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**Briefly describe the text:** Thirteen-year-old Susy, daughter of the world-famous Mark Twain, decides to set the record straight regarding her papa. Thousands of people who have read his books and/or attended his lectures think they know him. He is much more than just a jokester, and she wants the world to know.

This book gives a well-rounded look at Mark Twain’s adult life . Ms. Kerley studied the actual notebook that the real Susy wrote. The author used those entries, and she added other entries.

**Text Description**

**Quantitative Measure**

**Complexity Band Level** (provide range): 6th through 8th-grade

**Lexile or Other Quantitative Measure of the Text**: 1090 Lexile and 5.8 ATOS

Below are factors to consider with respect to the reader and task (See attached guiding questions to assist each teacher in filling out this section for his or her own class):

**Potential Challenges this Text Poses:** Tier Two Vocabulary words: expergate, memoirs, confer, anchored, earnest, deficiencies, studious, delved, peculiar, chronicled.

**Major Instructional Areas of Focus (3-4 CCS Standards) for this Text:** R.4, R.6, R.9, L.4, L.5

**Differentiation/Supports for Students:** Provide a glossary of words and phrases; Give help with reading cursive handwriting; Show and talk about some of Twain’s beloved books i.e. Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, and Prince and the Pauper.

**Considerations for Reader and Task**

**Meaning/Purpose:** *(Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational text.)* Simple layer of meaning. It is Susy’s purpose to observe her papa and write her own biography of him. At this point in Mark Twain’s life, he is rich and famous as an entertaining lecturer and storyteller. Susy and her parents live a very comfortable life.

**Text Structure: *(****Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.)* Narration is moderately complex because the story shifts from Susy’s “biography” of her papa and excerpts from “her journal” which looks exactly like a primary-source. Order of events is somewhat complex because there is a flashback page, telling of Twain’s early life in Missouri. The pictures add greatly to support the story.

**Language Features: *(****Briefly describe the conventions and clarity of the language used in the text, including the complexity of the vocabulary and sentence structures.)*

Susy’s language is mostly explicit, but Papa’s(Mark Twain) is very complex. There are rich examples of figurative language. Also, some of Papa’s quotes are complex and humorous, i.e. “Mentally dead people brought their corpses with them for a long visit.” The vocabulary consists of many Tier Two and Tier Three words. Susy’s sentences are simple. Papa’s are compound and complex.

**Knowledge Demands: *(****Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.)* Piloting a boat is one of a few examples of phrases, concepts, with which the modern middle school student may be unfamiliar. Lecturing as a job would be an unfamiliar concept also.

**Qualitative Measures**

**Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band.** The book is only 48 pages and, at first glance, one might think it is a good fit for elementary. However, the quantitative measure and the qualitative considerations place it in the 6th through 8th-grade band.

**Recommended Placement**

**Text Complexity Analysis of**

***Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)****title)*

**by Barbara Kerley; Illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham\_***(author)*

**Recommended Complexity Band:**

**6 through 8th-grade band**

