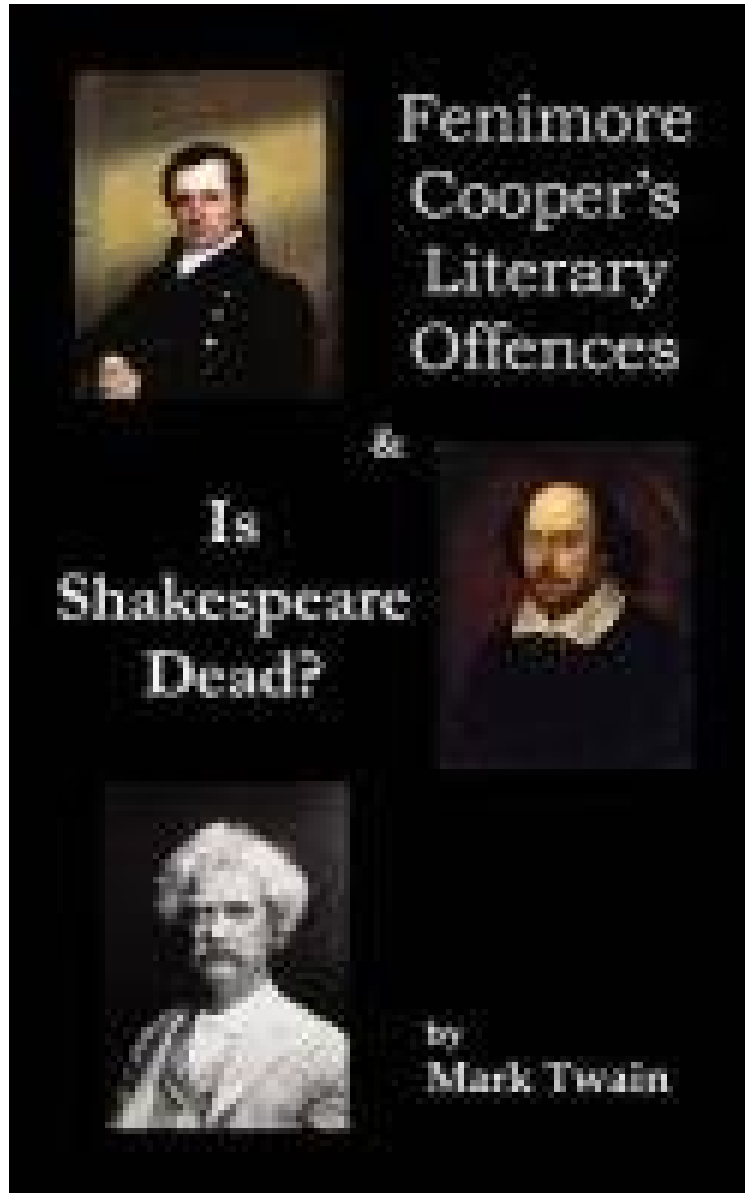


(Download free pdf) Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offences Is Shakespeare Dead?

## Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offences Is Shakespeare Dead?

*Mark Twain*

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**Mark Twain : Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offences Is Shakespeare Dead?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offences Is Shakespeare Dead?:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fine example of humor and sarcasm as only Twain could do itBy KenAs far as I know I've never read anything by Fenimore Cooper. If I did, it was in school when I was a kid, and I probably hated it, as I hated anything that wasn't written in "real" English, including Shakespeare. I did have to read

Shakespeare, but I haven't read any since, and I might actually be reading and enjoying Shakespeare if I hadn't been forced to read Shakespeare in school. But I digress. If Mark Twain's review of Fenimore Cooper is accurate, I'm not likely to be reading any Fenimore Cooper, either. Just the excerpts alone, given in Twain's critique, would put me off it. It's possible that the excerpts were taken out of context, and that I might actually enjoy the writings of Fenimore Cooper if I were to read them, but why do that when I could spend the time enjoying Mark Twain's writing instead. Even this short review of Fenimore Cooper's writing was one of the best things I've read lately. I'll admit that because of my fondness of Twain's writing, my own review might be biased. But the literary acuity of Twain's writing, so evident in this review, cannot be overlooked. I enjoyed the humor, the sarcasm, and the acidity of its tone, and to make it even better, I found it free on .com. I think Twain nailed it perfectly. I rate this bit of writing at 5 out of 5 stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Literary criticism at its most amusing By Joseph Dewey This is Mark Twain's very critical roast of *The Deerslayer*, which extends also to all of James Fenimore Cooper's writing. If you like literary criticism, you'll love this. I found it a smartly-written dissection of a poorly-written work. I was hoping that I could learn something about how to write well, by reading this, but I'm not sure if I feel like I'd be any writer, after reading this. Twain does give a guide of 18 points of good writing, and explains how Cooper violates all but one of them. But, it's a lot more of a funny skewering, than it is a good guide. Here are some quotes from the book: "Cooper prized his broken twig above all of the rest of his effects, and worked it the hardest. It is a restful chapter in any book of his when somebody doesn't step on a dry twig and alarm all the reds and whites for two hundred yards around." "Inaccurate observation defeated Cooper here as it defeated him in so many other enterprises of him." "Cooper's ear was satisfied by the approximate word." "Now I feel sure, deep down in my heart, that Cooper wrote about the poorest English that exists in our language, and that the English of *Deerslayer* is the very worst that even Cooper wrote." Pros: +Made me want to read more Twain +Gives you good material to criticize others with +Made me want to read *Deerslayer* (or at least skim through it) +Excellent literary criticism +Fun to read Cons: -Not really a guide for good writing, more of a guide of "reasons why Cooper went wrong" 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. English Majors, Authors and Newspaper Hacks Take Note By Rarkm This is by far the best essay on bad writing ever written. More offensive to nature than the bad writer is the "important" writer who uses bloated language, stylistic conceits without reason and obscure, inexact and unnecessary words and constructions. Twain picked (or picked on) James Fenimore Cooper for this little essay -- Cooper was at the time a "major" American author -- and his writing is still taught in schools and universities. Many of Cooper's lesser 19th century contemporaries engaged in the same overblown writing excesses, but Cooper was and is the best known from that period. In picking Cooper, Twain was essentially shooting a tuna fish in a barrel. Their writing styles could not have been more different. Twain had one foot in the 20th century, while Cooper had both feet in the 18th century. Perhaps I am being too harsh. Read the *Leatherstocking Tales*, then Twain's essay and you decide. Let's just say that I garnered nary a chuckle from Cooper, but laughed until I choked at Twain's essay.

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) is known as one of America's most outstanding authors, among his works the most famous of which is *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*. But Twain was also a brilliant essayist and literary critic. In *Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offences*, Twain takes aim at and derides the work of author James Fenimore Cooper, jeering at, for example, Cooper's portrayal of the American Indian. *Is Shakespeare Dead?*, for its part, covers the controversy over who authored Shakespeare's works through satire and anecdote.

About the Author Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens, was an American humorist and writer, who is best known for his enduring novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which has been called the Great American Novel. Raised in Hannibal, Missouri, Twain held a variety of jobs including typesetter, riverboat pilot, and miner before achieving nationwide attention for his work as a journalist with *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. He earned critical and popular praise for his wit and enjoyed a successful career as a public speaker in addition to his writing. Twain's works were remarkable for his ability to capture colloquial speech, although his adherence to the vernacular of the time has resulted in the suppression of his works by schools in modern times. Twain's birth in 1835 coincided with a visit by Halley's Comet, and Twain predicted, accurately, that he would go out with it as well, dying the day following the comet's return in 1910.