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Topics Essay Sample Introduction

Mark Twain wrote during the literary movement of realism and regionalism, which were brought about by the destructive impact the Civil War had on the United States. Citizens no longer wanted to read about the idealization of the world provided by Romanticism; artists sought new ways to portray the world around them. Specifically, Twain sought to enact societal change through his works. In *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain satirizes both **religion** and **overly sentimental thought** in order to provoke change. Today, many sketch comedy and faux news shows accomplish the same satirical effect, as seen in the HBO hit *Last Week Tonight*, hosted by John Oliver.