

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court Discussion Guide

1. How does Hank Morgan change throughout the novel? Is this change for the better or for the worse? How does his speech reflect his change in attitude?
2. The theme of the “mysterious stranger” (an outsider who enters a community or circle and enacts some kind of disruption) often appears in Twain’s works. How does Hank use his status as an “outsider” to his advantage? What does he bring from the outside that benefits sixth century England? Into which world does Hank ultimately fit?
3. What is Hank Morgan’s view of the Catholic church?
4. Many critics consider *A Connecticut Yankee...* to be Twain’s most flawed work because he simply wanted to do “too much.” Do you agree? If so, why?
5. Consider the end of the novel. What statement does Twain make with this ending? Do you feel it is a fulfilling way to end the book?
6. What elements of the Yankee’s character make him so peculiarly suited to the task of modernizing Arthurian Britain?
7. What flaws appear in the Yankee character?
8. What is the significance of the book’s ending?
9. Discuss Clarence’s development under the Yankee’s influence.
10. How well does power set with Hank? That is, does he use his power for the betterment of the people or for the glory of Hank Morgan?
11. What features of Camelot does Hank Morgan find attractive? Why does he try to change these aspects?
12. What is Hank Morgan’s view on superstition? Does he ever use superstition for his own advantage? Explain.
13. Which aspect of the novel do you consider more important—the social criticism or the science fiction fantasy?