

CliffsNotes™ on

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A CONNECTICUT YANKEE

IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

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Mark Twain's
A Connecticut
Yankee
in King Arthur's
Court

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Life of the Author

As one of America's first and foremost realists and humorists, Mark Twain, the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, usually wrote about his own personal experiences and things he knew about from firsthand experience. Two of his best-known novels typify this trait: in his *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Twain immortalized the sleepy little town of Hannibal, Missouri (the fictional St. Petersburg), as well as the steamboats which passed through it daily; likewise, in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (both written before *A Connecticut Yankee*), the various characters are based on types which Twain encountered both in his hometown and while working as a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River; and even though *A Connecticut Yankee* is not based on personal experience (it is set in sixth-century England), Twain uses many of the same techniques that he used in his *Prince and the Pauper*. In that novel, for example, two young boys gradually lose their innocence; in *A Connecticut Yankee*, Hank Morgan wakes up in a land of innocence—Camelot.

Mark Twain's father was a lawyer by profession, but he was never quite successful, and so he dabbled in land speculation, hoping to become wealthy someday. He was, however, a highly intelligent man who was a stern disciplinarian. Twain's mother, a southern belle in her youth, had a natural sense of humor, and was known to be particularly fond of animals and unfortunate human beings. Although his family was not wealthy, Twain apparently had a happy childhood. Twain's father died when Twain was 12 years old and, for the next ten years, Twain was an apprentice printer, both in Hannibal and in New York City. Hoping to find



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he met a
e trade for
five hundred dollars. After completing his training, Twain was a

"Ancient hauberk, date of the sixth century, time of King Arthur and the Round Table; said to have belonged to the knight Sir Sagramor le Desirous; observe the round hole through the chain-mail in the left breast; can't be accounted for; supposed to have been done with a bullet since invention of firearms"perhaps maliciously by Cromwell's soldiers." I was born and reared in Hartford, in the State of Connecticut"anyway, just over the river, in the country. So I am a Yankee of the Yankees"and practical; yes, and nearly barren of sentiment, I suppose"or poetry, in other words. My father was a blacksmith, my uncle was a horse doctor, and I was both, along at first. The ungentle laws and customs touched upon in this tale are historical, and the episodes which are used to illustrate them are also historical. It is not pretended that these laws and customs existed in England in the sixth century; no, it is only pretended that inasmuch as they existed in the English and other civilizations of far later times, it is safe to consider that it is no libel upon the sixth century to suppose them to have been in practice in that day also. One is quite justified in A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court is a novel featured on ABC's Once Upon a Time. It was written by American author Mark Twain in 1889. Mark Twain, the author and narrator of the tale, is on a visit to Warwick Castle, England, when he meets a stranger. The stranger, introducing himself as Hank Morgan from Connecticut, hands Twain a manuscript that he claims to have written during the sixth century, thirteen hundred years earlier, about his life during that time. He explains that he was A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court is an 1889 novel by American humorist and writer Mark Twain. The book was originally titled A Yankee in King Arthur's Court. Some early editions are titled A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur. In the book, a Yankee engineer from Connecticut named Hank Morgan receives a severe blow to the head and is somehow transported in time and space to England during the reign of King Arthur. After some initial confusion and his capture by one of Arthur's knights, Hank The Project Gutenberg EBook of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Complete, by Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens). This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License included with this eBook or online at www.gutenberg.org. Title: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Complete. Author: Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens). Release Date: August 20, 2006 [Ebook #86] Last Updated: May 25, 2018. Language: English. Character set encoding: UTF-8 ***. Start of t