

from LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI

COPY MASTER

Reading Strategy

PARAPHRASE

Paraphrasing is restating a difficult passage in simpler words. Paraphrasing can be especially helpful in understanding Twain's use of **understatement**, or downplaying the importance of things, and **overstatement**, or exaggeration. Follow these steps when you paraphrase:

1. Write a literal paraphrase, using a dictionary if necessary
2. Revise the paraphrase to account for any understatement or overstatement the writer uses.

Directions: In the first column of the chart, record passages you found difficult to understand. In the next two columns, write a literal and a final paraphrase. An example has been done for you.

Difficult Passage	Literal Paraphrase	Final Paraphrase (when appropriate)
"Here, take her; shave those steamships as close as you'd peel an apple."	You take the wheel. Use a razor on the steamships just like you would to peel an apple.	You steer the ship. Get as close to the steamships as you can.