

The Californian's Tale Worksheet

A – Instructions: Using your own paper write the word and definition. Use the dictionary or the reference computer to look up the meaning of the word.

Balmy

Boding

Desolation

Furtive

Grizzled

Imploring

Predecessor

Sedate

Sever

Supplicating

B – Instructions: On a separate piece of paper answer the following questions. Express your answers using complete sentences.

1. What causes the narrator to stay a few days at Henry's cottage?
2. Why does Henry think his friends are planning a party?
3. Why do his friends really hold a party?
4. What happened to Henry's wife?
5. How does the **setting**, the cottage and its frontier surroundings, help you to understand the characters in the story?
6. Why do you think the narrator becomes so fascinated by Henry's wife?
7. Mark Twain wrote for the ear, capturing the voices of his characters like no other author of his time. What do you notice about Twain's use of **dialogue**?

Do you think the miners exercise good judgment in staging a welcome home party for Henry's wife every year? Why or why not?

C - Instructions: *The Love Letter.* On your own paper, write the wife's letter that Henry has treasured for so many years. Be sure to incorporate the details about the letter's content that the story provides.