





Contents

About the Author	6
About the Book	7
FACT FILE King Arthur's Camelot	8
Characters	10
Before Reading	12
1 Hank Morgan	17
2 To Camelot	21
3 The Solar Eclipse	28
4 Merlin's Tower	32
5 A Journey with King Arthur	36
6 Sunday Dinner	41
7 The Slaves go to London	47
8 Knights on Bicycles	49
9 The Tournament	53
10 Six Years Later	59
11 The Final Battle	66
12 Back to the Future	71
After Reading	73





King Arthur's Camelot



Some people think that Camelot is a mythical place, the capital of King Arthur's kingdom in stories and movies but not real. Others believe that Camelot was a real place somewhere in Great Britain. The truth is that no one is very sure.



The first Camelot

In a poem by a Frenchman called **Chrétien de Troyes** from the 1170s, Camelot is written down for the first time and is also said to be near **Caerleon in Wales**.

Welsh folk stories

Born in Cornwall?

In 1136, **Geoffrey of Monmouth** wrote *The History of the Kings of Britain*. He said King Arthur was born at Tintagel Castle in **Cornwall**, but he named **Caerleon in Wales** as his court.

The *Mabinogion* are **folk stories** about King Arthur and his knights. They are taken from early medieval Welsh manuscripts. They don't mention Camelot but do say that King Arthur lived in **Cornwall**. Folk stories were passed on by word of mouth long before they were written down.

The Winchester theory

Thomas Malory wrote that Camelot was in **Winchester, England** in his famous 1485 book *Le Morte D'Arthur*.

The final battle

In 1542 **John Leland**, an early antiquarian, named Cadbury Castle in **Somerset, England** as Camelot. This hill fort is near a town called 'West Camel', which is believed to be the location of Arthur's final battle.



What's in a name?

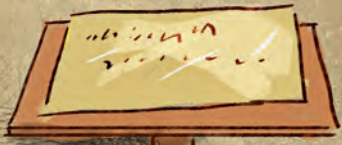
Some experts believe that King Arthur's name comes from the Roman name Astorius, which means falcon. While others believe it is Celtic in origin - coming from the word Art-rig meaning Bear King. Do you know what your name means?

Over time as more stories were written about Camelot, the legend became increasingly important. Do you believe that Camelot was a real place?

GLOSSARY

- **antiquarian:** someone who collects or studies old and valuable objects
- **falcon:** large bird that hunts small animals
- **hill fort:** fort or castle built on hill, or the remains of one
- **manuscripts:** first handwritten copies of a book
- **theory:** (here) idea explaining historical events
- **word of mouth:** information passed on orally (by voice)

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court



Mark Twain



Clarence



Sir Sagramour



Merlin



Sir Kay



Sir Launcelot



King Arthur

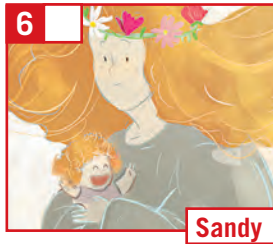


Queen Guinevere

BEFORE READING

1 **▶ MP3** Listen and match the words to the characters.

- a baby b pointed hat c crown
 d book e cap with a feather f sword



2 **▶ MP3** Listen again, read the questions and write the correct names.

- a Who is wearing a crown?
- b Who is holding a baby?
- c Who is wearing a pointed hat?
- d Who is writing in an old book?
- e Who is wearing a cap with a feather in it?
- f Who is holding a sword?



3 Take a look at the picture of Merlin. Which sentences describe him? Tick (✓) the box.



- a He is very handsome.
- b His beard is long and white.
- c His gown is short and red.
- d He is old.
- e His hat is green.
- f He is tall.
- g His nose is big.

4 This book is about Hank Morgan. Complete these sentences about him. Use the words in the box to help you.

head friend time American inventing help

- a Morgan arrived in another
- b Clarence is Morgan's
- c Morgan is good at things.
- d Morgan is an from Connecticut.
- e Morgan gets hit on the with a metal bar.
- f Clarence likes to Morgan to make things.



❖ 1 Hank Morgan ❖

1 It was 1889 and I was on a guided tour of Warwick Castle when I first met him. He was a strange man but he was friendly and he talked a lot. He was called Hank Morgan and he knew a lot about English history. He talked about Sir Bedivere, Sir Bors De Ganis, Sir Launcelot of the Lake, Sir Galahad, and all the other Knights of the Round Table as if they were old friends and neighbors. Then he turned to me and asked:

‘Do you know about time travel?’

I said I knew nothing about such things, but he was not listening to me. Just then, our group stopped in front of a suit of armor• and the guide started speaking.

‘This suit of armor is from the sixth century, the time of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Many people believe the armor belonged to Sir Sagramour le Desirous. Do you see anything strange about it?’ he asked. ‘Look carefully.’

‘There’s a bullet• hole in it!’ someone in our group said. ‘How did it get there?’

The guide smiled. ‘No one knows because guns• are a modern invention•.’

When Morgan heard this, he laughed and whispered. ‘I know. I did it myself.’

Surprised, I turned to ask him what he meant.

But I was too late: he was gone.

GLOSSARY

- **bullet:** small metal object that comes out of a gun
- **guns:** weapons that fire metal bullets
- **invention:** something that is made for the first time
- **suit of armor:** protective clothing made of metal



That night, I went back to my hotel and sat by the fire in my room. Outside, it was raining and a strong wind was blowing. But inside, I was warm and comfortable. I forgot about Morgan and I began reading a book. Page after page I read and when I looked at the time, it was after midnight. I put down my book when there was a sudden knock• at the door and Morgan came in.

I gave him a pipe• and a chair and made him welcome. At first, he sat silently; then he told me his story...

‘I am American,’ he said. ‘I was born in Hartford in the state of Connecticut. I am what they call a “Yankee”. My father was a blacksmith and my uncle a horse doctor but I worked in a weapons factory•. I learned to make guns, revolvers•, cannons•, all kinds of machines. I am good at inventing things, so I quickly became the manager at my work.

‘I was an important man. I had a thousand men working for me. But I had to argue a lot. And I usually won. Then one day, I met my match•. I was arguing with a man at work. He was big and strong, and the other men called him “Hercules”. We started to fight, and he hit me on the head with a metal bar. I heard my head crack. The world went black and I didn’t know anything at all... at least for a while.

GLOSSARY

- **cannons:** very large guns on wheels
- **factory:** building where large amounts of things are made
- **knock:** sound made when one hits something
- **met my match:** met someone as good as, or better than me
- **pipe:** 
- **revolvers:** 

‘When I woke up, I was sitting under an old oak tree, on the grass. I was in the middle of the countryside and I was not alone. There was a man on a horse, looking down at me. He was wearing a suit of armor with a helmet and he had a sword and shield. He spoke to me through his helmet and I didn’t understand him. He looked so strange that I started laughing.

‘This made the man very angry and he ran at me with his sword. But I was too quick and I climbed the tree and got out of his way. But now there was nowhere to run, and we came to an agreement. He wanted to take me prisoner. I agreed to go with him, and he agreed not to harm me. So we set off together. He was riding and I was walking by his horse. We walked for about an hour. In the distance I saw a town beside a river and behind the town, up on a hill, sat a big, grey castle.

“Bridgeport. Connecticut?” I asked.

“No,” he replied, his face deadly serious. “Camelot”.



CAMELOT

What do you know about Camelot?



Share ideas with a friend.



- **agreement:** promise or decision (between people)
- **deadly serious:** very serious
- **harm:** hurt
- **helmet:** hard covering worn to protect one’s head

- **oak:** large tree

- **shield:**

- **sword:**





AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1  Three words are related to each other, but one is not. Which one? Find the odd one out. Explain why to a partner.

- a sword saddle armor helmet
- b gun dynamite lightning castle
- c sea lasso dam river
- d jacket waistcoat trousers shirt
- e king trumpet knight page
- f cannon revolver factory gun

2 Make questions about the underlined information.

Ex. They went to Nottingham. → Where did they go?

- a Hank Morgan became a manager in a factory.
- b Hercules hit Hank Morgan with a metal bar.
- c Sir Boss cut off King Arthur's long hair.
- d Sir Boss blew up the knights because they were going to kill him.
- e The king and Sir Boss had dinner at Marco's house on Sunday.
- f The king thought onions grew in trees.
- g Earl Grip put handcuffs on the king and Sir Boss.
- h The king and Sir Boss spent a month walking to London.
- i Sir Boss used a small piece of metal to escape from the chains.
- j Sir Boss called Clarence and told him to send help.
- k Sir Boss and his family sailed to France.
- l Sir Mordred killed King Arthur.
- m Queen Guinevere became a nun and went to Amesbury.

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 6

1 Imagine you are Sir Boss waiting in Merlin's Cave for the battle to start. Write a letter to Sandy.

Say:

- Where you are
- What you are doing
- What you are thinking or feeling

Write 25 words or more.

