

Mark Twain

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

LEVEL 3



WORDS USED

Story 81

Story 82

Story 83

Story 84

Story 85

KEY WORDS

dream
gun
hundred
knight
metal
sir

act
church
free
power
shadow
tower

adventure
bother
die
law
smoke
wire

breath
forget
hang
hate
queen
soap

bath
chain
herd
leak
valley
whip

NECESSARY WORDS

armor
boss
castle
court
factory
lie
sword

effect
God
lightning
proof
slave
tournament

ashamed
comfort
dragon
helmet
lord
vote

cruel
invention
prison
servant
soul
suffer

business
defeat
holy
monk
pilgrim
tax

A TRIP BACK IN TIME



Hank Morgan pays me a visit.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Hank Morgan's life changed after he was hit on the head with

- a. a piece of wood.
- b. a metal pipe.
- c. a flashlight.
- d. a glass bottle.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out what happened to Hank after he was hit on the head.

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

This story is true. Maybe things in King Arthur's time didn't happen this way. But people had about the same ideas *then* as they have *now*. If I say terrible things about the past, I could be wrong. Maybe things were even more terrible than I say.

In the year 1879, I went to Warwick Castle to see what it could teach me about the past. A man stood by a suit of very old armor. The armor had once belonged to a knight named Sir Sagramor le Desirous. The man pointed to a small hole cut through the metal. "I fired the gun that made that hole," he said. Giving me a strange, sad smile, he walked away.

I was staying in a room in town. That night, he knocked on my door. He was staying in the next room. We sat by the fire and talked. Hank Morgan was a Yankee from Connecticut. He had been the boss at a factory that made guns and machines. One day an angry worker hit Hank over the head with a metal pipe. "My life was changed after that." Hank looked around slowly as if he'd just woken from a dream. "I put everything into this old book," he said. "Read it if you like, sir, I don't feel very well." When he left for his room, I picked up the book. I began to read the Yankee's story:

I blacked out when the metal pipe hit my head. When I came to, I was under an oak tree. A horse stood next to me. Its rider was dressed up in shiny armor like a knight from

a picture book. *The circus must be in town* I thought.

The circus-man backed up a hundred yards and pulled out his sword. As he came racing back at me, I climbed the tree. He told me he'd put away his sword if I came with him.

I thought we were going to his circus, but he brought me inside a castle! He left me with a young man named Clarence. Clarence talked and talked. He happened to say what day and year it was.

At first I wondered why Clarence would lie to me. "I must have heard you wrong, sir," I said. "What year did you say this is?"

"528," answered Clarence. He told me I was in a place called Camelot. The circus man, Sir Kay, was going to show me off to the court.

I couldn't believe it! The hit on the head had sent me back in time hundreds of years. I knew that if this really were 528, an eclipse would happen in two days. If the eclipse came, I would believe Clarence.

Clarence took me into a room. It looked like a hundred knights sat around a round table. An old man stood and told a story. "Merlin puts me to sleep with his stories," whispered Clarence. "He should stick to magic!"

Merlin told how, years before, Arthur needed a sword. Merlin brought him to a lake. An arm came out of the water and handed Arthur a sword. "Which do you like better, the

sword or its scabbard?" Merlin asked.

"The sword," said Arthur.

"The scabbard is better. You are safe while the sword is covered," said Merlin. "When you pull the sword from the scabbard, take care."

Next, Sir Kay stood and told a story about me. He said I came from a country where people had magic clothes that kept them safe from being hurt. "He killed my knights and knocked me over with a stone as big as a cow," lied Sir Kay.

I remembered things happening differently, but his next words *really* surprised me. In two days, I would be burned in front of the court!

"He won't burn if he's wearing magic clothes," Merlin said. They pulled off my clothes and locked me away. I closed my eyes. I wished I was home in bed - that I was still boss over hundreds of men. If only the factory whistle would call me out of this bad dream! But the only sound I heard was Clarence's voice. "I can't help you," he said. "I'm afraid of Merlin's magic."

Suddenly I thought of a way the eclipse could help me. "My magic is stronger than *Merlin's!*" I lied. "Tell the King I'll kill the sun if they burn me!"

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

VOCABULARY CHECK

dream	gun	hundred	knight	metal	sir
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

- In school, Barry made a birdcage out of _____.
- That old man looks like he could be one _____ years old!
- "May I help you, _____?" asked the lady in the library.
- Billy's _____ excited him and he woke up.
- The hunter killed a deer with his _____.
- The man was made a _____ by the king.

II. Word Search - All the words from the box above are hidden in the puzzle below. They may be written from left to right, up and down, or on an angle. As you find each word, put a circle around it.

H	G	U	M	S	M	X	B
K	U	B	D	R	E	A	M
N	N	N	C	G	T	C	S
I	D	R	D	U	A	F	I
G	R	S	I	R	L	W	M
H	E	X	C	B	E	Z	E
T	H	U	N	D	R	D	T

Check your answers with the Key on page 69.