**American Literature Notes:**

“The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”

* Make sure the characters are clear: who’s doing what
* Meaning of “garrulous”
* Who’s talking for most of the piece?
* Are you able to picture Wheeler and hear the way in which he tells the story? Somebody volunteer….
* What was behavior stands out about the Jim Smiley character? (What situation shows how far Smiley would take betting?)
* What was the name of Smiley’s dog?
* What was the frog’s name?
* One of the funny things about this story is the unusual similes used: hysted up his shoulders like a Frenchmen, planted solid as a church, whirling in the air like a doughnut, flop down on the floor again as solid as a gob of mud…

“Innocents Abroad”

* The exaggeration—either Twain or the guides were exaggerating greatly—note examples
* What city is the “here”?
* What is it that irritates Twain and the doctor so?
* How do they retaliate?
* Is this story true? (Remember that it’s Twain telling the story)