

Realism

Regionalism and Local Color

What is Realism?

Realism is a style of writing that developed after the Civil War and that attempts to depict everyday life without idealizing or romanticizing it.

Realism v. Romanticism

Realism

- Emphasizes objectivity
- Depicts common, everyday people
- Focuses on real-life situations

Romanticism

- Emphasizes imagination and emotion
- Depicts characters as other-worldly and different
- Focuses on exotic, supernatural, imaginary worlds

Realists

The realists developed their plots and characters based on their observations of ordinary, everyday life, and readers enjoyed realist fiction because they saw their own struggles in print. In contrast, the public lost their taste for the slow pace, allegory, and symbolism of the romantic writers.

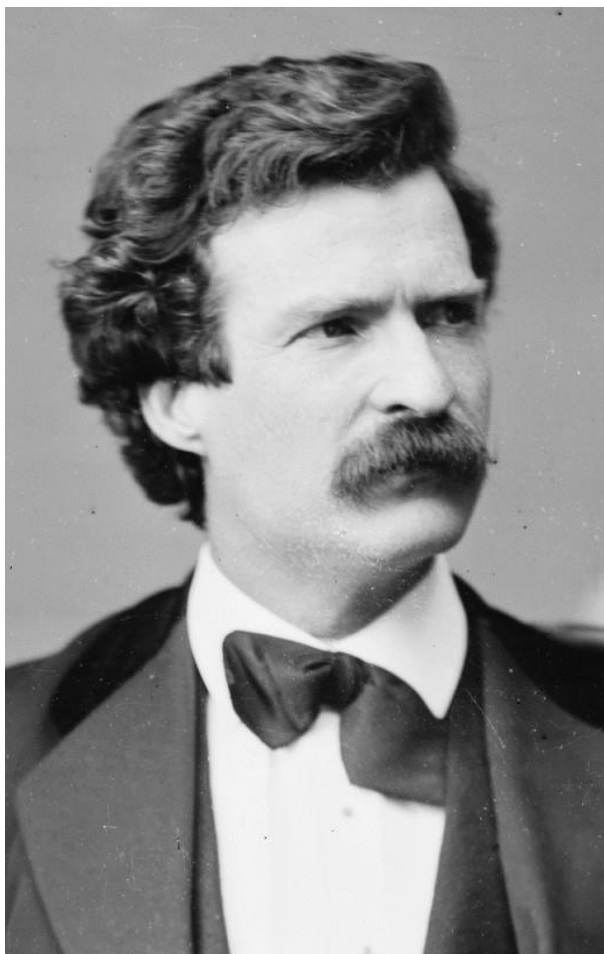
Regionalism

- Regionalism is a form of realism that emphasizes a specific geographic setting and reproduces the speech, behavior, and manners of the people who live in that region.

What makes a region distinctive? What makes our area different from the rest of Texas? How is Denton distinctive?

Local Color – What Is It?

- form of realism
- emphasizes a specific geographic region
- includes setting, dress, mannerisms, and local dialect
- social and economic conditions of the mining camps and boom towns are key elements in local color
- characters speak colloquially, in dialect
- dialect mimics the local speech through misspellings, grammatical errors, and long, loose sentences



Tall Tale – Mark Twain

A tall tale is a folk tale with exaggerated characters and events. It generally aims to fool or amuse the reader using the following devices.

- Exaggeration
- Understatement
- Local Color
 - setting – California mining camp
 - dialect

“The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,”
page 684

Mark Twain in 1871

“Clemens” to “Twain” - How Did That Happen?

How did Samuel Langhorne Clemens become Mark Twain?

An important part of a river pilot's craft is knowing the waters and depths, which, for the mighty Mississippi and her reefs, snags, and sand bars, are ever changing. To “mark twain” is to sound the depths and deem them safe enough for a steamboat’s passage.

Clemens adopted the term as his pen name in 1863.