

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Study Guide - Student Copy

Vocabulary

anon – soon, shortly

beguile – mislead

cicerone – a guide who explains the history and chief features of a place to sightseers

clave – divided by a blow, as with an ax; split

courtelage – archaic of cottage

covenant – a binding and solemn agreement

epoch – a period of time considered in terms of noteworthy and characteristic events

espied – caught sight of

garret – a space, room, or rooms just below the roof of a house

hauberk – a medieval coat of armor, usually of chain mail

holpen – archaic form of help

loth – unwilling

palimpsest – a parchment that has been written upon

prodigious – of great size, power, extent

seneschal – a steward in a medieval household

smote – hit or struck hard; attacked with powerful or disastrous effect

strake – archaic form of strike

transmigration – the act of the soul passing into another body at death

Whitsunday – the seventh Sunday after Easter, Pentecost

1. Where does the author first meet the stranger? List three reasons the author is intrigued by this strange American.
2. Why does the stranger describe himself as “a Yankee of Yankees”? (Pg. 3) What is his profession?
3. When the stranger first meets the author, he asks him if he knows anything about the “transmigration of epochs—and bodies.” (Pg. 1) Why does the stranger believe he has experienced a transmigration of epochs?
4. Critics believe that the excerpt in this chapter about Sir Launcelot is an example of Twain's satiric writing style. The story of Launcelot and Sir Kay is from *Le Morte D'Arthur* by Thomas Malory, a fifteenth-century work about King Arthur. Twain pokes fun at Malory's work and at knights in general by exaggerating Sir Launcelot's prowess as a knight. Find a passage in “How Sir Launcelot Slew Two Giants, and Made a Castle Free” illustrating this exaggeration. (Pg. 2)
5. After defeating the three knights, what does Sir Launcelot command them to do?
6. What evidence is there that the stranger may be telling the truth?

I. CAMELOT

Vocabulary

cataract – large waterfall

cavalcade – a procession

doublets – a man's close-fitting jacket

halberd – a combination spear and battle-ax used in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries

horsecloth – a blanket-like covering for a horse's back

magnanimity – the state of being noble of mind; overlooking injury or insult

mail – flexible body armor made of small, overlapping metal rings

morion – a hat-like, crested helmet

salutation – the act of greeting, addressing, or welcoming

stupefied –astounded, amazed

timorously – timidly

tow-linen – a linen garment

1. In the legend, Camelot is a wonderful, peaceful place where the inhabitants are prosperous and happy. In what ways is the Camelot the Yankee sees different from the legendary Camelot?
2. A muckraking novel is one in which the author uses the story to “educate” his readers on social issues and conditions that the author believes need to be changed. Some critics believe that this novel is a muckraking novel; others do not. Even if this novel cannot be classified as a muckraking novel, Twain does comment on social issues and conditions through his satire.
What social issues and conditions is Twain commenting on in this chapter?

II. KING ARTHUR’S COURT

Vocabulary

apparition – anything that appears unexpectedly or in an extraordinary way

cogitating – thinking seriously and deeply; pondering

ejaculation – a sudden exclamation

liege – a lord or sovereign

post – to inform, as of events

prospect – scene

1. Briefly describe Clarence’s physical appearance and his character.
2. The Yankee learns from Clarence that the date is June 19, 528. In what way does this information help the Yankee?
3. Often in this story, the Yankee makes generalizations about life. For example, in the following excerpt he makes a generalization about how he approaches solving problems. “One thing at a time, is my motto—and just play that thing for all it is worth, even if it’s only two pair and a jack.” (Pg. 11) How does he apply the above generalization to his current situation in Camelot?
4. What advice does Clarence give to the Yankee when he is presented to the court as Sir Kay’s prisoner?
5. In the following passage, the Yankee describes his opinions about his fellow prisoners.

State a theme for this novel based on this description:

They were suffering sharp physical pain, of course; and weariness, and hunger and thirst, no doubt; and none had given them the comfort of a wash at least, or even the poor charity of a lotion for their wounds; yet you never heard them utter a moan or a groan, or saw them show any sign of restlessness, or any disposition to complain. The truth was forced upon me: “The rascals—*they* have served other people so in their day; it being their own turn, now, they were not expecting any better treatment than this; so their philosophical bearing is not an outcome of mental training, intellectual fortitude, reasoning; it is mere animal training; they are white Indians.” (Pg. 13)

6. A second theme that is introduced in these opening chapters is that, inhumanity, injustice, and barbarity remain part of human existence, despite man’s attempt to civilize behavior with a code of laws. Find a passage in this chapter to support this idea.

III. KNIGHTS OF THE TABLE ROUND

Vocabulary

battalions –large groups of soldiers arrayed for battle

benignity – kindness

derision – contempt or ridicule

foray – to raid for spoils; to plunder

furtive – done or acting in a stealthy manner, sneaky

maledictions – curses

pavilion – a large tent, usually with a peaked top

perdition – the loss of the soul

samite – heavy silk fabric worn in the Middle Ages

1. Find a passage in this chapter supporting the concept that a knight's account of his battle is often exaggerated.
2. In the original stories about King Arthur, Merlin is portrayed as a great magician. How does Twain present him in this chapter?
3. There are many versions of the story about King Arthur and the sword in the stone. In what ways is Merlin's version of this story different from the versions of the story you may have read or seen in the movies?
4. Satire is a way of writing that illustrates the flaws in a person, institution, or society with the purpose of ridicule. Some techniques of satire include:
 - using understatement and/or overstatement to poke fun at a person or institution
 - using sarcasm to say one thing but mean another
 - distorting the facts in order to highlight the flaws in a person or institution.Based on this explanation and what you have read in this novel so far, what do you think is Twain's purpose in writing this story?

IV. SIR DINADAN THE HUMORIST

Vocabulary

bosh – nonsense

petrified –paralyzed, as with fear

scoffer – a person who shows mocking contempt

1. What does the Yankee think of Sir Dinadan's humor?
2. For what reasons is the Yankee shocked by Sir Kay's version of his capture?
3. An allusion is a reference to a person, place, poem, book, or movie outside of the story that the author expects the reader will recognize. Find an example of an allusion in this chapter.
4. The divine right of kings is a phrase used to describe the belief in many monarchies that the king is endowed by God with special abilities to lead the country and that this "divine right" is passed to his children. In this story, Twain is satirizing the Arthurian legends as a vehicle to also satirize the divine right of kings practiced in European countries of his time. Find an incident or a passage in this story illustrating that Twain does not believe people of noble birth are morally or in any other way naturally superior.

V. AN INSPIRATION

Vocabulary

loth – unwilling, reluctant

plagiarize – to take ideas or writings from another and pass them off as one's own

verily – in truth; truly

1. Why has no man ever escaped from the dungeons?
2. How does the Yankee plan to use the people's belief in superstition to his own advantage?
3. Suspension of disbelief is the willingness of the audience/reader to accept the behavior and motivations of the characters for the duration of the play or story. For example, in this story the reader must accept that the people of Camelot accept a person's word without asking for proof of his/her claims. Clarence accepts, without proof, that the Yankee is a magician.
Find another incident in this chapter where the reader must suspend disbelief so that the story can continue.
4. One of the themes of this story is the struggle that takes place between the powers of superstition in the lives of the people living in the sixth-century and the powers of rational thought as introduced by Hank. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating this theme.

VI. THE ECLIPSE

Vocabulary

fagots – a bundle of sticks or twigs

perpetual – lasting and enduring forever

1. Why does Clarence arrange for Hank's immediate execution?
2. What demands does the Yankee make in exchange for "stopping" the eclipse?

VII. Merlin's Tower

Vocabulary

chromo – a colored picture

clandestine – secret or hidden

consternation – great fear or shock that makes a person feel helpless or bewildered

humbug – a person who is dishonest in claims of identity or power

raiment – clothing; wearing apparel

1. Why does the Yankee believe that he must perform another miracle?
2. At the end of this chapter the Yankee writes, "Merlin's stock was flat." (Pg. 36) List the steps the Yankee takes to discredit Merlin.

VIII. THE BOSS

Vocabulary

anomalous – deviating from the regular arrangement, general rule, or usual method; abnormal

daws – simpletons

seine – a large fishing net

1. In this chapter Twain continues his muckraking. Find a passage from the story to support the following statement: Through the eyes of the Yankee, Twain criticizes the nobility and the Church because both entities keep most of the people of the nation living like slaves.
2. The Yankee observes that he has a level of power in the nation that is equal to the power of the king. However, the king is respected and revered because of his inherited title. The Yankee does not receive this kind of respect from the people because he is not a nobleman. Find a metaphor in this chapter illustrating how the Yankee believes he is perceived by the populace.
3. What is the "awful power of the Roman Catholic Church" the Yankee discusses in this chapter?
4. For what reasons does the Yankee like his new name, THE BOSS? Many critics believe that one of the themes for this story is that democracy is the best form of government for ensuring justice for the common man. In what way does the name THE BOSS help to support this theme?

IX. THE TOURNAMENT

Vocabulary

Holy Grail – in medieval legend, the cup or platter used by Jesus at the Last Supper

Northwest Passage – water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific, through the Arctic islands of Canada

swag – slang for stolen money or property

1. This chapter is full of satire. Find an excerpt in this chapter illustrating the way Twain uses his keen sense of humor to ridicule the knights and their quest for the Holy Grail.
2. Why does Sir Sagramor challenge THE BOSS to a fight? When will this fight take place?

X. BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

1. For what reasons does THE BOSS set up a “variety of Protestant congregations?” (Pg. 47)
2. THE BOSS writes, “I was turning on my light one candlepower at a time, and meant to continue to do so.” (Pg. 49) He is systematically trying to change the current civilization. He is doing this through social, political, and technological changes. List one political change, one social change, and one technological change he mentions in this chapter.
3. Why is King Arthur encouraging THE BOSS to start out on his own quest?

XI. THE YANKEE IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURES

Vocabulary

benefaction – act of doing good or helping others
casque – helmet designed to protect the head and neck in battle
conical – resembling the shape of a cone
cuisses – armor to protect the thigh
derrick – a large apparatus for listing and moving heavy objects
greaves – armor for the legs from the ankle to the knee
league – a unit of measure of about 3 miles
necromancer – one who practices sorcery
peradventure – perhaps; possibly
pirouetted – whirled around on one foot or the point of the toe
sluiced – washed with water flowing in or from a sluice
soliloquize – talk to oneself
tinted – tinted
ulster – heavy overcoat

1. This chapter is full of humor. Find two incidents in this chapter that you find humorous.
2. For what reason is THE BOSS uncomfortable going on this knightly errand with Sandy as his guide?

XII. SLOW TORTURE

Vocabulary

sylvan – characteristic of the woods or forest

1. In this chapter, Twain satirizes knighthood by exaggerating for the reader every discomfort a knight can experience on a quest. Some of his descriptions of THE BOSS in his armor are hilarious and memorable. Find a passage in the chapter describing the discomfort(s) THE BOSS suffers that you find to be the most amusing.

XIII. FREEMEN!

Vocabulary

gratis – free
improvidence – failure to provide for the future; lacking foresight or thrift
objurgate – scold
ostensible – apparent; seeming

1. Find a passage in this story illustrating the idea that Twain, using THE BOSS to speak for him, believes democracy is the best form of government.
2. THE BOSS observes freemen working on the roads. In what sense is the term “freemen” to describe these workers ironic?
3. What evidence is there in this chapter that Twain believes that monarchs do not deserve the loyalty of the common people?
4. How does THE BOSS feel about commoners waging revolutions and insurrections against the nobility?

XIV. “DEFEND THEE, LORD!”

Vocabulary

enmity – the bitter attitude or feelings of an enemy

1. Why does THE BOSS decide in this chapter that he is “ready for any giant or any ogre that might come along”? (Pg. 69)

XV. SANDY’S TALE

Vocabulary

eftsoons – repeatedly; again

exegetis – explanation, critical analysis, or interpretation

expletive – an oath or exclamation

portcullis – a heavy iron gate

usufruct – the right of using and enjoying all the advantages and profits of the property of another without altering or damaging the substance

venerable – worthy of respect or reverence

1. How does Hank feel while he is listening to Alisande’s (Sandy’s) tale about the knights? What is the subject of his dream?

XVI. MORGAN Le Fay

Vocabulary

colporteur – a traveling distributor or seller of Bibles

disseminate – to scatter far and wide; to spread abroad

errantry – spirit or deeds of chivalry

tabard – a loose jacket of heavy material

varlet – a youth serving as a knight’s page

veracity – habitual truthfulness; honesty

1. Briefly identify Morgan le Fay.

2. Morgan le Fay kills a young boy for making a simple mistake. Hank writes, I saw that she was a good housekeeper, for while she talked she kept a corner of her eye on the servants to see that they made no balks in handling the body and getting it out... (Pg. 81) In what way is the above passage satirical?

3. Based on the definition of a satire in Question 2, find another example of satire in this chapter and then comment on how the passage you have selected is satirical.

XVII. A ROYAL BANQUET

Vocabulary

windlass – a winch, especially a simple one, for lifting an anchor or a bucket in a well

1. Find a satirical passage in this chapter that mocks the wanton cruelty of the nobility.

2. Why does the Queen want to torture the thief on the rack until he confesses his crime? What theme(s) does this incident illustrate?

3. For what reason does the man, who is guilty of the crime and knows he is doomed to die for his crime, refuse to confess and end his torture on the rack? In what sense is this incident ironic?

4. Some critics believe that Hank and Morgan le Fay are similar characters because they both seek to control the common people for their own purposes. Do you agree or disagree with this idea? Cite a passage or an incident from this chapter to support your answer.

XVIII. IN THE QUEEN'S DUNGEONS

1. One of the techniques used to write satire is for a character or the narrator to say one thing and mean another. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating this idea.
2. Hank has pity on most of the criminals in the Queen's dungeons. He decides to use his power to free them all with the exception of one man. Why does he keep this one criminal in the jail? What do you think about Hank's decision to do this? In your opinion, does Hank have the right to make these decisions just because he has the power to do so?
3. In this chapter, Hank makes several statements or generalizations about life that help to define Hank's character. For example, he writes, "Well, to have an interest of some sort, and half a ray of light, when you are in a dungeon, is a great support to the body and preserver of the intellect." (Pg.95)
4. Find another example of a generalization about life Hank makes in this chapter.

XIX. KNIGHT-ERRANTRY AS A TRADE

1. Why does Hank believe that knight-errantry, as a profession, is worse than speculating in pork futures?

XX. THE OGRE'S CASTLE

Vocabulary

- bunco – a swindle
- declivity – a downward slope
- dolorous – very sorrowful or sad; mournful
- leonine – like a lion
- limpid – perfectly clear; transparent
- lubber – a big, slow, clumsy person
- perversity – deviating from what is considered right or good
- predilections – preconceived likings or preferences
- prophylactic – preventive or protective against disease

1. Some critics refer to this chapter as being anticlimactic. An anticlimax occurs when a story that is building suspense or interest in an event suddenly reveals the anticipated event to be trivial. The result is that the reader's anticipation is spoiled. Comment on whether or not you believe the events in this chapter are anticlimactic. Cite incidents from the story to support your conclusion.

XXI. THE PILGRIMS

Vocabulary

- assignats – paper currency
- austerities – strict self-discipline and self-denial
- immemorial – extending back beyond memory or record
- languish – to lose vigor or vitality
- ossifying – settling or fixing rigidly in a practice, custom, or attitude
- surreptitious – secretive

1. How does Hank get rid of the hogs? Why does Sandy continue to travel with him?
2. Why do the knights, priests, and others refuse to take baths?
3. Hank is moved by the plight of the slaves he sees on the road. Why does he fail to use his power to set them free? What do you think of this failure?
4. Why do you think Hank decides to travel to the Valley of Holiness to solve the water problem?

XXII. THE HOLY FOUNTAIN

Vocabulary

emulation – trying to imitate or copy; to equal or surpass

hostel – an inn

solicitude – the state of being concerned, caring

1. In this chapter, Twain mocks and satirizes several different institutions. Find passages in the story illustrating Twain's use of satire to mock the Church, Germany, and human beings in general.

XXIII. RESTORATION OF THE FOUNTAIN

Vocabulary

hogshead – a large barrel or cask

scantling – a small beam or timber

1. How does Merlin explain his inability to restore the water in the fountain?
2. In what sense it is ironic that Hank uses his scientific knowledge from the future to break the spell of the demon and restore the water to the fountain?
3. Cite an incident from this chapter to support the following statement: In this chapter, Hank behaves like a circus ringmaster who is trying to enhance the effects of his show.

XXIV. A RIVAL MAGICIAN

1. Why does Hank decide to disguise himself as a peasant?
2. Who does Hank find in the hermit's old cave? What important information does Hank receive from Camelot?

XXV. A COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

Vocabulary

emendations – corrections or changes made in a text

peremptorily – in a way not to be denied; to bar further action

1. List five good qualities Hank observes in King Arthur's character.
2. Why does Hank believe that King Arthur is "as unfitted for a judgeship as would be the average mother for the position of milk-distributor to starving children in famine time; her own children would fare a shade better than the rest." (Pgs. 140-141)
3. State a theme for this novel based on the following excerpt from this chapter: "The master minds of all nations, in all ages, have sprung in affluent multitude from the mass of the nation, and from the mass of the nation only – not from its privileged classes; ... Which is to assert an always self-proven fact: that even the best governed and most free and most enlightened monarchy is still behind the best condition attainable by its people; and that the same is true of kindred governments of lower grades, all the way down to the lowest." (Pg. 142)
4. In what way are Hank's West Point graduates "unqualified" to be leaders in King Arthur's new standing army?
5. How does Hank use King Arthur's new standing army to help relieve the country of the burden of providing each newborn prince a Royal Grant?

XXVI. THE FIRST NEWSPAPER

Vocabulary

canonical – of, according to, or ordered by the church canon

scrofulous – morally corrupt; degenerate

1. A hero is defined as the central character, usually one who possesses noble qualities such as self-sacrifice, courage, and wisdom. What evidence is there in this chapter that Hank is not a hero?
2. Hank writes, “One greater than kings had arrived – the newsboy.” (Pg. 153) Why does he think the newsboy is greater than a king?
3. Find an example of a metaphor describing how Hank feels about his newspaper.

XXVII. THE YANKEE AND THE KING TRAVEL INCOGNITO

Vocabulary

novitiate – the period or state of being a novice or beginner

ameliorations – improvements

1. The image of a circus is a recurring motif in this book. Cite an incident illustrating this motif.
2. Hank complains that traveling with King Arthur in disguise is difficult because King Arthur has difficulty disguising his noble bearing. What evidence is there that Hank does like and respect King Arthur even though he does not approve of a monarchy as a form of government?
3. In the play *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare writes about power: “The abuse of greatness is when it disjoins Remorse from power.”
To what extent do you think Hank fits Shakespeare’s description of someone who abuses power?

XXVIII. DRILLING THE KING

1. What is the “law of work” and why does Hank think it is unfair?
2. How does King Arthur respond when Hank drills him on how to be a peasant? Why does Hank believe his efforts to train the king are wasted?

XXIX. THE SMALLPOX HUT

Vocabulary

denuded – to make bare or naked

emaciated - became abnormally lean by starvation or disease

1. Which theme(s) for this story does the following excerpt illustrate?

The king and Hank enter the hut and see an old sick woman. “Have mercy!” she pleaded. “All is taken, nothing is left.” “I have not come to take anything, poor woman.” [Hank] “You are not a priest?” “No.” “Nor come not from the lord of the manor?” “No, I am a stranger.” “Oh, then, for the fear of God, who visits with misery and death such as be harmless, tarry not here, but fly! This place is under his curse – and his Church’s.” (Pg. 169)

2. Exaggerating is a technique used in satire. Twain is a master of satire and sometimes exaggerates a character’s behavior to satirize a segment of society or a person. Exaggeration is also a technique a writer may use to stress an idea or theme. For example, some critics believe that Twain’s description of the poor woman and her family overstates the misery of the common people living in this era. List the miseries this family must suffer. What idea or theme is Twain illustrating by heaping all of these miseries onto this one family?
3. Find a passage in this chapter to support the following statement: Hank believes that King Arthur is a courageous, honorable man worthy of his respect.

XXX. THE TRAGEDY OF THE MANOR HOUSE

Vocabulary

cotter – a tenant farmer

gabelle – a tax levied on salt in France before the Revolution

lummock – clumsy, stupid person

pusillanimously – timidly; in a cowardly manner

trepidation – fear, uncertainty

1. When King Arthur realizes that the three sons have escaped from the lord's dungeon, he believes that he and Hank are bound by duty to capture the three young men and return them to the lord. We know from King Arthur's behavior with the old woman's dying daughter that he is an honorable man. How does Hank explain this seeming contradiction in King Arthur's attitude?
2. In what sense are the oppressed commoners in King Arthur's era similar to the "poor whites" of the antebellum South?
3. Hank is upset when he watches the commoners help to capture and hang their own neighbors to avenge the death of the unjust lord of the manor. He is worried that these people will never be ready to be part of the Republic he wants to establish. What happens to renew Hank's belief that these people are capable of governing themselves?

XXXI. MARCO

Vocabulary

abject – miserable

diffident – lacking self-confidence; timid, shy

1. How does Hank measure whether or not a nation is prosperous?
2. What advice does Hank give to Marco concerning Mr. Jones [King Arthur in disguise]?

XXXII. DOWLEY'S HUMILIATION

Vocabulary

languid – without vigor or vitality

sumptuousness – involving great expense; costly; lavish

1. At the end of the chapter, why is Dowley "a good deal wilted, and shrunk up and collapsed"? (Pg. 192)
2. What gift does Hank have for each of the guests at the dinner?

XXXIII. SIXTH-CENTURY POLITICAL ECONOMY

Vocabulary

avaricious – greedy

pillory – a device consisting of a wooden board with holes for the head and hands, in which petty offenders are locked and exposed to public scorn

1. Critics believe that Twain is using this chapter to further his own political opinions. What political issue do you think Twain might be writing about in this chapter? What is his opinion on this issue?
2. Why does Hank believe the pillory needs to be abolished?
3. What does Hank say to Dowley and the others to scare them?

XXXIV. THE YANKEE AND THE KING SOLD AS SLAVES

Vocabulary

fulsome – disgusting or offensive
laudation - praise
miscreant – an evil person or criminal
peregrinating – to follow or travel
plebeian – one of the common people
redundant – repetitious
retinue – a body of assistants, followers, or servants
rostrum – a platform or stage

1. Why do Dowley and the others try to kill the king and Hank?
2. What happens to prevent Hank and the king from getting away from the men and dogs?
3. Who rescues the king and Hank from the angry mob of commoners?
4. Twain writes, “He [King Arthur] knew his own laws just as other people so often know the laws: by words, not by effects.” (Pg. 209) What law is Twain referring to in this passage?
5. How much does the slave trader pay for Hank and the king?
6. Why does Hank conclude at the end of the chapter “we are all fools. Born so, no doubt”? (Pg. 210)

XXXV. A PITIFUL INCIDENT

Vocabulary

ignominious – shameful, dishonorable, disgraceful
palliation –excusing, alleviating the pain of
ribald –vulgar joking
succor –assistance

1. Why is the king upset that he is sold for a mere seven dollars?
2. Why does the slave trader beat King Arthur?
3. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating Hank’s good opinion of the king’s character.
4. Why does Hank decide to try to break free?
5. This chapter is primarily about the horrors of slavery. Why then do you think Twain decides to include the pitiful tale of a young woman and her child?

XXXVI. AN ENCOUNTER IN THE DARK

1. What evidence is there in London that Hank may have some friends in the town?
2. What is Hank’s escape plan? Why does it fail?

XXXVII. AN AWFUL PREDICAMENT

Vocabulary

sapient – wise

1. Why are King Arthur and all of the other slaves sentenced to die? For what reason might the executions be delayed for a few days?
2. How does Hank plan to save King Arthur and the other slaves? In what sense is Hank’s plan ironic?
3. Hank makes another mistake and is captured. He admits to his mistake calling it “the crying defect of my character.” (Pg. 224) What is the nature of Hank’s mistake? What character defect does it reveal?
4. What evidence is there in this chapter that Hank is self-centered and arrogant?

XXXVIII. SIR LAUNCELOT AND KNIGHTS TO THE RESCUE

1. Why do you suppose Twain has Launcelot and the other knights ride to King Arthur's rescue on bicycles?

XXXIX. THE YANKEE'S FIGHT WITH THE KNIGHTS

Vocabulary

cumbrously – clumsily

folderol – nonsense

obeisance – a gesture of respect or reverence, such as a bow or curtsy

1. In what way is the duel between Hank and Sir Sagramor more than just a combat between two men?
2. What does Hank hope to accomplish by fighting Sir Sagramor?
3. What special weapons does Hank use in the battle? Why does the crowd cheer when he uses them?
4. At the end of the chapter Hank writes, "Knight-errantry was a doomed institution." (Pg. 236) He violently defeats the knights with his revolver. In what way is it ironic that Hank must use violence to end knight-errantry? What do you think Hank's actions say about his character and about humanity in general?

XL. THREE YEARS LATER

1. How does Hank ensure that the age of chivalry is permanently dismantled?
2. List eight changes Hank has made in England in the last three years. What two significant ones is he still trying to complete?
3. In what way(s) does Hank's relationship with Sandy change?
4. Why does Hank leave England?

XLI. THE INTERDICT

Vocabulary

interdict – to exclude or prevent

1. Why does Sandy name her daughter "Hello-Central"?
2. Why does Hank decide to leave his wife and child to return to England?
3. Who or what does Hank blame for the destruction of his "civilization"?

XLII. WAR!

1. Briefly describe the events that lead to a war between King Arthur and Launcelot.
2. What evidence is there that the Church has been planning for a long time to overthrow Hank and King Arthur?
3. What preparations to fight the Church does Clarence make in Hank's absence?
4. Hank decides to take action instead of waiting for the Church to attack. What action does he take?

XLIII. THE BATTLE OF THE SAND BELT

1. In what way is Hank disenchanted with the people of England?
2. There are fifty-two young men helping Clarence and Hank prepare for war. What objections do they have concerning the upcoming battle? How does Hank overcome these objections?
3. Cite incidents from the story to prove or disprove the following statement: It is not surprising that Hank uses his advanced weaponry to kill twenty-five thousand men and become master of England.
4. Most of the incidents in this novel are written to entertain the reader, but the incidents also illustrate Twain's political views on the Church, monarchies, slavery, technology, and the nature of man. Cite incidents from the

chapter to support the following statement about man: Technology may advance and change, but the nature of man remains the same.

5. Consider the ways Hank has uses his superior technological knowledge in this story: He crushes Merlin's power to influence King Arthur and the people. He uses his knowledge of technology to become a powerful person in Camelot. He uses technology to kill twenty-five thousand people. Based on these incidents, state a theme for this story.

XLIV. A POSTSCRIPT BY CLARENCE

1. Who is writing this chapter? How is Hank injured?
2. Why does Clarence write, "We had conquered; in turn we were conquered"? (Pg. 265)
3. Hank and Merlin are rivals throughout the story. In the end, who do you think wins the rivalry?
4. What evidence is there that Clarence and the other boys never escape from the cave?
5. Some critics believe Merlin represents man's belief in superstition or magic while Hank represents the power of man's technology. Assuming this idea is accurate, what do you think Twain is saying about the power of superstition in our lives?

FINAL P.S. BY M.T.

1. Who is M.T. mentioned in the title of this chapter?
2. At the end of his life, what is important to Hank?