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How To Tell A Story And Other Essays



Synopsis

Mark Twain's marvelous short work relating how to tell a story - an American story that is humorous, not comic as the British or witty as the French. The work also includes four marvelous but little-known essays: "The Wounded Soldier", "The Golden Arm", "Mental Telegraphy", and "The Invalid's Story". Canadian listeners will particularly enjoy "Mental Telegraphy", set in Quebec.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes (Baby Board Books) American writer Samuel Clemens, better known by his pen name Mark Twain has given us some literary gems with Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and his travel adventures in nineteenth-century Europe and to Australia and New Zealand. Here he is discussing telling rather than writing a story. Humour, he says, is American while comic is English and witty is French. He follows this typically brilliant essay with examples of story telling and some intriguing experiences of mental telegraphy. Good on you Dodo Press for specialising in rare and out-of-print books. Mark Twain devotees will want to add this slim volume to their collection.

An entertaining read from one of America's treasured voices. I was particularly interested in the "How to Tell a Story" Essay and Mark Twain's lessons are just as relevant today. Kindle version was a welcome convenience and you can't beat the price!!

Different editions of Twain's (1835-1910) writings contain different stories. This free book for kindle users has five short essays and stories. Twain differentiates between humorous stories, which he says is an American invention, and comic stories, which he claims is English. There is also, he says, the witty story, which is French, but he does not discuss it in this volume. The humorous story depends on how it is told, the other two "on the matter." The humorous story is told by word of mouth. It can go on and on with no apparent purpose other than to be funny. The joy is in the telling and it is an art to tell it well. He gives an example of a humorous story - The Wounded Soldier. He then gives an example of how a humorous story should be told - The Golden Arm. He shows by the dialect and by directions to the reader how it should be told. He emphasizes the importance of pauses and occasional noises just at the right time and with the right length. Included in this volume is an essay telling of four incidences that he says happened to him. The title is Mental Telepathy Again. In each tale, another person who is far from him thinks something and he senses it. This essay is followed by The Invalid's Story. It is a very funny tale of how a healthy man became an invalid when he thought he was transporting the dead body of his friend to his parents when, because of a mix up, the crate contains guns and smelly limburger cheese.

Pretty short read and a classic from Mark Twain. Goes into detail of how to best tell a good story and gives examples of how people do it well and how other mess it up. The subject matter interested me for a couple of chapters but then lost my attention to be honest.

The more one learns of the author & the man the more evident his genius in many subjects. It should be noted that he was also a great humanitarian fighting for racial equality and women's rights. This is a perfect sample of short stories readable or as an audio completable in it's entirety in an hour. This short collection also gives us a glimpse into the types of humor popular in this period which makes it historically relevant. The surprising aspect I believe most will find in this sampling of Twain are the "New Age" thoughts. I doubt many people realize that Twain and Tesla were friends. It's my opinion both men would still be ahead of their time in today's society. This is a book for all ages as Twain's rare talent of what I'll call "multi-level writing" offers something for all ages and backgrounds. Twain is that timeless writer in many ways, to be enjoyed by many generations to come and one that you can re-read as you mature. "I've yet to read a Twain I didn't like at some level." (They're all probably in the public domain as well & free is a price even I can afford!)

This is a short and fast read! If you like Mark Twain then you'll eat this up and be wanting more....if

you haven't ever read Mark Twain, then this is a good place to start. I actually wish the "How to tell a story" portion was longer. However, I read "Following the Equator" and that fulfilled my need for more of Twain's witty stories and wisdom from the road (or on the sea as the case may be). Take a look if you just like literature in general, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Wonderful book, clever metaphors, and full of sound advice. Twain was unmatched in his ability to deliver satire in the most straightforward way, unerringly observant of the human condition and humbly honest in accounts of personal experience.

Books are books so what can I say. I purchase only the book that I as a Gunsmith would use or maybe like to read. So that is what I did here, It reads easy and it is on my E Book account and on my Kindle and my Dell Tablet and all three love working with the E Book application system... There you go, if you have a an E Book system I recommend that system for all your Tech type books.

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