

Novel Lesson Plan
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Mark Twain Teacher's Workshop - Mark Twain Museum
July 23—27, 2007, Hannibal, Missouri
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Novel Title: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain

Grade Level: Grade 8 (Middle School)

Time Frame for the Lesson: This is a unit that can be taught over the course of one to two weeks.

Objectives:

- ✓ Students will be introduced to the great American author, Mark Twain.
- ✓ Students will experience time travel from the 19th century back to the 6th century through his novel *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.
- ✓ Students will compare and contrast life in King Arthur's time with life in the 19th century.
- ✓ Students will explore events in the novel and share their knowledge with other class members.

Florida State Standards:

- ✓ Students will understand ways culture and time period influence a literary work.
- ✓ Students will compare and contrast literature from different time periods and cultures to understand concepts and themes.
- ✓ Students will explore figurative language techniques to create and comprehend meaning (for example, similes, metaphors, analogies, anecdotes, sensory language).
- ✓ Students will identify universal themes in various types of literature.
- ✓ Students will compare and contrast themes in classic and contemporary literature.

Background Information:

- ✓ Background information will be supplied through the Media Center. Presentations will be made by the media specialist, and the students will tour School Museum displays.
- ✓ The teacher will review highlights of Mark Twain's life and works using a PowerPoint presentation and playing the Jeopardy game.

The Lesson:

- ✓ Introduction - teacher storytelling (summarize the story plot of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*)
- ✓ Explain cooperative learning groups and make assignments.
- ✓ Students will be divided into groups of three. Each group will follow along in their book as they listen to their assigned passage using a recorded compact disk and headsets.
- ✓ Following this, the students will have time in class to work in their groups.
 - Reader/Researcher - leads discussion on passage and check for understanding
 - Recorder - takes notes on passage to determine which events, characters and vocabulary will be included in their presentation
 - Presenter - determines and oversees the presentation of the passage to the class
 - The Presenter may use any of the following options:
 - Assume the role of a radio reporter and produce a radio broadcast
 - Create a 6th century newspaper
 - Rewrite the story from the point of view of another character (living biography)
 - Create a colorful comic book or children's book
 - Create and produce a skit using costumes

- Create a scrapbook or memory box
- Illustrate major events using "sandwich" boards
- Storytelling using costumes
- Create a model or a diorama to use in telling the passage
- Create a game such as Jeopardy or Trivial Pursuit
- Other selections approved by the teacher

Suggested Passages Assigned to Cooperative Groups:

1. Chapters 5 & 6 - An Inspiration and the Eclipse (50—65)
2. Chapters 7 - Merlin's Tower (67—74)
3. Chapters 16, 17 -- Morgan Le Fay, A Royal Banquet (153—173)
4. Chapter 18 -In the Queen's Dungeons (175—186)
5. Chapters 11, 20 and part of 21 - The Yankee in Search of Adventures, The Ogre's Castle, and The Pilgrims (103—112; 194—208)
6. Chapters 22 & 23 - The Holy Fountain and The Restoration of the Fountain (219—241)
7. Chapter 27 and 28 - The Yankee and King Travel Incognito and Drilling the King (283—298)
8. Chapters 34 & 36 - The Yankee and King Sold as Slaves and An Encounter in the Dark (356—368; 380—384)
9. Chapters 37 & 38 - An Awful Predicament and Launcelot and the Knights to the Rescue (386—400)
10. Chapter 39 - The Yankee's Fight with the Knights (402—413)

Presentation:

- ✓ Teacher will present the story introduction through Chapter 4.
- ✓ Each group will present assigned passages.
- ✓ Teacher will facilitate discussion (fill in the gaps) and conclusion of the book.

Evaluation:

- ✓ Each student within the group will be subjectively evaluated by the teacher and other group members according to his or her role. (25 points)
- ✓ Presentation (50 points) See rubric below.
- ✓ Written test on the author (25 points) and novel (25 points)
- ✓ One-page journal entry as one of the following characters (50 points)
 - Hank Morgan
 - Clarence
 - Merlin
 - King Arthur
- ✓ Written reflection on the unit (25 points)

Rubric for Presentation:

Criteria	Possible Score
Prepared and on time	10 - All members present and prepared for presentation when called upon. 5 - Presentation made, but disorganized 3 - Poor effort is made
Creativity	20 - Highly creative, unusual, interesting, excellent 10 - Eye-catching presentation, relatively neat and handled creatively 5 - Unoriginal, sloppy, not creative, minimal effort
Accuracy of Information	20 - Extremely accurate and well presented 10 - Very few facts presented with some questionable; incomplete or inaccurate 5 - Confused, incomplete, and/or inaccurate

