

## **Mark Twain – Double Check**

Double because Twain is an archaic word for two, and Check is a type of Mark. This contest also had two prizes or double the “checks” awarded

## **A worthy candidate for a canidae contest**

Foxes are in the Canidae family. Foxworthy (worthy) hosted “Are You Smarter Than a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader?” The candidate is Mark Twain, who only had a 5th grade education

## **Wisp of realized dream that ends, indelible lines drawn**

Mark Twain’s dream was to be a steamboat captain. He became one but quit when the civil war broke out and steamboats were not allowed passage. The civil war caused battle lines to be drawn and personal belief lines to be drawn which were long-lasting and left scars; indelible means to leave a mark. Indelible also is a term referring to ink and markers, a reference to Mark Twain’s writing

## **A label with deeper ambitions than mercy possessed**

Mark Twain is a pen name that literally means “two fathoms deep”, the depth at which steamboats could safely operate. His real name was Samuel Clemence. Clemence means mercy.

## **Finds a true calling recalling foregone**

Mark Twain used his past experiences extensively in his writing, including operating a steamboat

## **Report mimics storied prank of honored guest**

A paper wrote a premature obituary about Mark Twain prompting his quote, “The report of my death has been greatly exaggerated”. This parallels the characters in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer who were declared dead prematurely and attended their own funeral

## **Unexaggerated dusk with the celestial fire of dawn**

Twain was born when Hailey's comet came and died the next time it came. "Celestial fire" is part of a quote from George Washington, which supports the next part of the clue. A famous quote from Twain is, "The report of my death has been greatly exaggerated."

## **Conscience grander than childless father who said it best**

Washington was childless but a founding father. His quote was, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, call conscience", Twain wrote a biography of Washington stating, "I have a higher, grander standard of principle. Washington could not lie. I can lie, but I won't."

## **Trampling of hoofs, legacy unfortunately passed on**

Mark Twain's only surviving daughter married a man who lost a fortune gambling on horses. Twain's daughter was forced to sell off papers and memorabilia of her father to pay the debts. She passed on his legacy to someone else through selling it, and she "passed" on her legacy by giving it up for her husband

## **Image: Chess Board showing the black king in check by both the Rook and Bishop (Double Check)**

Mark Twain was an avid chess player, with several quotes on the subject attributed to him

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