**MARK TWAIN BACKGROUND RESEARCH GUIDE**

**Find the following biographical information about Twain:**

His real name and the meaning of his pen name:

His birthplace and year of birth:

His famous childhood hometown:

List 3 occupations he’s had other than writing:

List at least 4 well-known novels written by him:

What is the year of his death:

Find 2-3 articles discussing the use of Huckleberry Finn in schools or the banning of the book in present day schools. After reading the articles, explain the following in your own words:

1. Explain why people want the book banned:
2. Explain what the arguments for using the book in classrooms (against banning it):
3. Why was the book banned in 1885? Who banned it? What was Twain’s response?

Read a fairly detailed plot summary of the book. Describe the following:

1. Major characters
2. Setting
3. Plot of the book – What happens? What are the major events?