“How to tell a story”, is an essay in which Mark Twain reveals that the differences between the humorous story and the comic or witty story lie primarily in the techniques used by their tellers. The humorous story is American, the comic story is English, the witty story is French. He says it’s how the person tells the story that counts. The English and the French stories are quick and have a point. However, the perspective is very narrow and Twain makes a lot of sweeping assumptions, as demonstrated by his rather pompous and unfounded categorization of the comic, witty, and humorous stories as English, French and American, respectively. Also, it was very short. From such a celebrated author and with such a promising title, I was expecting a lot more from this book. Sometimes one or other of the crew came and looked at him, and often the headman stayed for quite a long while staring at him thoughtfully. 'How many days to the coast?' Skelton...
asked the boy. They began to talk over the whisky and sparkler with which, following the Eastern habit, they celebrated the setting of the sun. Discovering that they both played chess they had a game. Mrs Grange did not join them till dinner. That's the only solution really for us chaps who were born and bred here.' Grange's bitterness was greater than could be explained by his financial embarrassment. He had little good to say of any of the white men in the colony.