....  
Simon Wheeler? Simon knows my (10) .....  
friend, Leonidas W. Smiley.

I want to know all (11) .....  
Leonidas Smiley, before I (12) .....  
to (13) .....

Thank (14) ....., Mark.

Your friend,  
William