

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

MARK TWAIN

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

SYNOPSIS

When a talkative stranger claims to have seen a bullet pierce a suit of chain-mail in sixth century England, he captures the attention of a visitor to Warwick Castle and begins a tale of his adventures in Camelot at the court of King Arthur. Hank Morgan, the speaker, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and worked at the arms factory as a metal worker. In 1879 during a fight with Hercules, a local bully, he suffers a blow to the head and awakens outside of Camelot, England, on June 19, 528 A.D.

At first Hank suspects that the people he meets are circus performers or escapees from an asylum. He is guided to a royal banquet by a young page, whom he later names Clarence, where he recognizes Arthur, Launcelot, Kay, Galahad, and Merlin the Magician. After the courtiers' brief examination of the newcomer, Hank is condemned to be burned at the stake the next day, but he saves himself at the last moment by claiming magical powers and summoning an eclipse, a ruse which impresses the citizens of Camelot so much that he becomes as powerful as the king.

Hank, who takes the title of The Boss, attempts to install the wonders of nineteenth century science in sixth century England, beginning with a display of explosives which quickly establishes him as the superior magician in Camelot, much to the dismay of Merlin. Yet, he encounters an even greater power which is more insidious and more difficult to circumvent—the Church.

Hank decides to open a patent office, inaugurate an education system, and work up to a newspaper. He makes friends with notable people, but he unintentionally insults Sir Sagramor, who seeks vengeance. Hank ignores Sir Sag's vendetta and continues to cultivate factories and bright minds to run them, military academies, telegraph and telephone service, and a survey of the kingdom as a preliminary to mapping.

When Arthur sends Hank on an expedition to save a damsel's sister from captivity by three ogres, Hank doubts the decency of a long journey with a single woman in view of his near-engagement to Puss Flanagan, a telephone operator in Connecticut, but he accepts and finds himself the unfortunate prisoner of Sandy, a born talker. As they travel, Hank learns more about the stranglehold that feudalism and the Church have on ordinary people and observes at close range the cruelties of Arthur's sister, Morgan le Fay.

Arthur visits the area that Hank is touring and agrees to join him to learn more about life among the citizens. Arthur exhibits compassion toward some victims of small pox and

takes his lumps when the unwitting victims blame the King for callous disregard of the needs of his kingdom. Hank, pretending to be farm bailliff, invites Dowley, the blacksmith, to a dinner at Marco's home where the assembled tradesmen attempt to comprehend Hank's nineteenth century philosophy of economics.

His unheard-of text so astounds the people that they turn against Hank and the King and sell them into slavery. Although Hank manages to free himself from his manacles, he and the King are imprisoned. Hank gets a message to Clarence describing their predicament. Just as Arthur faces hanging, five hundred knights, with Launcelot in the lead, arrive on bicycles for a grand rescue.

On his arrival in Camelot Hank finds Sir Sagramor, recently returned from several years' pursuit of the Holy Grail, has not forgotten the imagined insult and challenges Hank to a duel, although Hank recognizes the real challenger, Merlin, as the brains of the operation. Hank manages well with a lasso until Merlin steal it. Left with a revolver as his only hope, Hank astounds the assembly by effortlessly shooting nine knights out of their saddles.

Hank faces a different challenge when Sandy, who is now his wife, begs for help with their small daughter, Hello-Central, a victim of croup. The doctor sends the Morgan family on a long cruise, but later information from faithful Clarence proves that the family's departure was arranged by the Church, which forces an interdict on all of Hank's progress. When Hank arrives back in England, he finds Camelot returned to its earlier state of primitive dependence upon the Church. Clarence explains how Mordred has weakened the King by accentuating Launcelot's attraction to Guenever. Launcelot and Arthur fight a war for control of the kingdom, and Arthur falls in battle, a victim of Mordred's sword.

The Church, which has profited by the civil war, forces Clarence, Hank, and fifty-two assistants into a cave, where they plot a reprisal. Using dynamite and dynamo, Hank attacks the advancing troop of 30,000 knights in two assaults. Hank's small defenses are ringed by the dead, which grow in number as gatling guns cut down a third offensive.

The end of the story is written in Clarence's handwriting after Hank receives a light wound and is tended by an old woman, who is really Merlin in disguise. As Hank's assistants weaken from the effects of the poisoned atmosphere from the decaying corpses, Merlin casts a spell on Hank which keeps him asleep until the visitor at Warwick Castle finds him. Hank, still giving orders and calling for

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

Sandy, dies in the nineteenth century, far from Hartford, Connecticut.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910) in Florida, Missouri, occupies a special place among American authors. A talented, self-educated, widely-traveled, and diversely experienced man, Twain utilized his observations about human nature which he gained in the gold fields of California, the riverboats of the Mississippi, the newspaper office of his older brother Orion, and the drawing rooms of Connecticut to create works of fiction which have delighted readers for a century.

His first serious effort, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, appeared in 1865 after Twain abruptly departed from the turmoil of the Civil War to pursue a career in frontier journalism. His major achievement, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, published in 1884, earned him a place among the classic writers. He began work on *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* in 1886, but did not publish it until 1889.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Although flawed and at times confusing and illogical, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* reflects Twain's strong feelings about individual freedom and human rights, which suffered during medieval times at the hands of nobles and the Church. In a critical essay about the book, Edmund Reiss refers to its style as "a parody of medieval chivalry and romance, an invective against social inequality and political injustice, an attack on human ignorance and superstition" yet notes that it was "at the same time written as if it were for children."

Twain apparently attempted too much by combining satire, humor, and social commentary with the familiar Arthurian legends. Still, the book is an enjoyable work with a spunky, endearing central character who finds a need for his practical ingenuity in the kingdom of Camelot.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the related themes of ambition and social change.
2. To describe the lifestyle of sixth century England.
3. To explain the effects of superstition upon individual characters.
4. To evaluate the author's use of humor.
5. To recognize the importance of the church as a governing agency.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast Arthur and Hank in terms of courage.
2. To evaluate the practicality of Hank's plans to update Camelot.

3. To describe Clarence's assistance of Hank in the modernization of Camelot.
4. To describe Hank's attitude toward Sandy and his reasons for marrying her.
5. To account for the rivalry between Hank and Merlin.
6. To list examples of fraud and deception in the lives of gullible Englishmen of the sixth century.
7. To explore the reasons for Morgan's cruelty and to assess Hank's ability to counter her evil plans.
8. To determine the outcome of Hank's journey backwards through time.
9. To recognize the main characters and situations found in all retellings of the Arthurian legends.

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. palimpsest, (p. 6)
(a parchment, tablet, or other writing surface that has been used and erased so many times that glimpses of earlier writings are still visible.)
2. Hercules, (p. 5)
(Hank's adversary carries the name of a mythological hero who earned fame for completing twelve feats of strength and daring.)
3. o.s., (p. 11)
(on schedule)
4. Joseph's case, (p. 37)
(Hank compares his sudden rise from potential victim to King Arthur's assistant with a similar change in status in the Bible when Joseph, who has been sold into slavery in Egypt by his jealous brothers, interprets a recurrent dream for Pharaoh and earns a high position as manager of the royal stores.)
5. "le droit du seigneur," (p. 142)
(Literally "the right of the lord," this phrase refers to a feudal custom which allowed a feudal lord the right to the first night with all brides in his jurisdiction.)
6. "the king's-evil," (p. 151)
(scrofula, a disease which was thought to be cured by the king's touch)
7. "divine right of kings," (p. 39)
(a belief that kings received their right-of-rule at birth by the grace of God.)
8. PRIME-DONNE, (p. 77)
(literally "the first ladies," this is the uncommon plural of the Italian phrase "prima donna," which

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

refers to the principal woman singer in an opera or concert, but can also mean any temperamental, vain, or arrogant person.)

9. a knight errant, (p. 78)
(a medieval knight who wandered in search of adventures, especially those which redressed wrong or revealed his courage.)
10. Hello-Central, (p. 243)
(Hank's Connecticut girlfriend, Puss Flanagan, works as a telephone operator and answers this greeting as part of her job of locating telephone numbers in the days before customers dialed their own numbers. Out of love for Hank, Sandy names their child Hello-Central when she hears Hank lovingly murmuring the phrase in his sleep.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. How does Hank react to his first suit of armor?
(As Hank and Sandy set out to rescue a damsel in distress, Hank finds the suit of armor even more distressing. In his words, "First you wrap a layer or two of blanket around your body, for a sort of cushion and to keep off the cold iron. . . ." He continues his description of uncomfortable chain mail, shoes like flatboats, spurs, greaves, cuisses, and back- and breastplates. The addition of sword, jointed arm protectors, gauntlets, helmet, and mask make him feel "snug as a candle in a candle mold." He laments the lack of a pocket handkerchief and deplors the heat and itchiness of so close a confinement, which Sandy soothes by pouring water down his back. Hank summarizes his dismay at knight's dress in simple terms—"give me comfort first, and style afterwards.")
2. What does Hank regret most about Launcelot's fate?
(Hank sees Launcelot as a friend in need when Hello-Central is confined to her crib with a bout of croup. Launcelot takes his turn watching at the child's bedside, holds and kisses her, and lays her gently in Sandy's lap. Hank regrets that Launcelot and Guenever can never make a family of their own when he concludes, "He was a beautiful man, a lovely man, and was just intended to make a wife and children happy.")
3. Why does Hank admire Dowley, the blacksmith?
(Dowley reminds Hank of the employees he managed at the Colt Arms Factory. When Dowley provides a steady output of self-glorification, Hank sits back in admiration of the self-made man, who

expresses at length his joy in the rewards earned by ambition, perseverance, and hard work. As Hank says, " . . . you saw that he couldn't yet speak of it without a sort of eloquent wonder and delight that such a gilded promotion should have fallen to the lot of a common human being.")

4. How does Hank disguise Arthur for their journey?
(Hank outfits the King in humble brown linen robe and sandals and whacks off hair, mustache, and beard in imitation of the crude barbering of the period. Yet, Hank discovers that posture and noble bearing must be overcome before the King is safely disguised as a commoner. Hank's advice gives the King food for thought: "You must learn the trick; you must imitate the trademarks of poverty, misery, oppression, insult and the other several and common inhumanities that sap the manliness out of a man and make him a loyal and proper and approved subject and a satisfaction to his masters . . .")
5. How does Hank outperform Merlin at the Holy Fountain?
(According to Hank, "If [Merlin] had stepped in there and used his eyes, instead of his disordered mind, he could have cured the well by natural means, and then turned it into a miracle in the customary way . . ." Hank, who is not impressed by superstition, relies on the magic of engineering and simple repairs. To milk the occasion of every bit of audience appeal, he completes the work on Sunday, dresses up the display with colored fireworks, shouts unintelligible incantations, and releases an overflow of water. He chortles to himself, "It was a great night, an immense night. There was reputation in it. I could hardly get to sleep for glorying over it.")

Questions 6 - 8 Interpretive Level

6. How does Hank justify his belief in freedom of religion?
(Hank deplors an established Church which trounces on the needs of the individual. To him, "spiritual wants and instincts are as various in the human family as are physical appetites, complexions, and features, and a man is only at his best, morally, when he is equipped with the religious garment whose color and shape and size most nicely accommodate themselves to the spiritual complexion, angularities, and stature of the individual who wears it . . ." In addition he fears the power of a united Church when it is controlled by greed, which, in his estimation, is an unavoidable circumstance.)
7. When does Hank find occasion to praise Arthur's courage?
(The King impresses his companion by tending the dying victims of small pox. In Hank's estimation, "Here was heroism at its last and loftiest possibility, its utmost summit; this was challenging death in the

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

open field unarmed, with all the odds against the challenger, no reward set upon the contest, and no admiring world in silks and cloth of gold to gaze and applaud . . . He was great, now; sublimely great. The rude statues of his ancestors in his palace should have an addition—I would see to that. . . .")

8. How does Twain use contrast to illustrate the plight of slaves?

(Hank and Arthur encounter a group of pilgrims who laugh, joke, and enjoy a diversity of entertainment in each other's company. That same day they overtake a grim procession of slaves who exhibit the smileless, hopeless despair of their futile existence. The pilgrims, observing the cruelties of the slavemaster and commenting on his expert handling of the whip, are so hardened by the sight of human suffering that they fail to respond to the misery of the scene. As Hank departs from the contrasting groups of people, he can not erase the picture of a slave who is torn from his wife and child, never to see them again.")

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. How does Twain employ Clarence in completing the framework of his novel?

(Clarence, the young page who has guided Hank into Camelot and assisted him with improvements to the kingdom, watches over Hank's enchanted body after Merlin seals in living death. Clarence explains how Hank's manuscript will be guarded, if anyone escapes the cave to return to civilization. As the visitor to Warwick Castle lays aside the manuscript after he finishes reading it, he pieces together the relationship between the dying stranger and Hank, the factory worker who is transported backwards in time over thirteen centuries.)

10. How does Hank exemplify nineteenth-century America?

(Hank is a believer in progress. His wholehearted espousal of industrial expansion illustrates his complete faith in man's ability to harness the powers of the nature in universal betterment. His trust in the working class exemplifies his support of the American experiment in democracy. In contrast to twentieth century doubts about pollution, ecology, and corruption of management, Hank seems naive.)

Question 11 Creative Level

11. Create a role for yourself in the novel, such as one of the courtiers, a slave, a pilgrim on the way to the Holy Fountain, or a knight of the Round Table. Write dialogue between yourself and a major character in which you fit yourself into the plot.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Write a newspaper account of Hank's fight with

Hercules and Hank's subsequent disappearance from Hartford, Connecticut. Include background information about Hank's family and his job at the arms factory, and an interview with Puss Flanagan, his girlfriend.

2. Sketch drawings of costumes appropriate for sixth century ladies at court, knights errant, jousting matches, a court magician, a hermit, and the royal family.
3. Write a report on Sir Thomas Malory's description of Arthurian England in his translation of the *Morte d'Arthur*. Contrast the facts with similar information from Alfred Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*.
4. Read one of Mary Stewart's three books about Merlin—*The Crystal Cave*, *The Hallow Hills*, and *The last Enchantment*. Make an oral book report to the class and note how the author's view of Merlin contrasts with Twain's description of him.
5. Describe preparations for a joust from a servant's point of view. Include the arming of men and horses, the arrival of the audience, and the anticipation of the major participants.
6. Write a report on eclipses of the sun. Make a timeline of past eclipses and the prediction of future eclipses. Explain what conditions cause an eclipse.
7. Make an oral report on the history of gunpowder and its use in warfare. Explain how the use of gunpowder spread, what devices were invented to increase its destructive power, and what inventors made the greatest improvements in weapons of war.
8. Draw a genealogical chart of King Arthur, his known ancestors, and his family. Draw a similar chart depicting the lineage of Sir Launcelot of the Lake.
9. Compose a short ballad about Hank's exploits in Camelot. Follow each verse with a repeated refrain.
10. Set up a mock interview with Launcelot. Ask questions about his background, his love for Guenever, his friendship with King Arthur, and his future plans.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brooks, Van Wyck. *The Ordeal of Mark Twain*. New York: E.P. Dutton and Company Inc., 1933.
- DeVoto, Bernard. *Mark Twain's America*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1935.
- _____. *Mark Twain at Work*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1942.
- Ferguson, John DeLancey. *Mark Twain: Man and Legend*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1943.
- Gabrilowitsch, Clara Clemons. *My Father, Mark Twain*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1931.
- Howells, William Dean. *My Mark Twain: Reminiscences and*

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

Criticisms. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1910.

Leacock, Stephen. *Mark Twain*. New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1933.

Wagenknecht, Edward. *Mark Twain: The Man and His Work*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1935.

TEACHING NOTES

TEACHING NOTES

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

VOCABULARY TEST

Choose the proper word from the list below to fill in each blank in the following fifteen sentences. Place the letter of your answer in the space provided at left.

- _____ 1. . . . And so he gradually wove such a spell about me that I seemed to move among the _____ and shadows and dust and mold of a gray antiquity, holding speech with a relic of it!
- _____ 2. You know about transmigration of souls; do you know about transposition of _____ and bodies?
- _____ 3. From time to time I dipped into old Sir Thomas Malory's enchanting book and fed at its rich feast of prodigies and adventures, breathed-in the fragrance of its _____ names. . .
- _____ 4. The truth was, the nation as a body was in the world for one object, and one only: to _____ before king and Church and noble.
- _____ 5. Why, it was like reading about France and the French, . . .a settlement of that _____debt in the proportion of half a drop of blood for each hogshead of it that had been pressed by slow tortures out of that people in the weary stretch of ten centuries of wrong and shame and misery the like of which was not to be mated but in hell.
- _____ 6. . . . They had to harvest his grain for him _____, and be ready to come at a moment's notice, leaving their own crop to destruction by the threatened storm. . .
- _____ 7. . . . This castle was the _____ of Morgan le Fay, sister of King Arthur, and wife of King Uriens, monarch of a realm about as big as the District of Columbia—you could stand in the middle of it and throw bricks into the next kingdom.
- _____ 8. I will say this much for the nobility: that, tyrannical, murderous, _____ and morally rotten as they were, they were deeply and enthusiastically religious.
- _____ 9. The _____ rose, whiffed ceremony to the winds, and rushed for the door like a mob, overturning chairs, smashing crockery, tugging, struggling, shouldering, crowding—anything to get out before I should change my mind and puff the castle into the measureless dim vacancies of space.
- _____ 10. Inasmuch as I was now the second _____ in the Kingdom, as far as political power and authority were concerned, much was made of me.
- _____ 11. "Now ye know what manner of man I am, brother Jones," said the smith, with a fine and friendly _____ . . .
- _____ 12. [Sleep] would naturally have been impossible in that noisome cavern of a jail, with its mangy crowd of drunken, quarrelsome and song-singing _____
- _____ 13. The drawbridge was down, the great gate stood wide, I entered without challenge, my own heels making the only sound I heard—and it was _____ enough, in those huge vacant courts.
- _____ 14. I start twelve immensely strong wires—naked, not insulated—from a big _____ in the cave . . .
- _____ 15. With the monarchy, its several _____ died also, wherefore there is no longer a nobility, no longer a privileged class, no longer an Established Church: all men are become exactly equal, they are upon one common level, and religion is free.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| A. abode | F. epochs | K. personage |
| B. adjuncts | G. gratis | L. rapacious |
| C. assemblage | H. grovel | M. rapscallions |
| D. condescension | I. hoary | N. sepulchral |
| E. dynamo | J. obsolete | O. specters |

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Select the response which correctly completes each of the statements below. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Hank's clothes are taken away because (a) the courtiers believe the clothes are enchanted (b) Merlin wants to embarrass Hank (c) the queen wants to look at his body (d) he is dressed like an escapee from the asylum.
- _____ 2. Arthur finds it difficult to refer to any commoner as (a) varlet (b) villein (c) brother (d) freeman.
- _____ 3. When Hank comes to after Hercules hits him in the head, (a) Clarence brings him water from a nearby stream (b) a man on horseback offers to joust with him (c) he finds himself sitting beside the Round Table (d) a small girl asks Hank to go with her to the circus.
- _____ 4. Hugo refuses to admit killing the deer because (a) he wants to avoid the rack (b) his wife will be tortured if he is found guilty (c) the law will confiscate his estate (d) Hank promises to send him to his colony.
- _____ 5. Hank makes use of wandering knights by (a) fastening them to sewing machines (b) enrolling them in military academies (c) teaching them to use soap (d) fastening bulletin boards to them.
- _____ 6. When Arthur serves as Chief Justice of the King's Bench (a) he seeks Hank's advice about punishment of criminals (b) he sympathizes with nobles in matters concerning commoners (c) he abolishes slavery (d) Morgan le Fay asks his help in deciding the fate of Hugo.
- _____ 7. When a freeman escaped the tortures of life by committing suicide (a) the Church condemned him to Hell and buried him at the crossroads at midnight with a stake through his back (b) his family received assistance from the king (c) the lord of the manor was obligated to assist the family (d) priests offered prayers for his soul.
- _____ 8. While Hank listens to Alisande's interminable story (a) he plans an escape from his suit of armor (b) the King follows on foot and imitates the actions of a slave (c) Merlin tries to cast a spell on the well (d) he remembers Puss Flanagan's voice on the telephone.
- _____ 9. Hank decides to train Clarence for (a) military service (b) journalism (c) a telephone operator (d) bicycle repair.
- _____ 10. When Hank tries to explain the value of wages in terms of earning power (a) Marco agrees that high wages are not always best (b) the King becomes suspicious of Hank's motives (c) Marco's guests stop listening because they think he is mad (d) Dowley fails to understand.
- _____ 11. Hank returns from the cruise and learns that (a) Arthur is recovering from Mordred's attack (b) the Church is trying to stop his use of the dynamo in the cave (c) Guenever is a nun at Almesbury (d) Hello-Central is suffering from membranous croup.
- _____ 12. When Launcelot and the boys arrive on bicycles, (a) the multitude ridicules Hank's claims that Arthur is King (b) Hank threatens to explode a dynamite bomb (c) the crowd fall to their knees and beg for their lives (d) the sheriff removes a noose from Hank's neck.
- _____ 13. Hank replaces the mayhem of tournaments with (a) baseball (b) military academies (c) officer's training (d) roving advertisement boards.
- _____ 14. Under medieval rules a man is not eligible for a lieutenantcy unless (a) he is nominated by the King (b) he can prove four generations of noble descent (c) he has proven himself in the jousts (d) he had served in a regiment of officers.
- _____ 15. As Merlin walks away from Hank's sleeping body (a) he touches an electric wire and dies (b) Clarence vows to avenge The Boss (c) he summons 30,000 knights against Hank's few assistants (d) the visitor to Warwick Castle sees Merlin's face freeze into a hideous laugh.

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Name the character who makes the following statements.

- _____ 1. A bulgle? . . . It is the king! The drawbridge, there! Man the battlements—turn out the—
- _____ 2. Mordred and Agravaire propose to call the guileless Arthur's attention to Guenever and Sir Launcelot.
- _____ 3. Name any terms, reverend sir, even to the halving of my kingdom; but banish this calamity, spare the sun!
- _____ 4. The name of one who was dear to thee is here preserved, here made holy, and the music of it will make abide alway to our ears.
- _____ 5. I did but play this little just with hope to surprise you into some display of your art, as not doubting you would blast the guards with occult fires, consuming them to ashes on the spot, a marvel much beyond mine own ability, yet one which I have long been childishly curious to see.
- _____ 6. Thou forgettest that Launcelot is here; and where Launcelot is she noteth not the going forth of the king, nor what day he returneth.
- _____ 7. I'll book you both for my colony; you'll like it there; it's a Factory where I'm going to turn groping and grubbing automata into *men*.
- _____ 8. Good deal of a surprise wasn't it? I knew you'd like it.
- _____ 9. An ye are not able to see it, because of the influence of the veil, know that it is no cumbrous lance, but a sword—and I ween ye will not be able to avoid it.
- _____ 10. Ye shall all die in this place—everyone—except *him*.

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark each statement either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. In Morgan le Fay's dungeon Hank finds a man imprisoned for saying the queen has red hair.
- _____ 2. Hank discovers that Merlin is responsible for placing the Interdict.
- _____ 3. The castle that Sandy points out is really a pigsty.
- _____ 4. Morgan le Fay murders a page who accidentally touches her knee.
- _____ 5. Hank hears a newsboy announcing the Camelot *Weekly Hosannah and Literary Volcano*.
- _____ 6. The mother in the small pox hut comments that Hank has never gone to bed hungry or given up his food so that his children will not starve.
- _____ 7. The law of England requires that buyers must give proof that the slaves they purchase are not freemen.
- _____ 8. The woman who steals cloth to save her child from starvation is set free after being condemned to public burning.
- _____ 9. Hank sets the knights to good use as spreaders of civilization.
- _____ 10. The King shows little interest in the events of the next thirteen centuries.

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Describe examples of superstition among the people of sixth century England.

2. Explain Sandy's request for assistance from King Arthur's knights.

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Fill-In (30 points)

Supply answers which will fill each blank and complete the statements.

- _____ 1. Hank's first choice of a weapon for the duel with Sir Sagramor ia a _____.
- _____ 2. _____ selects the name Hello-Central for the baby.
- _____ 3. Hank longs for a pocket handkerchief while he is wearing _____.
- _____ 4. Hank makes use of wandering _____ by outfitting them with bulletin boards.
- _____ 5. Sir Launcelot helps nurse _____ through a bout of membranous croup.
- _____ 6. _____ disguises himself as an old woman in order to cast a spell on Hank.
- _____ 7. The umpire for the Bessemers and the Ulsters is _____.
- _____ 8. Hugo admits that he killed a _____.
- _____ 9. The ogre's castle is nothing but a _____.
- _____ 10. Launcelot arrives in time to save _____ from hanging.
- _____ 11. Hank claims to have known _____ for seven hundred years.
- _____ 12. _____ shoots nine knights out of the saddle with a revolver.
- _____ 13. _____ accidentally kills Sir Gareth and Sir Gaheris as he rescues Guenever from the stake.
- _____ 14. _____ plans to settle matters with Hank after returning from a search for the Holy Grail.
- _____ 15. Hank knows he is in Camelot when _____ gallops up in full armor and asks Hank if he wants to joust.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match parts of quotations. You will have answers left over when you finish. Place your responses in the blanks provided at left.

- _____ 1. Merlin, in his malice, has woven a spell about this dungeon,
- _____ 2. Many's the time she had asked me, "Sir Boss, hast seen Sir Launcelot about?"
- _____ 3. *Anybody could kill somebody,*
- _____ 4. So I am a Yankee of the Yankees—and practical;
- _____ 5. What a silky smooth hellion she was;
- _____ 6. Then our reward came:
- _____ 7. *A Republic is hereby proclaimed,*
- _____ 8. We have tried to put reason before sentiment, duty before love;
- _____ 9. This was an airy slim boy in shrimp-colored tights that made him look like a forked carrot;
- _____ 10. Behold, I am even now busied with trial of the powerfulest enchantment known to the princes of the occult arts in the lands of the East;

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

- A. yes, and nearly barren of sentiment, I suppose—or poetry, in other words.
- B. the rest of his gear was blue silk and dainty laces and ruffles . . .
- C. and there bides not the man in these kingdoms that would be desperate enough to essay to cross its lines with you!
- D. that they had come at last to accept it as the truth; and not only that, but to believe it right and as it should be.
- E. and so composed and serene, when the cords all down my legs were hurting in sympathy with that man's pain.
- F. except the commoner and the slave; these had no privileges.
- G. you could note its progress all the way by the sparkling spray of laughter it threw off from its bows as it plowed along; and also by the blushes of the mules in its wake.
- H. and it fail me, naught can avail.
 - I. to apply a system of elastic cords to him and run a sewing machine with it.
- J. but if ever she went fretting around for the king I didn't happen to be around at the time.
- K. no instinct warned me that I should never look upon him again in this world!
- L. the center of the universe turned the corner and began to mend.
- M. as being the natural estate of a nation when other authority has ceased.
- N. our minds approve, but our hearts reproach us.
- O. between me and all that is dear to me, all that could make life worth the living!

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Match the following events with their locations.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. Hank dies. | A. Almesbury |
| _____ 2. Hank is treated for his minor battle wound. | B. at the Round Table |
| _____ 3. A man observes mock funerals of his family. | C. Hartford, Connecticut |
| _____ 4. A woman blasphemes the Church in front of a priest. | D. in the lists |
| _____ 5. Hank works at the arms factory. | E. Merlin's cave |
| _____ 6. Hank challenges all England to fight in mass. | F. Morgan le Fay's castle |
| _____ 7. A stream of water bursts forth by a miracle in a desert place. | G. the queen's dungeon |
| _____ 8. An old woman curses the queen for killing her grandchild. | H. the small pox hut |
| _____ 9. Guenever enters a nunnery. | I. the Valley of Holiness |
| _____ 10. Hank is stripped naked and examined. | J. Warwick Castle |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Explain why Clarence is a good choice of assistant for Hank.

2. Explain Hank's attitude toward personal freedom.

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. O | 6. G | 11. D |
| 2. F | 7. A | 12. M |
| 3. J | 8. L | 13. N |
| 4. H | 9. C | 14. E |
| 5. I | 10. K | 15. B |

COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. B | 11. C |
| 2. C | 7. A | 12. C |
| 3. B | 8. D | 13. A |
| 4. C | 9. B | 14. B |
| 5. D | 10. D | 15. A |

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hank Morgan | 6. King Arthur |
| 2. Clarence | 7. Hank Morgan |
| 3. King Arthur | 8. Clarence |
| 4. Sandy | 9. Sir Sagramor |
| 5. Morgan le Fay | 10. Merlin |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

Part I: Fill-In (30 points)

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. lasso | 6. Merlin | 11. Merlin |
| 2. Sandy | 7. Clarence | 12. Hank Morgan |
| 3. armor | 8. deer | 13. Sir Launcelot |
| 4. knights | 9. pigsty | 14. Sir Sagramor |
| 5. Hello-Central | 10. King Arthur | 15. Sir Kay |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. L |
| 2. J | 7. M |
| 3. F | 8. N |
| 4. A | 9. B |
| 5. E | 10. H |

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. D |
| 2. E | 7. I |
| 3. G | 8. F |
| 4. H | 9. A |
| 5. C | 10. B |



PERMA-BOUND • VANDALIA ROAD • JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS 62650

**PHONE 800-637-6581
or in Illinois call collect
217/243-5451**