

## English IV – Seniors: English 2322-2323 Dual-Credit

### Summer Reading Assignment

2018

Welcome to Survey of British Literature I and II! Attached you will find the materials for the summer reading assignment.

Your assignment is to:

- 1) Read *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain.
- 2) Complete the character analysis infographic project (instructions on the next page).
- 3) Complete the attached discussion questions. Your answers can be typed or handwritten on a separate sheet of paper. Do not squeeze your answers in the margins beside the questions. If you would like a digital version of the assignment, email me. I expect full, thorough responses to these questions.

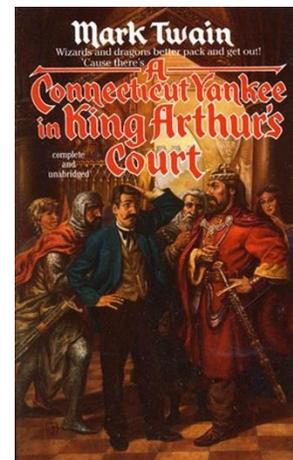
**All parts of the assignment will be due by Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and will count as major grades for the first six weeks. You may email me your completed assignment if you would like to turn it in before school starts.**

Anyone enrolling at PHS after the year has ended will need to complete these assignments by Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the assignments.

Carrie McComas

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## Character Analysis Infographic Project

**Assignment:** Create either a digital or tangible infographic showing your analysis of one of the main characters from *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Main characters from which to choose are Hank Morgan (the Yankee), King Arthur, Sandy, Merlin, or Launcelot.

I recommend looking at sample infographics in order to make sure you have an understanding of what your goal is. Infographics give viewers information by using more than just words. Special attention is given to design elements such as color, font, and the use of images. This website <http://www.dailyinfographic.com/> has several you can peruse through.

---DIGITAL: If you would like to create a digital infographic, the following sites allow you to do that. You are not limited to using these; they are just suggestions to help get you started if needed. From my research, these sites appeared to let you create for free! Powerpoint or Google Slides will also work (one slide). Whatever tool you use, just make sure I have access to it in some way in order to grade your work. I'll need a printout, a link, an email, something.

<http://piktochart.com/>

<https://venngage.com/>

<https://www.canva.com/create/infographics/>

---TANGIBLE: Feel free to create a tangible infographic that you can bring in to class. These can be on poster board or regular paper but no smaller than 8.5 x 11 (standard printer paper size). You can use color, mixed media (paint, magazine cuttings, printed images/letters), etc.

**ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:** The following MUST be included on your infographic (in no particular order)

- Character's name
- Strengths of the character (positive character traits)
- Weaknesses of the character (negative character traits)
- A significant quotation from the character (something that was said by your chosen character)
- Quick facts – about 3-5 facts sharing who your character is on the surface (the strengths and weaknesses ask you to delve a little deeper into who your character is)
- Conflicts – What conflicts does your chosen character face? These can be expressed simply in either a question or statement. You do not need to provide details.  
*Stem ideas: Should I... Will he... \_\_\_\_\_ can't stand it when.... \_\_\_\_\_ is angry that...*

Be creative! If you have any questions, please ask! [cmccomas@palestineschools.org](mailto:cmccomas@palestineschools.org)

Grading will be done on accuracy of information given in the character analysis as well as the effort put forward in creating this piece. You need not be a great artist or technology genius to complete this project successfully.

## Discussion Questions

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper or type your responses and print/email them to me ([cmccomas@palestineschools.org](mailto:cmccomas@palestineschools.org)). I expect thorough responses to the questions, not simple, one sentence answers. Each answer should be no shorter than a paragraph (about 5-7 sentences.) Also, each number has a few questions to prompt thought; make sure you are responding to every aspect of each discussion prompt.

- 1) In the novel, Hank Morgan decides, once he has settled into his role as the Boss, that he would not trade his kingdom for any in history. He decides this because he is a big fish in a small pond (as the smartest and most competent man in the land), while in the 20<sup>th</sup> century he would simply be ordinary. First, do you agree with his assessment of his own talents and intelligence of the world of the 6<sup>th</sup> century? Second, do you think one is better off being a big fish in a small pond? Answer the questions using details from the book and from your own experience.
- 2) How does Hank Morgan change throughout the novel? Is this change for the better, or for worse?
- 3) Discuss Hank Morgan's total failure to modernize Camelot in terms of his inventions, his attention to human needs, and his own prejudices. What lessons does the novel have for readers today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Cite details from the text that support your position.
- 4) 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?
- 5) What do you think about the ending? Were you satisfied? Would you have ended it differently? How? Why? If our hero had stayed in the past, would it have changed history?