

Name _____

Story Roots Answer Key

Reflection Sample Answers

1. Growing up along the Mississippi was most influential because it gave Twain **the central setting and inspiration for his iconic novels.**
2. Knowing about his childhood shows why Twain wrote about **adventurous, mischievous boys** and **river life**, giving the stories authenticity.
3. Yes, authors today still draw heavily from life: personal struggles, travels, or cultural contexts continue to shape what and how they write.

Teacher Notes

- **Skill Focus:** Students learn to link **biographical context** with **literary analysis**, a cornerstone of Author Studies.
- **Scaffolding Tip:** For younger students, provide sentence starters like "This event influenced his writing because..."
- **Extension Activity:** Assign students a different author to research briefly and fill in their own Influence Finder Chart.