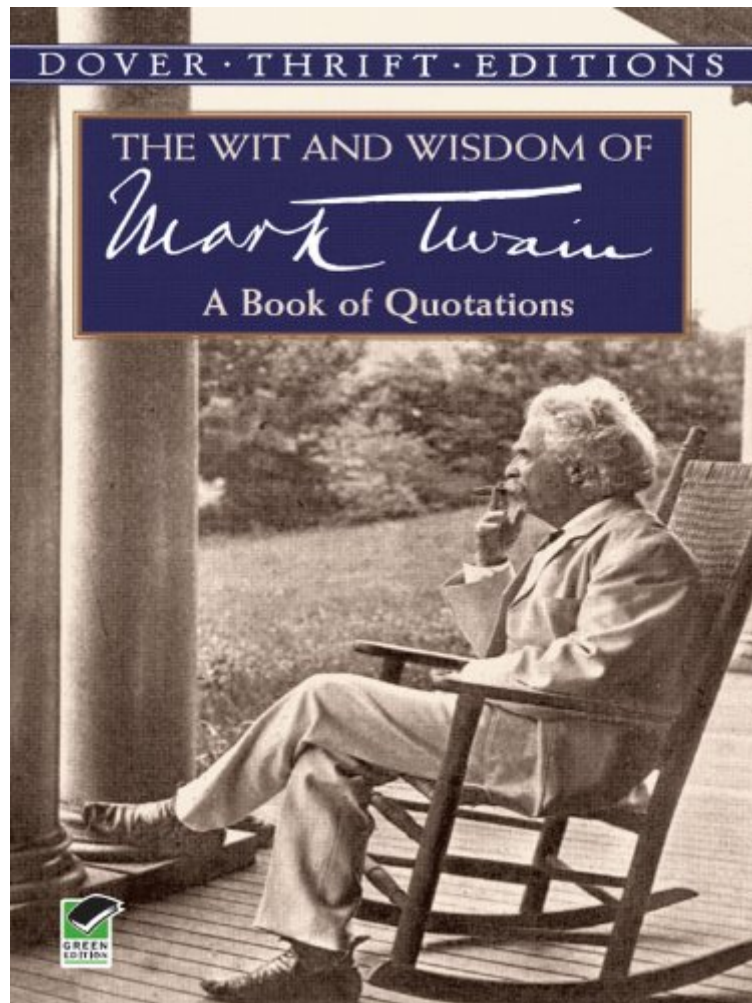


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The Wit And Wisdom Of Mark Twain: A Book Of Quotations (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Renowned as a novelist, journalist, and humorist, Mark Twain is not only one of the most widely read and admired American writers, he is also among the most quoted. Wit and repartee permeate his work — from the short, light pieces to his great novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and even later, in dark meditations on the human condition where his humor takes on a cynical, satirical twist. This remarkably inexpensive volume gathers together hundreds of Twain's most memorable quips and comments on life, love, history, culture, travel, and a diversity of other topics that occupied his thoughts over 50 years of writing and lecturing. An invaluable, ready reference for writers, speakers, and others in search of amusing and insightful quotes, this entertaining and thought-provoking compilation is also an ideal introduction to Twain's inimitable style and thought.

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Customer Reviews

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, the author of such books as "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" among others, was a highly intelligent and incredibly witty man. His keen observations of the world, and the often satirical commentary he made on it, are a delight to read, and this book pulls together some real gems from

many of his books, speeches, and personal notebooks. There are some 358 quotations included, divided into categories as follows: (1) on men, women, children, and human nature, (2) on love, marriage, and romance, (3) on virtue, vice, and conduct, (4) on politics and history, (5) on religion, (6) on youth and aging, (7) on truth, honesty, lies, and illusion, (8) on reading, writing, and education, (9) on health and exercise, (10) on money and business, (11) on travel, and (12) on various other subjects. Each quote is attributed to its source for easy reference. This is a very slim and very affordable little volume, only fifty-five pages in length, and in fact my only criticism is that it doesn't include more material. But it is still well worth getting, and at this price it won't break any pocketbooks. Here is a small selection of what you can expect: "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence in society" (pg. 3). "Familiarity breeds contempt -- and children" (pg. 7). "It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them" (pg. 15). "Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself" (pg. 23). "Heaven for climate, Hell for company" (pg. 28). "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years" (pg. 28).

I have always been a fan of Mark Twain since I first read Huck Finn. This is a great little book his quotations from his writings and speeches. It's a nice little stocking stuffer as the book is small. Some of my favorites: "Classic." A book which people praise and don't read. Honesty is the best policy--when there is money in it. Some people like when they tell the truth. I tell the truth lying. In God We Trust. I don't believe it would sound any better if it were true. Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself. Martyrdom covers a multitude of sins. When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries of life disappear and life stands explained.

Enjoy few quotes from this humorous book, then go and buy a copy: ADVERTISING During his days as a journalist, the young Mark Twain once edited a small newspaper in Missouri. A subscriber wrote in, saying that he had found a spider in his paper and asked whether this was a sign of good or bad luck. Twain answered: "Dear Subscriber: Finding a spider in your paper was neither good luck nor bad luck for you. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant is not advertising so that he can go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward." ADVICE It is better to give than receive - especially advice. Mark Twain was always willing to donate free advice to the needy and the unsuspecting. "It's noble to be good", he said, "and it's nobler to teach others to be good, and less trouble." Whenever you find that

you are on the side of majority, it is time to reform (- or pause and reflect).**BELIEFS**If the man doesn't believe as we do, we say he is a crank, and that settles it. I mean, it does nowadays, because now we can't burn him.**SURGERY**Mark Twain offered this advice on the proper state of mind for undergoing surgery: "Console yourself with the reflection that you are giving the doctor pleasure, and that he is getting paid for it."**INSULTS**When Mark Twain disapproved of someone, he was not likely to keep it a secret. A remark he made on hearing of the death of an annoying person is typical:"He has done a thing for me which I wouldn't even have done for myself. If he will only stay dead now I will call the account square and drop the grudge I bear him."

A hilarious book of quotes, sayings, and one-liners only Mark Twain could have the genius to create. A quote from Adam, the first of many: Adam was but human - this explains it all. He did not want the apple for the apple's sake, he wanted it only because it was forbidden. The mistake was in not forbidding the serpent; then he would have eaten the serpent. From Adam, the wit and humor only becomes more hysterical, more riveting, more evident; and we soon discover the true intelligence of Mark Twain. He was not an ordinary man; for no mere ordinary man could have thought, and often dared, to utter such words as Mark Twain, in the era in which he lived. *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain* contains some of his most outrageous quotes, either written within his books, or his journals, and spanning more than four decades. A great read, which you don't have to start at the beginning, and work your way to the end. And a perfect way to escape the drudgery of prime time television.

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