

Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*: A Discussion Guide

by David Bruce

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Cover Illustration

The cover illustration is from the 1881 first edition of *The Prince and the Pauper*.

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Preface to This Book

The purpose of this book is educational. I have read, studied, and taught Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*, and I wish to pass on what I have learned to other people who are interested in studying Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*. In particular, I think that the readers of this short introduction to Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper* will be bright high school seniors and college first-year students, as well as intelligent adults who simply wish to study *The Prince and the Pauper* despite not being literature majors.

This book uses a question-and-answer format. It poses, then answers, relevant questions about Twain, background information, and *The Prince and the Pauper*. This book goes through *The Prince and the Pauper* chapter by chapter. I recommend that you read the relevant section of *The Prince and the Pauper*, then read my comments, then go back and re-read the relevant section of *The Prince and the Pauper*. However, do what works for you.

Teachers may find this book useful as a discussion guide for the novel. Teachers can have students read chapters from the novel, then teachers can ask students selected questions from this book.

The quotations from the novel come from this source:

Twain, Mark. *The Prince and the Pauper: A Tale for Young People of All Ages*. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1983. Foreword and notes by Victor Fischer and Michael B. Frank; text established by Victor Fischer.

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Biographical Notes on Mark Twain

- Samuel Langhorne Clemens (later Mark Twain) was born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, but grew up in nearby Hannibal (his family moved there in 1839), which became the village (called St. Petersburg) in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Hannibal was located on the Mississippi River and had 2,000 inhabitants.
- Sam was the sixth child of John Marshall Clemens and Jane Lampton.
- Sam's father owned a grocery store.
- Sam's Uncle Quarles had a farm on which slaves worked. Sam sometimes stayed at the farm during summers, and he saw slaves being beaten.
- Hannibal, Missouri, was a slave-holding community. The slaves were mostly household servants.
- When Samuel L. Clemens was 12, his father died. Young Sam dropped out of school, then began work as an apprentice in a printer's shop to help support his family. Then he worked under his brother, Orion, at the newspaper called the *Hannibal Journal*.
- In June of 1853, Sam left Hannibal and started traveling, working for a while as a journalist and printer in places such as St. Louis, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and Iowa, then becoming a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River. The man who taught him the Mississippi River was Horace Bixby, pilot of the *Paul Jones*.
- Sam served briefly in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, but deserted and headed West to search for gold (unsuccessfully).
- He became a reporter and humorist for the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise*, where he adopted the pen name Mark Twain. One story of the name's meaning is that it is the cry given

when a river man measures the depth of water in the Mississippi River and finds that it is 12 feet (two fathoms). “Mark Twain” means “Note that there are two fathoms of water.” (A fathom is six feet.) Two fathoms of water is enough water for a riverboat not to be in danger of hitting bottom. Sam used the pen name Mark Twain for the first time on February 2, 1863. Another account of the origin of the name is that Sam used to call out “mark twain” when entering a favorite Western saloon. In this case, “mark twain” meant “mark two more drinks on my tab.”

- As a reporter, Twain was a social critic. In San Francisco, he wrote about the inhumane treatment of illegal Chinese immigrants and of the poor.
- In 1869, Twain’s published the book (his 2nd) that was the most popular of all his books during his lifetime: *Innocents Abroad*. This humorous book tells of his travels to Europe and the Holy Land.
- On February 2, 1870, Sam married Olivia Langdon. Her family was prominent in Elmira, New York. Sam and Olivia soon moved to Hartford, Connecticut.
- Twain’s next book was *Roughing It*, published in 1872. This humorous book told of Sam’s experiences prospecting for gold.
- In 1873, Twain published his first novel, *The Gilded Age*, which was co-written by Charles Dudley Warner, about corruption during the 1800s.
- Twain published *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in 1876.
- Twain published *The Prince and the Pauper* in 1881.
- Twain published *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1885.
- Twain published *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* in 1889.
- Many of Twain’s investments failed and he became deep in debt, but he went on long speaking tours and earned the money needed to pay his debts and have some money of his own.
- Although Twain was a humorist, late in life he grew deeply pessimistic and pondered the existence of the nature of God (if God in fact does exist).
- Twain died of angina on April 21, 1910.
- In *The Mysterious Stranger*, Twain wrote, “The Human race in its poverty, has unquestionably one really effective weapon — laughter. Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution — these can lift at a colossal humbug — push it a little, weaken it a little, century by century, but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast. Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand.” Twain often used humor to mock colossal humbugs.

Introduction to *The Prince and the Pauper*

- Twain published *The Prince and the Pauper* on December 12, 1881.
- Twain had so much fun writing the novel that he hated to finish it.
- An important theme in *The Prince and the Pauper* that will come up again is that clothes make the man — in other words, we judge people by the clothing they wear. (A theme is a unifying idea in a work of literature.)

- Another important theme in *The Prince and the Pauper* is education. The prince will become educated about the troubles of the common people by being mistaken for one of them. This education will make him a better ruler.
- In *The Prince and the Pauper*, Twain criticizes many, many unjust laws of 16th-century England.
- *The Prince and the Pauper* is a wonderful adventure story as well as a satire. It is suitable for children, and it is readable by adults. As the title says, this is “A Tale for Young People of All Ages.”
- Mark Twain dedicated the book to Susie and Clara Clemons, two of his daughters, who were nine years old (Susie) and seven years old (Clara) in 1881.
- Susie loved the novel; when she was 13 years old, she proclaimed it to be, “Unquestionably the best book he has ever written.”
- *The Prince and the Pauper* describes many bad laws that would be unconstitutional in the United States because of the Bill of Rights. Familiarize yourself with the Bill of Rights in Appendix B, and as you read this novel identify those laws that would be unconstitutional in the United States.

FOREWORD TO *THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER*

According to Victor Fischer’s “Foreword” to the Mark Twain Library edition of *The Prince and the Pauper*, what was Mark Twain’s serious purpose in writing this novel?

We learn that Mark Twain had been reading about the harshness of Tudor laws, and he wrote this novel to expose how harsh they were.

One of Mark Twain’s ideas is that people of high standing ought to endure the harsh laws they create. If they were to experience these harsh laws, they would soften them.

Of course, in this novel, a prince and a pauper exchange clothes and places, and the prince experiences life as a pauper. In doing so, he experiences his father’s harsh laws, and when his rightful place as king is given to him (his father has died), he softens those laws.

Mark Twain himself summarized his purpose in writing this novel in these words:

My idea is to afford a realizing sense of the exceeding severity of the laws of the day by inflicting some of their penalties upon the king himself & allowing him a chance to see the rest of them applied to others — all of which is to account for certain mildnesses which distinguished Edward VI’s reign from those that preceded & followed it. (xvi)

FRONT MATTER OF *THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER*

Why do you suppose Twain used the quotation from *The Merchant of Venice*?

The quotation from Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice* is about mercy. It says that justice becomes a king better than a crown.

Twain will be criticizing the harsh laws of the times in this novel. Twain would vastly prefer more just laws.

What is the main point of the Preface?

This is the Preface:

I will set down a tale as it was told to me by one who had it of his father, which latter had it of HIS father, this last having in like manner had it of HIS father — and so on, back and still back, three hundred years and more, the fathers transmitting it to the sons and so preserving it. It may be history, it may be only a legend, a tradition. It may have happened, it may not have happened: but it COULD have happened. It may be that the wise and the learned believed it in the old days; it may be that only the unlearned and the simple loved it and credited it.

The Preface is saying that this could be a true story. It is not, of course. Often, writers will pretend that the fictional story they are writing is true. This can cause the reader to wonder if it is true. Of course, thinking that a fun story could actually be true can make it even more fun.

CHAPTER 1: THE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

What is the setting (place and time) of *The Prince and the Pauper*?

This novel is set in England in the 16th-century. It begins with the birth of Edward Tudor on October 12, 1537, but the bulk of the action takes place just before and after King Henry VIII dies on January 28, 1547. Edward Tudor, King Edward VI after his father's death, was historically nine years old when his father died, but Mark Twain told his illustrators to make the boy 13 or 14 in the illustrations for the novel.

Of course, *The Prince and the Pauper* is a historical novel. It is fiction, but it is set in a particular time and place in history.

Edward Tudor is Prince of Wales. What does that title mean?

When the reigning monarch of the United Kingdom dies, the Prince of Wales will succeed him or her. Because Edward Tudor is the Prince of Wales, we know that he is expected to become King of England after his father, King Henry VIII, dies.

Edward Tudor is a member of the Tudor family. Who were the Tudors?

The Tudors were an English royal dynasty. In 1485, the first Henry Tudor became King Henry VII. Other kings and queens of the Tudor family succeeded him. The Tudor dynasty was succeeded by the Stuart dynasty because none of King Henry VIII's children had children to succeed them. Elizabeth I was the last Tudor monarch. When she died in 1603, she had no children, so James I, who was both a Stuart and a descendant of King Henry VII, succeeded her.

Compare and contrast the infant prince with the infant pauper.

The pauper's name is Tom Canty. The prince's name is Edward Tudor.

Tom Canty is an unwanted infant because he is another mouth to feed. All England wants Edward Tudor because he is an heir to the throne.

Tom Canty wears rags; Edward Tudor is clothed in silks and satins.

Only his own family talks about Tom Canty. Edward Tudor is talked about by all England —

who celebrate.

All England wants a male heir to the throne. Problems of succession can arise when a king dies without leaving a male heir behind. Sometimes the result is civil war.

The two boys are born on the same day: 12 October 1537.

Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VI) was a real person. If you feel like doing research, write a brief biography of him.

One difference between the historical Edward VI and the fictional Edward VI in this novel is their ages. The historical Edward VI assumed the throne at age 9. Mark Twain told his illustrators that he wanted Edward VI and Tom Canty to be pictured as if they were 13 or 14 (Foreword xvi).

Edward VI, of course, was King of England from 1547 until his death in 1553. He was born in 1537, and his parents were King Henry VIII and Jane Seymour.

King Henry VIII could be a harsh ruler, but under King Edward VI, some harsh laws regarding treasure and heresy were relaxed. Under King Edward VI, the country grew more Protestant. King Edward VI died at age 15 of tuberculosis.

What does the word “Canty” mean?

Names are frequently important in literature. For example, a person of small importance but with the talent of irritating people may be named “Mr. Fleagle” because the name includes “flea,” a small, insignificant, but irritating insect.

One meaning of “canty” is very positive: cheerful, lively, gladsome, brisk, active. This meaning may not be what Mark Twain had in mind when he created the name of the pauper, as Tom Canty’s life is not a cheerful one.

Perhaps the name comes from the word “cant.” One meaning of “cant” is speech used by beggars; in particular, it is a whining form of begging. This seems to be suitable for the name of a beggar. “Cant” can also be used for the special language of other peoples, including gypsies and thieves, as well as of professional beggars such as the Canty family.

Of course, the two meanings are in opposition, and Tom Canty has opposition in his life. He is a pauper, but at play he pretends to be a prince. He had to beg for his living, but he begs as little as possible.

Mark Twain chose the name “Canty” well and carefully.

CHAPTER 2: TOM’S EARLY LIFE

What do we learn about Tom Canty’s father?

The father is a brute who beats Tom unless he brings money home from begging. He would like Tom and Nan and Bet to be thieves, but they are only beggars. He is an alcoholic and a thief. He often fights with his mother, Tom’s grandmother.

He is also a wife-beater and a child-beater. When the mother gives Tom a crust of bread or a scrap of other food, the father often beats her for it. When Tom is unsuccessful in his begging,

his father beats him.

Mark Twain writes that Tom Canty's father and his grandmother are "a couple of fiends" (4).

What do we learn about Tom Canty's grandmother?

Most of what I wrote about the father applies to the grandmother, but the grandmother is worse. She beats Tom even harder than the father. She is a beggar.

What do we learn about Tom Canty's mother?

Tom's mother is kind. She often goes hungry so she can give Tom a crust of bread when he has been sent to bed hungry.

What do we learn about Tom Canty's twin sisters: Nan and Bet?

Nan and Bet are 15-year-old twins. They are ignorant. They do not study with the priest. They cannot read or write. They are dirty (covered with dirt).

The girls do not want an education:

Father Andrew also taught Tom a little Latin, and how to read and write; and would have done the same for the girls, but they were afraid of the jeers of their friends, who could not have endured such a queer accomplishment in them. (4-5)

How does Tom Canty's family live?

The family does not live well. They live in a room on the 3rd floor; this means that six people share one room. The father and mother have kind of a bed, but the others sleep on the floor. Some straw bundles and pieces of blanket are available, but none of the people sleeping on the floor have a proper bed. This family makes a living by begging, and the father steals.

Offal Court is particularly well named. Why?

Both the sound and the meaning of Offal Court make it a good name for this very poor neighborhood. "Offal Court" sounds like "Awful Court." The neighborhood is in fact awful because it is so poverty-stricken.

In addition, "offal" means waste, especially the unusable (by humans) parts of a butchered animal. Offal stinks, and Offal Court stinks.

Offal Court is out of Pudding Lane. Pudding Lane is particularly well named. Why?

A note in the Mark Twain Library of this book states this:

Pudding Lane took its name from the "puddings," or animal entrails, generated by its many butcher shops; it would become notorious as the starting point of the Great Fire of London in 1666. "Offal" was another word for entrails, hence Offal Court — evidently Mark Twain's invention. (304)

What is life like at Offal Court?

Life at Offal Court is loud, and its residents are often hungry. We read:

All Offal Court was just such another hive as Canty's house. Drunkenness, riot and

brawling were the order, there, every night and nearly all night long. Broken heads were as common as hunger in that place. (5)

Write a character analysis of the young Tom Canty.

Tom is partially educated. Father Andrew has taught him to read and write, and he has learned a little Latin.

Tom is happy, along with the other boys of Offal Court. They don't know any other life, so they think that life in Offal Court is right and regular.

Tom reads Father Andrew's old books about adventures and royalty.

Tom has an active imagination. While he is lying in bed hungry, he imagines himself in better conditions.

Life is good, Tom thinks, especially in the summer. Tom begs only just enough to keep from being beaten, and he listens to Father Andrew's stories.

Some of the public entertainment Tom has available to him is watching people such as Anne Askew being burned at the stake.

Tom tries to stay clean by bathing in the Thames.

Because Tom admires princes (whom he has read about), he plays at being a prince. Often, during play he pretends to be a prince. (This is good practice for later when people think that he is a prince.)

Tom's ambition is to see a prince someday.

Tom has common sense, and he is able to give good advice to people — including adults — who seek it from him.

Why doesn't Tom Canty beg more than he does?

The note on p. 304 states this:

Laws passed under Henry VIII licensed begging by the needy aged and infirm, but severely punished anyone, whether incapacitated or able-bodied, who begged without a license. Punishments included confinement in the stocks, public whipping, the cutting off of ears, and, for repeat offenders, even death.

In addition, Tom has a certain amount of pride. He refuses to become a thief, although his brute of a father would like for him to steal. Basically, Tom tries to beg only enough to keep his father from beating him. Unfortunately, sometimes he is unsuccessful in his begging, and so his father does beat him.

Write a character analysis of Father Andrew.

Father Andrew has little money. He has only a few farthings for his pension.

Of course, Father Andrew is a Catholic. In *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, Mark Twain is very hard on the Catholic religion, but even there (and here) he has respect for the priests who actually work among the common people.

Father Andrew does good. He helps to educate Tom Canty. He would help educate Tom's sisters, but they are afraid of losing their ignorance — their friends would treat them badly.

We read:

Among, but not of, the dreadful rabble that inhabited the house, was a good old priest whom the king had turned out of house and home with a pension of a few farthings, and he used to get the children aside and teach them right ways secretly. Father Andrew also taught Tom a little Latin, and how to read and write; and would have done the same with the girls, but they were afraid of the jeers of their friends, who could not have endured such a queer accomplishment in them. (4-5)

Why did King Henry VIII turn Father Andrew “out of house and home” (4)?

King Henry VIII wanted money, so in the 1530s and 1540s he dissolved monasteries and sold their lands (304).

Who was Anne Askew?

Anne Askew, who was only 25 years old, was unjustly executed on July 16, 1546. She was a Protestant, and she rejected the doctrine of transubstantiation. She believed that the wine and bread Christians eat during Mass is not literally the blood and body of Jesus Christ; instead, she believed that they are symbols of the blood and body of Jesus Christ.

In the society of this time, denying the doctrine of transubstantiation made her a heretic, and she was burned at the stake. Burned at the stake with her were three other people accused and convicted of heresy: John Lacle, Nicholas Otterden, and John Adlam.

These public burnings at the stake were not rare:

Numerous such burnings were accomplished at Smithfield, an open area in northern London known for its public entertainments, particularly the great Bartholomew Fair, held there every summer from 1123 to 1855. (305)

Not only was Anne Askew burned at the stake, but she was also tortured. She was put on the rack, and she was injured so badly that she could not walk to her trial but had to be carried. Nevertheless, she did not recant her “heresy.”

In her death, she became a Protestant martyr.

Why do you suppose Mark Twain mentioned Anne Askew in this novel?

In *The Prince and the Pauper*, Mark Twain is concerned with exposing unjust laws. Anne Askew was unjustly executed. We will see many, many examples of unjust laws.

One American belief is that people ought to be able to worship as they please. No one should be executed for being a Protestant or for being a Catholic. However, Anne Askew was executed for being a Protestant.

To avoid such unjust executions in the United States, we have separation of church and state.

What is heresy?

According to *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Sixth Edition, 2001, heresy is “in religion, especially

in Christianity, beliefs or views held by a member of a church that contradict its orthodoxy, or core doctrines.”

CHAPTER 3: TOM’S MEETING WITH THE PRINCE

What is Westminster?

Westminster is the palace where the Kings of England lived. This is a different place from the modern Westminster; in 1834, fire destroyed the old Westminster.

The modern Westminster is where the Houses of Parliament meet.

How do the pauper and the prince end up exchanging clothing and identities?

This happens by accident. Tom Canty wakes up hungry and wanders around the city of London at random, eventually leaving it, walking along the Strand, and making his way to Westminster, the palace where the royal family lived at the time.

While there, Tom Canty sees a real prince. He wants a closer look, so he goes up to the gate (which has bars). A guard shoves him away, harshly. The prince sees this, is dismayed that a guard would treat badly one of the king’s subjects, even a humble one, and invites the pauper in to visit.

In the prince’s chamber, the two boys talk, and the prince learns about the pauper’s life, much of which seems pleasant to him (the games and the freedom), but much of which does not seem pleasant to him (the beatings and the lack of servants).

The prince’s education is beginning. From talking to Tom, the prince learns much that he had not known before. He is surprised that Tom’s sisters have but one suit of clothing each. He is also surprised that Tom and his family do not have servants to dress them.

The prince discovers that the pauper would like to dress in royal finery, so they exchange clothing. (They discover that they look exactly alike.) The prince then sees a bruise on the pauper’s hand — a bruise caused by the guard — and hot with anger, the prince goes out — clothed in rags — to speak harshly to the guard. Outside the gates of the palace, the guard cuffs the prince. When the prince says that he is the prince, no one believes him. A crowd surrounds him, laughs at him, and walks off with him.

Here we see one of Twain’s favorite themes: clothing determines status. If everyone were naked, it would be much more difficult to determine whether they are paupers, middle class, or wealthy.

In this chapter, how does the prince show that he is kind?

The prince is kind:

- The prince is dismayed that one of his guards would treat Tom Canty the pauper poorly.
- When he learns that Tom Canty would like to wear royal clothing, he exchanges clothing with him — temporarily, he thinks.
- When he learns that Tom Canty’s father and grandmother beat Tom, he threatens to have them thrown in the Tower of London — until Tom reminds him that the Tower of London is used as a prison for royal prisoners only.

- When he sees a bruise on the pauper's hand and realizes that the guard caused it, he goes out to speak harshly to the guard.
- He offers to give Nan and Bet clothing.

Note that by showing that the prince is kind, Mark Twain is following this writing rule: Show, Don't Tell.

What does the prince know about the lives of paupers?

The prince knows little about the lives of paupers. He is amazed that Nan and Bet don't have servants and that they have only one suit of clothing each. (In contrast, the pauper wonders what Nan and Bet would do if they had more clothing; after all, they have only one body each.)

Note: Nan and Bet have less clothing than Tom Sawyer. Tom has two suits of clothing; Nan and Bet have one suit of clothing each.

What kinds of entertainments are available to paupers in London at this time?

Poor people do have fun, even if they are sometimes hungry:

- Paupers can see Punch and Judy shows and monkeys and plays.
- Pauper boys can have pretend fights with cudgels.
- Pauper children can race against each other.
- Pauper children can swim in the river and the canals.
- Pauper children can dance and sing around the May-pole.
- Pauper children can play in the mud.

Of course, summer is more fun for poor people than winter.

In which ways are the prince and the pauper similar?

- They are boys of the same age; in fact, they share the same birthday.
- They look alike.
- They both enjoy the games that boys of their age enjoy.
- They both are active boys.
- They both have at least a little learning, although the prince is very much better educated than the pauper.
- Their fathers are both hard on them, although the pauper's father beats him and the prince's father does not.

In which ways are the prince and the pauper different?

- One boy is a prince; the other boy is a pauper.
- The prince is much more self-confident and commanding than the pauper.

- The prince has servants; the pauper does not.
- The prince has much more clothing and many more possessions than the pauper.
- Whenever the prince is hungry, he is able to eat; the pauper is often hungry and unable to eat.
- Twain calls one boy the Prince of Limitless Plenty, and he calls the other boy the Prince of Poverty.
- The prince has many servants; the pauper has no servants.
- The prince has servants to dress and undress him; the pauper must dress and undress himself.

The Prince identifies some of his relatives: Elizabeth, Jane Grey, Mary. Who are they?

Jane Grey

Jane Grey was Edward's first cousin. Her life came to a bad end. One of the problems of having kings and queens as political leaders is that sometimes a power struggle results when a clear successor does not exist. When Edward died, a political faction proclaimed Jane Grey Queen. She reigned for a little more than a week, then was dethroned, found guilty of treason, and beheaded. She was less than 18 years old when she died.

Mary

Mary reigned as Queen of England after having Jane Grey executed for treason. She was born on February 18, 1516, and she became Queen Mary I of England on July 19, 1553, reigning until she died on November 17, 1558. She was known as "Bloody Mary." She was an intolerant Roman Catholic and had many Protestants executed.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth became Elizabeth I, Queen of England. When she died without children, the Tudor dynasty came to an end. She was born on September 7, 1533, and she died on March 24, 1603, having been queen since November 17, 1558. Her father was King Henry VIII and her mother was Anne Boleyn, so she was Edward's half-sister.

Elizabeth ruled for many years, and she gave her name to an era. William Shakespeare is known as an Elizabethan playwright because he was writing plays during her life. A Protestant, Elizabeth was very much more religiously tolerant than Mary.

Identify the following: Punch and Judy shows, farthings, May-poles, farthings, and present-arms.

Punch and Judy Shows

Punch and Judy was a famous puppet show that was very popular with children. In it, two married puppets fight each other.

Farthings

A farthing is an English unit of money. Worth one-quarter of a penny, it is no longer used. At the end of 1960, farthings stopped being used as money.

This shows what inflation does to money. At one time, people could actually buy something for one-quarter of a penny.

May-poles

May-poles were a part of May Day celebrations. May Day is the first day of May, so May Day is a celebration of the arrival of Spring. The May-pole was a pole from which hung ribbons. Dancers would hold the ribbons and dance around the May-pole. As they danced around the May-pole, the ribbons would form patterns on the pole. In his youth, the author of this discussion guide did this one time.

Present-arms

Present-arms is a military position. The modern soldier holds his rifle vertically in front of his body. This allows a superior soldier to inspect the weapon. Of course, in this novel the soldier presents a halberd (a combination spear and battle axe) rather than a rifle.

What happens when the prince and the pauper exchange clothing? Can anyone tell them apart?

One of Mark Twain's major themes in this novel is that clothing is important in determining one's social status. When the two boys exchange clothing, they look exactly alike and no one can tell them apart.

The prince tells the pauper:

“Thou hast the same hair, the same eyes, the same voice and manner, the same form and stature, the same face and countenance, that I bear. Fared we forth naked, there is none could say which was you, and which the Prince of Wales.” (18)

How does the prince come to be mistaken for the pauper?

As we have seen, the two boys exchange clothing and they look exactly alike. We have also seen that the prince is kind. When the prince sees a bruise on the pauper's hand — a bruise caused by one of the guards of the palace — the prince becomes angry. Dressed in rags, he puts away “an article of national importance” (18-19) — something that will be very important in the novel later — and goes forth to criticize the guard. Thinking that the prince is the pauper, the guard hits him and throws him outside the palace grounds. Because of the way that he is dressed, everyone now treats the prince as if he is a pauper.

CHAPTER 4: THE PRINCE'S TROUBLES BEGIN

What do you suppose the prince will learn when he is treated as a pauper?

The prince will become educated as a result of being mistaken for a pauper. He will learn how the other half lives — or how the other 99 percent lives.

The prince will learn that life as a member of the lower classes is very tough. He will learn to become a better king as a result of his experience among the lower class.

The prince will learn through experience. He will be able to empathize with honest members of the lower classes.

The philosopher Immanuel Kant wrote about how to tell whether an action is moral. One test is reversibility. If someone were to do what you are thinking of doing to another person, would you want that thing done to you? For example, if you were hungry and were caught stealing a loaf of bread, would you want to be hung for that offence?

The prince will experience many bad laws and he will see other people suffer because of many bad laws. When he becomes king, he will enact better laws.

Why doesn't anyone believe that the prince is the prince? Why is he an object of amusement to other people?

No one believes that the prince is the prince mostly because of the way he is dressed. In addition, they have just seen the guard cuff the boy. The guard certainly would not do that if the boy were the prince.

The prince is a source of amusement to the other commoners because he claims to be the prince, although they are certain that he is not.

One way in which people determine social class is clothing (which is certainly very important in this novel). What are some other ways of determining social class in modern-day America?

Paul Fussell's book *Class* is a good source of information on this topic. In it, he identifies several classes in the United States and identifies what separates the different classes.

Language is important in distinguishing classes. The lower classes are often ungrammatical. The lower classes misuse the apostrophe.

Appearance is important in distinguishing class. Often, the higher classes are better looking than the lower classes. Partly, this is genetics. Rich men can and do marry beautiful women.

Ideas are important in distinguishing class. Supposedly, rich people often have few ideas. One of their ideas is "Never touch principal."

What is Christ's Church?

In the novel, Christ's Church is a refuge for children.

This property was taken over by King Henry VIII when he dissolved the order of the Franciscans in England in 1538.

In your opinion, why did Mark Twain write the scene where the prince seeks help at Christ's Church?

A few important themes are being developed here.

1) The importance of experience.

The prince is experiencing life as a member of the lower class instead of as a member of the upper class. By doing this, he is learning some new things, such as how the lower class lives.

2) The importance of education.

The prince learns that feeding and clothing boys is not enough. They need to be educated, too.

The prince feels that if the boys of Christ's Church had been better educated, then they would have treated him better.

On p. 24, we read:

And now and then his mind reverted to his treatment by those rude Christ's Hospital boys, and he said, "When I am king, they shall not have bread and shelter only, but also teachings out of books; for a full belly is little worth where the mind is starved, and the heart. I will keep this diligently in my remembrance, that this day's lesson be not lost upon me, and my people suffer thereby; for learning softeneth the heart and breedeth gentleness and charity."

What happens when the prince meets John Canty?

Nothing good. John Canty, the pauper's father, whom the narrator describes as "a great drunken ruffian" (24), thinks that the prince is his own son and that he has gone insane. John Canty takes the prince home, where they will no doubt treat him as the pauper. This means that John Canty and his mother will beat the prince.

Why is the prince called as "stark mad as any Tom o' Bedlam"? What is Bedlam?

Bedlam was an asylum for the insane in London. Its full name was the Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem. Tom o' Bedlam is a term used to refer to an inmate of this asylum for the insane.

The crowd surrounding the prince believes that he is acting as if he is insane. To the crowd, this poorly dressed boy is obviously a pauper, yet he insists that he is a prince. To the crowd, this boy they take to be a pauper is obviously insane.

In addition, E. Cobham Brewer (1810–1897), author of *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* (1898) makes a distinction between "Tom" and "Jack":

Between "Tom" and "Jack" there is a vast difference. "Jack" is the sharp, shrewd, active fellow, but Tom the honest dullard. Counterfeits are "Jack," but Toms are simply bulky examples of the ordinary sort, as Tomtoes. No one would think of calling the thick-headed, ponderous male cat a Jack, nor the pert, dexterous, thieving daw a "Tom." The former is instinctively called a Tom-cat, and the latter a Jack-daw.

Today, of course, "bedlam" — a corruption of "Bethlehem" — is a word meaning a place that is filled with noise and confusion. Apparently, Bedlam was a place that was filled with noise and confusion.

What do you think is Mark Twain's view of human nature, based on what you have read so far?

Mark Twain is certainly aware that evil people exist, and he aware that good people exist. People such as John Canty and his mother are evil. People such as the pauper and the prince are good. Both good and evil people exist, and apparently we choose whether to be good or evil.

CHAPTER 5: TOM AS A PATRICIAN

What is a patrician? What is a plebeian?

Patrician

A patrician is a member of the upper classes. Anyone who is a member of the aristocracy is a patrician. The prince is a patrician. When the pauper Tom is mistaken for the prince, he is treated as if he were a patrician.

Plebeian

A plebeian is a member of the upper classes. Paupers are plebeians. Tom is a plebeian. When the prince is mistaken for a pauper, he is treated as if he were a plebeian.

What do we learn about the lady Jane Grey in this chapter?

She is observant. When she goes to visit the prince and sees the pauper, she does not know that this person is not the prince, but she does know that he seems distressed.

She is kind. She asks Tom what is distressing him. She seems genuinely concerned about this person whom she thinks is the prince.

She knows her place in society. She becomes distressed when Tom kneels to her. She thinks that he is the prince and will become king, and she knows that if that is the case she ought to show respect to him.

What do we learn about King Henry VIII in this chapter?

King Henry VIII is very ill. He will not live long. One of his problems is an ulcerated leg. In the novel, he has one leg bandaged. At this time, he cannot walk or stand.

King Henry VIII is immense; he is huge; he is obese.

King Henry VIII cares about his son. He is grieved that his son is apparently mentally ill.

King Henry VIII orders that rumors about his son's illness cease, and they do cease. He is a forceful ruler. He can order people to be killed, and they are killed.

King Henry VIII orders that his son's lessons stop for a while. Instead, he is to engage in amusements so that his health will return.

King Henry VIII wishes that Norfolk were dead.

Who are Norfolk and Surrey?

Norfolk and Surrey are people both of whom King Henry VIII wishes were dead. At the time this novel is set, one is in fact dead: Surrey.

In December 1546 the Duke of Norfolk and his son the Earl of Surrey were thrown into the Tower of London, an event that the pauper Tom Canty witnessed. Both were accused of high treason, but neither was guilty. Instead, they were the victims of intrigue by enemies at court. On January 19, 1547, the Duke of Surrey was beheaded. (King Henry VIII died on January 28, 1547.) The Duke of Norfolk was supposed to be executed the day that the king died, but his execution was stayed, and eventually he was released from the Tower of London. The Earl of Surrey is the Duke of Norfolk's son. By the way, a Duke is higher than an Earl.

Here we see an example of injustice in the world of this novel.

Why doesn't King Henry VIII realize that Tom Canty is not his son?

One reason is that Tom Canty is very much like his son. They look alike, and they apparently have much the same voice.

One way that the prince and the pauper are different is in their education, but King Henry VIII thinks that mental illness may have taken away much of his son's education.

Possibly, the king may not see much of his son. King Henry VIII may be busy running the kingdom, and he may not have much time to see his son.

King Henry VIII is ill and will die soon. To an extent, that may affect his sight and reason.

Who else would the boy be? King Henry VIII does not know that a pauper boy was in the prince's room with the prince recently.

Why is the madness of the prince of so much concern to so many people?

The prince will become king, and a mad king is unlikely to be a good ruler. If the king is mad, possibly a power struggle and a civil war may break out. To have peace and prosperity, it helps to have a good and mentally sound king.

Certainly, King Henry VIII is insistent that his son — whether mad or not — be king:

“He is mad; but he is my son and England's heir — and, mad or sane, still shall he reign! And hear ye further, and proclaim it — whoso speaketh of this his distemper, worketh against the peace and order of these realms, and shall to the gallows!” (36)

According to the king's orders, what will happen to the person who speaks of the prince's madness?

King Henry VIII says that anyone who speaks of the prince's madness shall be executed by hanging. This of course helps conceal the substitution of the pauper for the prince.

CHAPTER 6: TOM RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS

What instructions does the lord St. John bring for Tom from King Henry VIII? What is Tom's reaction to these instructions?

The lord St. John brings Tom instructions from King Henry VIII, Tom's supposed father:

- 1) The prince (that is, Tom) “shall hide his infirmity in all ways that be within his power, till it be passed and he be as he was before” (40).
- 2) The prince (that is, Tom) “shall deny to none that he is the true prince, and heir to England's greatness” (40).
- 3) The prince (that is, Tom) “shall uphold his princely dignity, and shall receive, without word or sign of protest, that reverence and observance which unto it do appertain of right and ancient usage” (40).
- 4) The prince (that is, Tom) “shall cease to speak to any of that lowly birth and life his malady hath conjured out of the unwholesome imaginings of o'er-wrought fancy” (40).
- 5) The prince (that is, Tom) “shall strive with diligence to bring unto his memory again those faces which he was wont to know — and where he faileth, he shall hold his peace,

neither betraying by semblance of surprise or other sign that he hath forgot" (40-41).

6) The prince (that is, Tom) "upon occasions of state, whensoever any matter shall perplex him as to the thing he should do or the utterance he should make, he shall show nought of unrest to the curious that look on, but take advice in that matter of the Lord Hertford, or my humble self [St. John], which are commanded of the king to be upon this service and close at call, till this commandment be dissolved" (40).

All of these orders of course help to conceal the substitution of the pauper for the prince.

How does Tom react to the orders of the king?

Tom's reaction is interesting. He will do everything the king tells him to do. After all, he is the king's subject, and subjects are required to do what their king tells them to do.

What do we learn about the lord St. John?

A note on p. 308 says:

William Paulet (1485?-1572), baron St. John of Basing, was lord steward of the royal household and lord president of the privy council.

The lord St. John is very helpful to Tom in covering up his mistakes as he pretends to be the Prince.

The lord St. John acts very respectfully to Tom.

The lord St. John helps Tom when the lady Jane Grey asks if he has seen the queen that day. We read:

"Hast paid thy duty to the queen's majesty to-day, my lord?"

Tom hesitated, looked distressed, and was about to stammer out something at hazard, when lord St. John took the word and answered for him with the easy grace of a courtier accustomed to encounter delicate difficulties and to be ready for them —

"He hath indeed, madam, and she did greatly hearten him, as touching his majesty's condition; is it not so, your highness?" (43)

Write a short character analysis of the Earl of Hertford.

A note on pp. 307-308 states,

Edward Seymour (1506?-1552), Earl of Hertford, was the brother of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour, and therefore the uncle of young Prince Edward. A successful military commander and influential member of the king's privy council, he was named lord protector of the realm upon the accession of Edward VI, serving in effect as king. Military defeats abroad, the failure of his policies at home, and disenchantment with his arrogance, ambition, and greed led to his downfall. He was condemned on a charge of felony and beheaded in January 1552.

The Earl of Hertford is very helpful to Tom in covering up his mistakes as he pretends to be the Prince.

The Earl of Hertford acts very respectfully to Tom.

Write a short character analysis of the lady Jane Grey.

The lady Jane Grey is very respectful of Tom. We remember that in the previous chapter she was shocked that he would kneel to her.

Occasionally, the lady Jane Grey says the wrong thing. She is described as “giddy” on p. 44.

Write a short character analysis of the princess Elizabeth, who later became Queen Elizabeth I.

Elizabeth has and shows much tact and maturity. She knows the right thing to say to put the “prince” — that is, Tom — at ease. When Elizabeth and lady Jane Grey visit him, we read:

In spite of every precaution, the conversation among the young people became a little embarrassing at times. More than once, in truth, Tom was near to breaking down and confessing himself unequal to his tremendous part; but the tact of the princess Elizabeth saved him, or a word from one or the other of the vigilant lords, thrown in apparently by chance, had the same happy effect. (42)

On p. 44, the “giddy” lady Jane Grey she speaks Greek to Tom, who knows no Greek. This time Elizabeth saves Tom:

Once the giddy little lady Jane fired a simple Greek phrase at Tom. The princess Elizabeth’s quick eye saw by the serene blankness of the target’s front that the shaft was overshot; so she tranquilly delivered a return volley of sounding Greek on Tom’s behalf, and then straightway changed the talk to other matters.

Elizabeth shows a lot of understanding in speaking Greek for Tom, then changing the subject.

Elizabeth shows a lot of respect for Tom. She, like the other characters, shows him the courtesy that is due to a prince. Neither she nor lady Jane Grey leave without being dismissed.

Elizabeth, of course, is the prince’s half-sister.

What are a few of the major events of Queen Elizabeth I’s life and reign?

Elizabeth I, queen of England, lived from 1533 to 1603 and was queen of England from 1558 to 1603.

Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

Elizabeth’s mother, Anne Boleyn, was executed in 1536, after she was accused of adultery and treason. Most scholars think that she is innocent of these charges.

Elizabeth was declared illegitimate when her mother was executed, but Parliament made her part of the succession of the monarchy. After first Edward VI and then Mary I died, Elizabeth became queen.

Elizabeth supported Mary I over Jane Grey in the turmoil after Edward VI’s death, but she was imprisoned for a while because it was felt that Protestants could rally around her.

Elizabeth became queen in 1558. She was a good ruler, and the Elizabethan era is known for

such luminaries as Francis Bacon, Francis Drake, Martin Frobisher, Walter Raleigh, William Shakespeare, and Edmund Spenser.

Elizabeth was a champion of Protestantism in England. Her predecessor, Mary I, had been a rigid and intolerant Catholic.

In 1588, the English navy, led by people such as John Hawkins and Francis Drake, defeated the Spanish Armada in a remarkable victory.

When Elizabeth died in 1603, James VI of Scotland, who ruled as James I of England, succeeded her. It is from his name that we get the King James Bible.

How well does Tom Canty impersonate the prince?

Tom Canty has successes and failures.

Failures

A failure occurs when Tom of course does not remember the banquet that he is to attend. A note on p. 308 identifies the city's banquet in this way:

That is, the installation banquet for the lord mayor of London, described in chapter 11.

A failure occurs when the lady Jane Grey tells him that soon he will learn as many languages as and be as learned as his father. Forgetting that his father is supposed to be King Henry VIII, Tom says:

“My father!” cried Tom, off his guard for the moment. “I trow he cannot speak his own so that any but the swine that wallow in the styes may tell his meaning; and as for learning of any sort soever — ” (44)

This is of course is not true of King Henry VIII, although it is true of John Canty.

A failure occurs when Tom does not know enough to dismiss his servants when he wants to rest. He is sorry that they stay — and so they are they.

A Success

A success occurs when Tom Canty dismisses Elizabeth and Jane Grey with fair words, words that he has learned from his reading and practiced with his playmates:

“Indeed your ladyships can have whatsoever of me they will, for the asking; yet would I rather give them any other thing that in my poor power lieth, than leave to take the light and blessing of their presence hence. Give ye good den, and God be with ye!” Then he smiled inwardly at the thought, “’Tis not for nought I have dwelt but among princes in my reading, and taught my tongue some slight trick of their broidered and gracious speech withal!” (45)

Overall, Tom does well, mostly because he has people looking out for him, especially the lord St. John and the Earl of Hertford. Elizabeth also does a good job looking out for the supposed prince, although giddy Jane Grey sometimes says the wrong thing.

What does it mean to England if the prince is mad?

The Earl of Hertford is aware of the trouble that can be caused to England if the prince truly is mad:

- Bad leadership.
- A power struggle over the kingship.
- Civil war.

That is why the Earl of Hertford says to lord St. John, “God protect England, since she will need it!” (47).

Why don't St. John and the Earl of Hertford believe that Tom Canty is not the prince?

We find out at the end of the chapter that the lord St. John is wondering if the supposed prince is an imposter; after all, his madness is so odd. Why would madness take away one's ability in French (and Greek) but not in Latin?

The Earl of Hertford obeys the orders of the king and quiets the lord St. John's doubts although it appears that he has doubts of his own, which he also quiets.

One very important reason is that Tom is saying that he is NOT the prince. It would be reasonable for an imposter to say that he IS the prince. But who would say that he is NOT the prince?

The Earl of Hertford says to himself:

“Tush, he *must* be the prince! Will any he in all the land maintain there can be two, not of one blood and birth, so marvellously twinned? And even were it so, 'twere yet a stranger miracle that chance should cast the one into the other's place. Nay, 'tis folly, folly, folly!”

Presently he said:

“Now were he impostor and called himself prince, look you *that* would be natural; that would be reasonable. But lived ever an impostor yet, who, being called prince by the king, prince by the court, prince by all, *denied* his dignity and pleaded against his exaltation? — *No!* By the soul of St. Swithin, no! This is the true prince, gone mad!” (50)

Another reason is that King Henry VIII thinks that Tom is his son and has forbidden anyone to talk about his madness. This makes it much less likely that anyone will compare notes and build up their suspicion by talking about it. We read that the lord St. John raises doubts to the Earl of Hertford, but the Earl of Hertford shuts him up fast.

Many of the reasons that King Henry VIII may not recognize that Tom is not his son the prince apply to St. John and the Earl of Hertford, also:

- One reason is that Tom Canty is very much like the prince. They look alike, and they apparently have much the same voice.
- Possibly, St. John and the Earl of Hertford may not see much of the prince. They may be busy with other duties.
- Who else would the boy be? St. John and the Prince of Hereford do not know that a pauper boy was in the prince's room with the prince recently.

CHAPTER 7: TOM'S FIRST ROYAL DINNER

Which mistakes does Tom Canty make at his first royal dinner?

Tom eats mainly with his fingers.

Tom doesn't know what turnips and lettuce are, and he asks if they are to be eaten. Mark Twain's note at the end explains that this incident is based on historical fact. Not until the end of Henry VIII's reign were such vegetables grown in England.

When water for Tom to wash his hands is brought to Tom, he looks at it, then drinks some of it.

When a napkin is brought for Tom to use to wipe his fingers on, he orders it to be taken away, lest he get it dirty. (It is made of fine cloth, and Tom, being a pauper, wishes not to do anything to hurt it.)

Tom puts nuts in his pocket at the end of the royal dinner. Everyone pretends not to notice. (Of course, if he wants nuts later, all he has to do is order that nuts be brought to him.)

Tom leaves the table before the final prayer.

We notice, of course, that everyone pretends that everything is normal — under orders of King Henry VIII.

Is the life of a prince enjoyable? Would you wish to be waited on in the same manner that Tom Canty is waited on?

I would not care for it. I have been in a restaurant where the waiter pours the wine for you. I find this irritating. Of course, I am working class — or at most, lower middle class.

By the way, Christopher Hitchens also found this irritating. See “Wine Drinkers of the World, Unite.” *Slate*. 26 May 2008
<http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/fighting_words/2008/05/wine_drinkers_of_the_world_unite.html>.

Twain writes satire. Define “satire” briefly.

A focus of this book is satire. Here are two definitions of satire:

Satire Definition #1

An attack on human stupidity or vice in the form of scathing humor, or a critique of what the author sees as dangerous religious, moral, or social standards. Satire was an especially popular technique used during the Enlightenment, in which it was believed that an artist could correct folly by using art as a mirror to reflect society. When people viewed the satire, and saw their faults magnified in a distorted reflection, they could see how ridiculous their behavior was and then correct that tendency within themselves.

Source: http://guweb2.gonzaga.edu/faculty/wheeler/lit_terms_S.html

Satire Definition #2

A literary tone used to ridicule or make fun of human vice or weakness, often with the intent of correcting, or changing, the subject of the satiric attack.

Source: http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit_terms/satire.html

How does Twain satirize royalty and its servants?

1) Status and Respect

One thing that Twain is satirizing is the respect that is paid to royalty. Tom Canty is a pauper and a beggar (his father forces him to beg, although he is unable to force him to steal). However, because everyone thinks that Tom is a prince, they show him much, much respect.

We can ask whether royalty deserves that respect. Should we respect people simply because of their parents? Wouldn't it be better to respect them because of their own accomplishments — accomplishments that deserve respect? In this society, people show respect to royalty because of royalty's parents. If the prince is mad (insane), he will still become the king, not because he has the capability to be a good king, but because of who his parents are.

2) Extreme Servitude

Another thing that is satirized is the extreme servitude of those around Tom Canty. He can't take off his own clothing or put it on (or should I say the prince's clothing). He can't pour wine into a glass. He can't reach for a glass of water without it first being put on a platter and lifted up to him.

3) Nose Itching

When Tom's nose itches, Tom doesn't know what to do. Everyone has been doing everything for him, so he assumes that someone has the job of scratching his nose for him. Finally, he solves the problem by scratching his own nose. (There is no office of Hereditary Nose Scratcher for royalty.)

4) Servants

Many, many servants wait on Tom at dinner (dinner is held in the middle of the day, about 1 p.m.). On p. 52, we read:

Tom had three hundred and eighty-four servants beside these; but they were not all in that room, of course, nor the quarter of them; neither was Tom aware, yet, that they existed.

A note on p. 309 of the Mark Twain Library edition states,

A recent estimate has put the number of individuals, high- as well as low-born, who performed regular domestic services for the household of Henry VIII at between one and two thousand (Lacey Baldwin Smith, *Henry VIII: The Mask of Royalty* [London: Jonathan Cape, 1971], p. 79).

5) Taster to the King

On p. 52, we read:

The Taster to his highness the Prince of Wales was there, also, prepared to taste any suspicious dish upon requirement, and run the risk of being poisoned. He was only an ornamental appendage, at this time, and was seldom called upon to exercise his function; but there had been times, not many generations past, when the office of Taster had its

perils, and was not a grandeur to be desired. Why they did not use a dog or a plumber seems strange; but all the ways of royalty are strange.

A satirist is very good at finding holes in other people's logic. Indeed, why not use a dog to taste the food to see if it is poisoned?

A satirist is very good at using humor to make the medicine of the satire go down easy. The question about why not use a plumber to taste the food to see if it is poisoned is funny to anyone who has been forced to pay for very expensive plumbing repairs.

Obviously, the basic plot device of a pauper and a prince switching places is implausible. In chapters 1-7, what has Twain done to make the plot device as plausible as possible?

He has made the two boys the same age and given them the same looks.

He has made Tom Canty interested in royalty. Tom has practiced being a prince — that is, he has pretended to be a prince while playing.

Twain has King Henry VIII order everyone to not talk of the Prince's illness but instead to pretend that all is well.

At the end of this chapter, Tom finds a book about court etiquette. This, of course, is a treasure because he will be able to read about things he does not now know but that the prince is expected to know. That will help him to fit into royal society better.

CHAPTER 8: THE QUESTION OF THE SEAL

What is the Great Seal used for?

King Henry VIII uses the Great Seal in signing official documents.

The Great Seal will play an important role near the end of this novel.

Actually, two seals — the Great and the small — exist. The prince had possession of the Great Seal but King Henry VIII has the small seal that he can use to conduct important business.

What do we learn from King Henry VIII's eagerness that the Duke of Norfolk be beheaded?

We learn something about King Henry VIII's character. He can be murderous.

We learn of the importance of the Great Seal. Apparently, a royal seal must be used on official documents, or they are not valid. In this case, King Henry VIII orders that the small seal be used because Tom Canty cannot remember ever having received the Great Seal.

One important point is that later Tom Canty's goodness will be established. Tom will order that the Duke of Norfolk NOT be executed.

Who is the Lord Chancellor and what is his main duty?

At the time of this novel, Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), Baron Wriothesley of Titchfield, was lord chancellor of England. He kept the Great Seal, which of course King Henry VIII used to sign important political documents. The lord chancellor of England is an important job; the chancellor is the king's chief minister as well as the chief judicial authority in the kingdom.

Historically, who was the Earl of Hertford?

A note on pp. 307-308 states this:

Edward Seymour (1506?-1552), Earl of Hertford, was the brother of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour, and therefore the uncle of young Prince Edward. A successful military commander and influential member of the king's privy council, he was named lord protector of the realm upon the accession of Edward VI, serving in effect as king. Military defeats abroad, the failure of his policies at home, and disenchantment with his arrogance, ambition, and greed led to his downfall. He was condemned on a charge of felony and beheaded in January 1552.

Would you like to be a member of English aristocracy at this time?

I would not. Why?

Anne Boleyn, the mother of Elizabeth I and one of the wives of King Henry VIII was beheaded.

King Edward VI died young of tuberculosis. Modern medicine did not exist at the time.

Lady Jane Grey was executed by beheading.

Queen Mary I was a bad ruler who became known as Bloody Mary.

The Earl of Surrey is beheaded. Intrigue at court got him unjustly executed.

The Earl of Hartford is beheaded.

CHAPTER 9: THE RIVER PAGEANT

What is the purpose of the river banquet?

The purpose of the river banquet is to celebrate the installation of the lord mayor of London.

How much of a spectacle is the river pageant?

It is a huge spectacle, and it is for the benefit of Tom Canty, who is thought to be a prince, but who is not a prince.

We see Twain's satire here, as we see it throughout *The Prince and the Pauper*. Tom Canty is being judged by his clothing. Because he is dressed like a prince (and because of the circumstances in which he was discovered dressed like a prince, he is being treated like a prince.

This chapter includes a number of quotations that scholars think that Mark Twain made up rather than quoted from a historical document. Why would Mark Twain make up these quotations?

Mark Twain is writing historical fiction. He is pretending that fiction is fact. He also wants the readers to pretend that fiction is fact. (In the theater, this is known as a willing suspension of disbelief.) Whatever Twain can do to make his audience suspend its disbelief, he is willing to do.

By the way, we think that Mark Twain made up these "quotations" because his revision process shows that he changed these "quotations."

Another reason for thinking that the quotations are made up is that Mark Twain will normally tell

his readers the source he is quoting. We remember that in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Twain let us know in a note from which book he had taken the speeches and poetry that the young ladies had recited on Examination day.

CHAPTER 10: THE PRINCE IN THE TOILS

• Write a character analysis of the prince based on what you learn in this chapter.

The prince is honest. He tells Tom's mother that he has never seen her face before.

The prince has pride. He stands up to John Canty. He takes John Canty's beatings — and will not let Tom's mother take the beatings for him.

In addition, the prince continues to insist that he is the prince.

Write a character analysis of Tom Canty's mother and sisters based on what you learn in this chapter.

Both the mother and the sisters love Tom. When they hear the prince say that he is the prince, they are distressed because they think that Tom Canty has gone mad.

The sisters and mother creep to the prince after the father and grandmother are asleep. They cover him with straw and comfort him.

The mother and sisters are accustomed to being beaten.

Note Mark Twain's excellent description of the mother and the twin sisters:

Two frowsy girls and a middle-aged woman cowered against the wall, in one corner, with the aspect of animals habituated to harsh usage and expecting and dreading it now. (65)

By the way, "frowsy" means habitually dirty.

Earlier, we saw that Nan and Bet, Tom's sisters, would not allow themselves to be educated. What is Tom's mother's opinion of reading?

Tom's mother is suspicious of education. She thinks that Tom's reading has affected his brain. In fact, earlier she advised him not to read books. Here we read:

"O, my poor boy, thy foolish reading hath wrought its woful work at last, and ta'en thy wit away. Ah, why didst thou cleave to it, when I so warned thee 'gainst it? Thou'st broke thy mother's heart." (67)

Tom's mother is clever. What test does she devise to find out whether this boy is really her son?

She finds a way to determine if the prince is her son. When her son is awakened suddenly or startled, he brings his hand up in front of his face with the palm facing outward. Three times, she tests the prince while he is asleep, and three times he makes no special movement with his hands. That makes the mother think that the prince is perhaps not her son.

Tom's mother tries the test three times. In the end, does she believe the results of the tests?

Each of the three times she tests the boy, he makes no special movement with his hands. Still,

she believes that this boy must be her son:

The poor woman was smitten almost helpless with surprise and grief; but she contrived to hide her emotions, and to soothe the boy to sleep again; then she crept apart and communed miserably with herself upon the disastrous result of her experiment. She tried to believe that her Tom's madness had banished this habitual gesture of his; but she could not do it. "No," she said, "his *hands* are not mad, they could not unlearn so old a habit in so brief a time. O, this is a heavy day for me!"

Still, hope was as stubborn, now, as doubt had been before; she could not bring herself to accept the verdict of the test; she must try the thing again — the failure must have been only an accident; so she startled the boy out of his sleep a second and a third time, at intervals — with the same result which had marked the first test — then she dragged herself to bed, and fell sorrowfully asleep, saying, "But I cannot give him up — O, no, I cannot — he *must* be my boy!" (71)

Education is one theme of this novel. In what is the prince receiving an education?

The prince is receiving an education through experiencing how poor people live. This kind of education can be more forceful than merely reading how the other half lives. This is why some orders of nuns insist on the sisters living among the people they serve and with much the same standard of living as far as material objects are concerned.

When the prince wakes up and knows that he has not been dreaming that he was being treated like a pauper, we read:

In a moment all the heavy sorrow and misery which sleep had banished were upon him again, and he realized that he was no longer a petted prince in a palace, with the adoring eyes of a nation upon him, but a pauper, an outcast, clothed in rags, prisoner in a den fit only for beasts, and consorting with beggars and thieves. (72)

Why is the Canty family forced to flee? (Two Reasons)

Reason #1: John Canty Commits a Murder

When John Canty was pulling the prince roughly home, Father Andrew pleaded for the boy. When John Canty struck the boy, Father Andrew took the blow on his own wrist rather than let John Canty hurt the boy. This made John Canty so mad that he brought the cudgel down on Father Andrew's head. Now Father Andrew is dying, and John Canty is forced to flee for his life.

Note that the Catholic priest Father Andrew is a very good character who lays down his life to help another human being. By the way, Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* can be hard on Catholic priests, but it recognizes that priests who work among the poor are good, caring people. The object of Mark Twain's satire in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* is the power politics that the Catholic Church sometimes has played in history. That the leaders of the Catholic Church can play power politics was well known to Dante, author of *The Divine Comedy*.

Reason #2: The Cantys Can't Pay the Rent

John Canty also has to flee because he owes two pennies for rent — for six months!

How does the prince escape from the clutches of Tom Canty's father?

To flee, John Canty seizes the prince by the wrist, and takes off with him. John Canty has made arrangements with the other members of the family to meet at a certain place on London Bridge if they are separated. In fact, they are separated because of the river pageant we read about in Ch. 9. It is occurring here in Ch. 10 as well.

John Canty bumps into a burly waterman, who makes him drink to the Prince of Wales with a loving cup. By custom, the waterman holds on to one handle, John Canty holds on to one handle, and John Canty uses his other hand to lift the lid of the loving cup. Of course, John Canty has to use both hands, so he lets go of the prince, who flees.

The prince does show initiative and problem-solving abilities when he escapes from John Canty, who is disliked by his only son, Tom. The prince has many good qualities.

At the end of this chapter, the prince wants to have the pauper “hanged, drawn, and quartered” (75). What does that mean?

The proper order is drawn, hanged, and quartered, although the phrase really is “hanged, drawn, and quartered.”

Drawn

The prisoner is drawn to the place of execution on a cart drawn by a horse.

Hanged

The prisoner is hung, but is taken down from the gibbet while still alive. He is disemboweled, and his entrails are set on fire and burned while he is still alive. According to the Wikipedia entry on “Hanged, drawn and quartered,” which I accessed on 19 August 2013, this step sometimes included emasculation (removal of penis and testicles). Women convicted of high treason were not hanged, drawn, and quartered.

Quartered

After the prisoner was beheaded, the prisoner's body is cut up or torn into four pieces. Sometimes, the executioner would use a sword to start the cuts, then the prisoner would be tied to animals such as horses. The horses would be driven away from the prisoner, tearing the prisoner's body into four pieces.

Cecil Adams' syndicated newspaper column titled “The Straight Dope” has interesting information on this topic:

[...] Drawing and quartering is another punishment mentioned in kids' movies only because nobody realizes what's involved. The statutory punishment for treason in England from 1283 to 1867, D&Q was a multimedia form of execution. First the prisoner was drawn to the place of execution on a hurdle, a type of sledge. (Originally he was merely dragged behind a horse.) Then he was hanged. Cut down while still alive, he was disembowelled and his entrails burned before his eyes. (Some references, such as the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, say this step, and not dragging behind a horse, is what is meant by “drawn,” but actual sentences of execution don't support this view.)

Finally the condemned was beheaded and his body cut into quarters, one arm or leg to a quarter. How exactly the quartering was to be accomplished was not always specified, but on at least some occasions horses were hitched to each of the victim's limbs and spurred in four directions. An assistant with a sword or cleaver was sometimes assigned to make a starter cut and ease the strain on the animals. The remains were often put on display as a warning to others. Nothing like the good old days, eh? Just don't anybody mention this to Newt.

Interestingly, this information came to the attention of people working on the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and they decided to use some of this information in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, as Cecil Adams recounts here:

A JOB WELL DONE

Dear Cecil:

In your column you suggest that the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* entry "drawing and quartering" is incorrect in interpreting the term "drawing" to refer to the prisoner's disembowelment.

Although David M. Walker's *The Oxford Companion to Law* agrees with the *Britannica* interpretation, we found your interpretation favored by several sources, including the *Oxford English Dictionary* as well as Sir Frederick Pollock and Frederick William Maitland's *The History of English Law Before the Time of Edward I*. It is clear that in this context "drawing" is more correctly understood as referring to the act of dragging the prisoner to the place of execution, and the entry will be amended at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for bringing the matter to our attention. — Peter Meyerhoff, assistant editor, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*

Cecil replies:

Glad to be of service. Anything else I can help you with, let me know.

— CECIL ADAMS

Source: <http://www.straightdope.com/classics/a4_239.html>

Why does the prince want to have the pauper "hanged, drawn, and quartered" (75). Does the pauper deserve that punishment?

The prince believes that the pauper has deliberately insinuated himself into the prince's place. By doing that — depriving the rightful prince's of his position — the pauper has committed treason.

Of course, we know that Tom Canty would be very happy if the prince were to return to take his rightful place in the palace.

Is it significant that the prince is willing to give Tom Canty time for spiritual preparation before he is drawn, hung, and quartered?

We should note that the prince is willing to give Tom Canty time for spiritual preparation before he is drawn, hung, and quartered. Is this significant? Is this something to be applauded in the

prince?

People in the 1500s took religion seriously. They took the concept of Heaven and Hell seriously. Although the prince is willing for Tom Canty to pay for his usurpation with his life, the prince does not want Tom Canty to spend eternity in Hell. In fact, it is possible that the prince thinks that he himself may end up in Hell if he does not give Tom Canty time to repent his sins.

CHAPTER 11: AT GUILDHALL

How does Tom Canty's reaction to the River Pageant contrast to the reactions of Elizabeth and the lady Jane Grey?

The river pageant is a spectacle of wonder to Tom Canty, but it is nothing to Jane Grey and Elizabeth.

Tom Canty is astonished and delighted by everything he sees; Princess Elizabeth and the lady Jane Grey are unimpressed by everything they see. We read:

The royal barge, attended by its gorgeous fleet, took its stately way down the Thames through the wilderness of illuminated boats. The air was laden with music; the riverbanks were beruffled with joy-flames; the distant city lay in a soft luminous glow from its countless invisible bonfires; above it rose many a slender spire into the sky, incrustated with sparkling lights, wherefore in their remoteness they seemed like jeweled lances thrust aloft; as the fleet swept along, it was greeted from the banks with a continuous hoarse roar of cheers and the ceaseless flash and boom of artillery.

To Tom Canty, half buried in his silken cushions, these sounds and this spectacle were a wonder unspeakably sublime and astonishing. To his little friends at his side, the princess Elizabeth and the lady Jane Grey, they were nothing. (77)

What is Guildhall?

Guildhall is an important public building. In it, officials conducted the municipal affairs of London. The prince heads for Guildhall because he knows that important officials will be there because of the installation of the lord mayor of London.

In addition, the prince knows that he the prince was supposed to attend the banquet, so another reason to go to Guildhall is that he knows that Tom Canty and Elizabeth and the lady Jane Grey will be there.

Write a character analysis of Tom Canty based on what he does at the end of this chapter.

Tom Canty and King Henry VIII are very different. We find out something good about Tom Canty after King Henry VIII dies. Tom asks if what he orders will be obeyed, and hearing that it will be obeyed, he orders that the life of the Duke of Norfolk be spared. This shows how good Tom Canty is. In addition, the people of England now feel that Henry VIII's reign of terror is over.

Tom asks if his orders would be carried out. Assured that they will be, he says this:

“Then shall the king's law be law of mercy, from this day, and never more be law of blood! Up from thy knees and away! To the Tower and say the king decrees the Duke of

Norfolk shall not die!”

The words were caught up and carried eagerly from lip to lip far and wide over the hall, and as Hertford hurried from the presence, another prodigious shout burst forth —

“The reign of blood is ended! Long live Edward, king of England!” (83)

However, we should note that Tom Canty has no real authority to do this. After all, he is really a pauper, not a prince. In fact, he is at this time usurping the place of the prince.

Where does Mark Twain take literary license in this chapter? (Two main places)

An author can take literary license in the telling of his or her tale. Mark Twain takes two major liberties with the historical facts in this chapter:

1) “The King is Dead”

In *The Prince and the Pauper*, the death of King Henry VIII is announced immediately. In historical fact, the death of the king was kept quiet for a few days as the authorities figured what to do after his death. One thing they had to do was to decide who would rule the kingdom. Remember that in real life Prince Edward was nine years old, and a council of regency ruled for him. King Edward VI died before he would have become an adult at age 18. Of course, it is very dramatic to have the death of the king announced quickly and when so many people are having a festival.

More literary license: Mark Twain pretends that Prince Edward was 13 or 14 years old when King Henry VIII died. Twain’s plot required a protagonist who was older than nine years old.

2) The Stay of Execution of the Duke of Norfolk

Yes, the Duke of Norfolk was not executed, but it was not the prince who made that decision. Rather, the authorities felt that holding an execution so quickly after the death of a king was a bad idea. It would be much better not to do anything that would be politically unpopular and to wait until everybody accepted the succession.

How does the prince’s plan work out?

The prince had planned to go to Guildhall, announce who he was, be restored to his rightful position, and punish Tom Canty. It does not work out that way.

Once again, people judge the prince by the way he is dressed. He is dressed like a pauper; therefore, they treat him like a pauper. They laugh at him because he insists that he is the prince:

And while Tom, in his high seat, was gazing upon this “wild” dancing, lost in admiration of the dazzling commingling of kaleidoscopic colors which the whirling turmoil of gaudy figures below him presented, the ragged but real Little Prince of Wales was proclaiming his rights and his wrongs, denouncing the impostor, and clamoring for admission at the gates of Guildhall! The crowd enjoyed this episode prodigiously, and pressed forward and craned their necks to see the small rioter. Presently they began to taunt him and mock at him, purposely to goad him into a higher and still more entertaining fury. Tears of mortification sprung to his eyes, but he stood his ground and defied the mob right royally. Other taunts followed, added mockings stung him, and he exclaimed:

“I tell ye again, you pack of unmannerly curs, I am the Prince of Wales! And all forlorn and friendless as I be, with none to give me word of grace or help me in my need, yet will not I be driven from my ground, but will maintain it!”

The prince has a lot of stubbornness, as well as a lot of courage and a lot of pride.

Write a character analysis of the prince’s rescuer, Miles Hendon, based on what you learn in this chapter.

Certainly, Miles Hendon is a hero. Like Father Andrew, Miles comes to the defense of a defenseless boy.

Miles Hendon seems to have had bad luck. His clothing was once good, but is now ragged.

Miles Hendon can fight well. He fights to save the prince from the mob who has been laughing at his cries that he is the prince and who now wants to take him to the horse pond — perhaps to dunk him in the water.

Miles Hendon is not violent. He has a sword, but he uses the flat of the sword. In other words, he is not killing people as he defends the prince.

Notice that mobs are often unruly. They get pleasure out of picking on the weak.

CHAPTER 12: THE PRINCE AND HIS DELIVERER

How does the real prince take the death of King Henry VIII?

The real prince is saddened by the death of his father. Other people may feel that King Henry VIII had a “reign of blood” (83), but of course the king was also a father who loved his son. We remember that when King Henry VIII thought that Tom was the prince, he worried over what he thought was the mental illness of his son.

However, he is also thrilled when he hears the crowd roar, “Long live King Edward the Sixth!” (85).

Like many people who have suffered the death of a loved one, he feels different emotions:

For an instant he felt himself the most forlorn, outcast, and forsaken of God’s creatures — then another cry shook the night with its far-reaching thunders: “Long live King Edward the Sixth!” and this made his eyes kindle, and thrilled him with pride to his fingers’ ends. “Ah,” he thought, “how grand and strange it seems — I AM KING!” (85)

Miles Hendon has lodgings in a little inn on London Bridge. What kind of society lives on London Bridge?

The people who live on London Bridge have sometimes been there for generations. They know London Bridge and very little else. Sometimes, when a resident of London Bridge moves away to the countryside, the quiet gets to him, and he returns to London Bridge, where he easily falls asleep amid the noise and bustle.

The people who live there know each other intimately. In addition, they know each other’s mothers and fathers and grandparents intimately.

The aristocracy of London Bridge are the people whose ancestors have lived there for centuries.

Mark Twain writes on p. 87: “It was just the sort of population to be narrow and ignorant and self-conceited.”

Mark Twain believed in the benefits of travel. He was a traveler, and he believed that one learned not to be provincial if one traveled — or at least one had the opportunity to learn not to be provincial if one traveled.

What kind of “object-lessons” in English history can be found on London Bridge?

An illustration on p. 87 makes that clear. The heads of traitors and luckless people are displayed on London Bridge. Try to overthrow the throne and fail, and you will be beheaded and your head displayed on London Bridge for all to see.

Very definitely, this society believes in capital punishment. Many, many members of the aristocracy are executed, as are many, many poor people, as we will see.

How (and why, do you suppose) does Miles Hendon rescue the prince from Tom Canty’s father?

Of course, London Bridge is where John Canty told the members of the members to meet if they got separated. Miles happens to have his lodgings on the bridge, and so John Canty sees the prince there.

Miles Hendon is simply a nice guy — and a hero. Obviously, Tom Canty’s father does not treat the boy (the prince) well, and so Miles rescues the boy. Most people would not do that, I think.

After the prince denies that John Canty is his father, Miles Hendon asks him with whom he would rather be. The prince prefers to be with Miles, and so he shall, says Miles.

Miles Hendon believes that the prince will continue to believe that he is the prince and not the king. Why? And what does the prince think?

Miles Hendon thinks that mental illness will allow a mentally ill person to fix on only one idea at a time. Thus, if the mentally ill boy thinks that he is the Prince of Wales, he will continue to think that even though now that the king is dead, he would actually be the king (91).

Of course, the boy is not mentally ill, and he knows that he is the king — or that he will be the king as soon as he is crowned. Miles finds this out when he starts to sit down, and the boy tells him, “Forbear! Wouldst sit in the presence of the king?” (93)

We read:

This blow staggered Hendon to his foundations. He muttered to himself, “Lo, the poor thing’s madness is up with the time! it hath changed with the great change that is come to the realm, and now in fancy is he *king*! Good lack, I must humor the conceit, too — there is no other way — faith, he would order me to the Tower, else!” (93)

Miles Hendon continues to think that the boy is mad, although he also thinks that he can cure the boy with good treatment:

“I will teach him, I will cure his malady; yea, I will be his elder brother, and care for him and watch over him; and who so would shame him or do him hurt, may order his shroud, for though I be burnt for it he shall need it!” (90)

The prince is now the king. How does Miles Hendon convince the king to allow him to sit in the king's presence?

Miles Hendon is a good guy. He is convinced that the king is mentally ill, but he humors him. For example, he pours water in a basin for the king to wash, and he hands him a towel. In addition, he waits on the king at table. Also, as the king requires, he stands up in the king's presence. Of course, this is going to wear out Miles after a while; standing all the time can make one grow tired. Therefore, when the king acknowledges Miles' great aid in saving him from the mob, he grants Miles a boon. Miles thinks it over, then asks that he and his descendants always be allowed to sit in the king's presence (of course, now that Henry VIII has died, the prince is now the king).

In asking for this boon, Miles Hendon acts exactly right. He treats the boy as if he were the king, and he tells the story of another man being granted a boon by the king and asking that he and his heirs be allowed to wear hats in the presence of the king.

In addition, the king knights Miles Hendon. Of course, Miles smiles at this, thinking that he is a knight of the Kingdom of Shadows. However, Miles continues to humor the king.

What is Miles Hendon's personal history?

He has a rich father, Sir Richard.

His mother died when he was a boy.

His oldest brother, Arthur, is kind like his father.

His younger brother, Hugh, is evil.

He is in love with his cousin Edith, a good, kind woman.

He suffered a triangle. He and Edith loved each other, but Edith was engaged from the cradle to Arthur, and Sir Richard wanted them to marry even though Arthur loved another woman.

Hugh loved Edith's money.

Miles was a wild youth.

Arthur's health is indifferent. Hugh will profit if Arthur dies and if Miles is out of the way. In this society, the eldest son inherits the majority of the wealth. Often, younger sons get very little by way of inheritance.

Hugh frames Miles by putting a silken ladder in his room, and Hugh convinces Sir Richard that Miles wanted to elope with Edith.

Miles is forced to leave England for three years and be a soldier.

As a soldier, Miles is captured and held captive for seven years.

He escaped and has just returned to England.

Write a character analysis of the king's rescuer, Miles Hendon, based on what you learn in this chapter.

Miles Hendon is kind:

- Miles rescues the prince/king from Tom Canty's father.
- Miles gives the prince/king food and a place to sleep.
- Miles covers the prince/king with his cloak.
- Miles waits on and serves the prince/king.

Miles is clever when he asks to sit in the king's presence as a boon.

Note that Mark Twain follows the very good literary device of showing that Miles Hendon is kind rather than simply telling the readers that Miles Hendon is kind.

Write a character analysis of the king based on what you learn in this chapter.

The king is accustomed to servants obeying him. He orders Miles Hendon to wait on him and to serve him. Because Miles is kind and because Miles thinks that the boy is mentally ill, he does wait on and serve the king.

The king is aware that Miles is doing well by him. When he awakes, he sees that Miles put his doublet (close-fitting jacket) over him, and the king recognizes that Miles made a sacrifice (91) for him — Miles has been pacing back and forth to keep warm because he is not wearing his doublet.

The king rewards Miles by knighting him. Of course, Miles thinks that the king is mentally ill and is not the king. Being made knight of the Kingdom of Dreams and Shadows would mean little to most people, but Miles regards his knighthood as showing the insane boy's "sweet and generous spirit" (99).

The king does allow Miles Hendon to sit in his presence — something that Miles greatly desired because otherwise he would grow very tired by constantly standing.

CHAPTER 13: THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PRINCE

Is Miles Hendon religious?

We do find out that Miles Hendon is religious. He and the king are sleepy, the king takes the bed again, and the king orders Miles to sleep in front of the door on the floor and to guard the door. At this point, Miles says:

"Dear heart, he should have been born a king!" muttered Hendon, admiringly; "he playeth the part to a marvel."

Then he stretched himself across the door, on the floor, saying contentedly —

"I have lodged worse for seven years; 'twould be but ill gratitude to Him above to find fault with this." (101)

How good of a tailor is Miles Hendon?

Again, we see how kind Miles Hendon is. He covers the king to keep him warm, and leaves to buy the king a suit of secondhand clothing.

Miles is a poor tailor. He buys a secondhand suit of boys' clothing for the king — yet another good deed. It is in some need of repair, and Miles threads a needle and goes to work. Although he has had to mend clothing as a soldier, he is poor at it, as we find out from the large stitches that he makes. The small stitches of a tailor will last much longer.

On p. 104, Miles says:

“These be noble large stitches!” — holding the garment up and viewing it admiringly —
“they have a grandeur and a majesty that do cause these small stingy ones of the tailor-man to look mightily paltry and plebeian —

We also realize that he is a poor tailor because he has great difficulty in threading the needle. In addition, at one point he drives the needle under his fingernail.

However, he takes pride in his big stitches, and he seems to enjoy his work because he sings as he sews.

John Canty came up with a good plan to capture the king (who he thinks is his son). What is that plan?

A youth goes to the king, saying that Miles wants him to meet him somewhere. However, the youth is actually from Tom Canty's father. We will find out more about that youth later.

The king thinks that he is to meet Miles Hendon; instead, Tom Canty's father captures him and drags him off. (We know that because the servant sees a ruffian-looking man appear out of hiding and join the youth and the king.)

How does Miles Hendon act when he first learns that the king is missing?

Miles Hendon does what any intelligent person would do: he seeks information, which he is able to get by questioning the servant. The scene with the servant is comic. One way in which it is comic is that Miles Hendon is so upset by the disappearance of the king that he is inconsistent in his questioning of the servant: “Out of my sight, idiot! Thy prating drives me mad! Hold! whither art flying? Canst not bide still an instant? Went they toward Southwark?” (106).

Still, Miles Hendon does find out what has happened to the boy, and he knows in which direction the boy and his captors seem to be heading.

Miles also is able to guess that the “ruffian-looking man” (105) is the man — John Canty — who claimed to be the father of the boy.

Write a short character analysis of the servant carrying the breakfast.

The servant is easily fooled, as Miles says. A youth comes to the king, saying that Miles wants him to meet him somewhere. However, the youth is actually from Tom Canty's father. I can't really blame the servant here, as I would probably fall for the same trick.

The servant has his own problem, which he brings up repeatedly, to the annoyance of Miles Hendon. A joint that the scrivener (a professional copyist) ordered was forgot, and the servant had been blamed for it.

The servant is a very minor comic character, but Mark Twain makes him come alive.

What does Miles Hendon do after he learns that the king has disappeared?

After the king is discovered to be missing, Miles does not feel like eating; instead, he vows to search England for the king. Therefore, he leaves behind his breakfast, uneaten.

Miles is happy that the king went when he thought that Miles had asked him to come. The king is unlikely to do that for anyone else:

As he wormed his swift way through the noisy multitudes upon the Bridge, he several times said to himself — clinging to the thought as if it were a particularly pleasing one — “He grumbled but he *went* — he went, yes, because he thought Miles Hendon asked it, sweet lad — he would ne’er have done it for another, I know it well.” (107)

What is your opinion of the ending of this chapter?

Mark Twain is a master at keeping the reader turning the pages. At the end of this chapter, we have a cliffhanger — it is an exciting point in the story (as if the hero were hanging off a cliff, about to fall at any minute).

Note that by having two main protagonists in the novel, Mark Twain is able to follow one character for a while, then follow the other character for a while. Often, Twain puts one character in a cliffhanger type of situation, then writes about the other character for a while.

What does “protagonist” mean, and how many protagonists does this novel have?

A protagonist is usually defined as a novel’s (or a literary work’s) leading character. Of course, a novel with the title *The Prince and the Pauper* will have two leading characters.

CHAPTER 14: “LE ROI EST MORT — VIVE LE ROI”

What does the title of this chapter mean?

It means, “The king is dead — long live the king.” Or, in other words, “The old king is dead — may the new king live long.”

Of course, the old king — King Henry VIII — is dead, and of course, the people are wishing that the new king — King Edward VI — will live long.

Why would the people want the new king to live long?

If a king lives long, there is less chance of a civil war being fought over the succession. It is good for everyone to know who is the king, and it is bad for people to fight over who shall be king.

Of course, everyone hopes for a just and merciful king.

What kind of life does Tom Canty want? What do we learn from his pleasant dream?

Note the contrast between the life Tom Canty wants and the life he now has. He would be happy with a few pennies and a lot of freedom. Instead, he has much wealth but little freedom.

Tom has a dream that makes him happy. He would be with his family again, and he would have money to give them:

Tom slept again, and after a time he had this pleasant dream. He thought it was summer

and he was playing, all alone, in the fair meadow called Goodman's Fields, when a dwarf only a foot high, with long red whiskers and a humped back, appeared to him suddenly and said, "Dig, by that stump." He did so, and found twelve bright new pennies — wonderful riches! Yet this was not the best of it; for the dwarf said —

"I know thee. Thou art a good lad and a deserving; thy distresses shall end, for the day of thy reward is come. Dig here every seventh day, and thou shalt find always the same treasure, twelve bright new pennies. Tell none — keep the secret."

Then the dwarf vanished, and Tom flew to Offal Court with his prize, saying to himself, "Every night will I give my father a penny; he will think I begged it, it will glad his heart, and I shall no more be beaten. One penny every week the good priest that teacheth me shall have; mother, Nan, and Bet the other four. We be done with hunger and rags now, done with fears and frets and savage usage." (110-111)

Tom Canty's life need not be bad. Indeed, when Tom and the prince first met, Tom described his life, parts of which the prince said he would enjoy very much. Apparently, Tom was able to spend more time playing than the prince could.

Of course, Tom lacks material objects and a loving father.

How does Twain satirize royal life? (The Dressing of the King)

There is quite a bit of satire of the royal life in this chapter.

The first bit of satire we see in this chapter is the dressing of the new king.

To get Tom Canty dressed for the day takes the efforts of many people, who pass items of clothing along from person to person so that they can be placed on Tom Canty's body. In addition, everyone is shocked when Tom's hose has a slight flaw. The Chief Equerry in Waiting even says, "Body of my life, a tag gone from a truss-point! — to the Tower with the Head Keeper of the King's Hose!" (112).

How does Twain satirize royal life? (The Finances of the Kingdom)

The second bit of satire we see in this chapter is the finances of the kingdom.

It turns out that the royal family spends more money than it makes. Tom Canty wants to release all the servants and move into cheaper lodgings, but royalty doesn't work that way. We certainly saw that with American President George W. Bush, who racked up huge deficits, but who didn't seem worried about it at all.

The kingdom also gives away much land in addition to many honors:

A secretary made report that forasmuch as the late king had provided in his will for conferring the ducal degree upon the Earl of Hertford and raising his brother, Sir Thomas Seymour, to the peerage, and likewise Hertford's son to an Earldom, together with similar aggrandizements to other great servants of the crown, the Council had resolved to hold a sitting on the 16th February for the delivering and confirming of these honors; and that meantime, the late king not having granted, in writing, estates suitable to the support of these dignities, the Council, knowing his private wishes in that regard, had thought proper to grant to Seymour "£500 lands," and to Hertford's son "800 pound lands, and

300 pound of the next bishop's lands which should fall vacant," — his present majesty being willing.

Tom was about to blurt out something about the propriety of paying the late king's debts first, before squandering all this money; but a timely touch upon his arm, from the thoughtful Hertford, saved him this indiscretion; wherefore he gave the royal assent, without spoken comment, but with much inward discomfort. (115)

How else does Twain satirize royal life?

An important bit of satire is that a mere boy is running the kingdom. When Tom goes to sleep out of boredom, all official business comes to a halt because Tom has to be awake in order for the official business to continue.

Why doesn't Tom Canty have someone hunt for his mother so he can take care of her? Why doesn't he send anyone to search for the real king?

Tom apparently does love his mother, and he even thinks about making her "Duchess of Offal Court" and giving her an estate (115), but he doesn't do that. We read:

While he sat reflecting a moment, a moment, over the ease with which he was doing strange and glittering miracles, a happy thought shot into his mind: why not make his mother Duchess of Offal Court and give her an estate? But a sorrowful thought swept it instantly away: he was only a king in name, these grave veterans and great nobles were his masters; to them his mother was only the creature of a diseased mind; they would simply listen to his project with unbelieving ears, then send for the doctor. (115)

Apparently, the same reasoning would apply to his sending people out to search for the real king.

What is your opinion of the use of a whipping-boy to take a royal personage's punishment for him?

We probably think that it is silly, although it probably made sense to the people of the time. You can't whip a prince, so why not hire someone to take his whippings?

As it turns out, the prince in real life did have a whipping-boy, although Mark Twain was not aware of it — although Twain was aware that other members of royalty had whipping-boys.

Mark Twain's note on p. 292 says:

James I and Charles II had whipping-boys, when they were little fellows, to take their punishment for them when they fell short in their lessons; so I have ventured to furnish my small prince with one, for my own purposes.

In other words, Mark Twain thought that he was taking literary license when he gave Edward Tudor a whipping-boy. However, in actual fact, this is not literary license because Edward Tudor really did have a whipping-boy. In a note on p. 314, we read:

Mark Twain's note (p. 292) shows that he was unaware that Edward Tudor was also said to have had a whipping boy, identified as Barnaby Fitzpatrick (1535?-1581), a schoolmate and close friend.

Does the whipping-boy have a good job? Does he think so?

We would say that it is a horrible job, but it feeds the whipping boy's family, so he does not want to lose his job.

Of course, that does not mean that the whipping-boy enjoys being whipped. In fact, he asks the new king to excuse him from being whipped — as everyone is in mourning for the death of King Henry VIII, can't the whipping be skipped for once? Still, the whipping-boy wants to keep his job.

On p. 119, we read:

Seeing Master Humphrey hesitate, Tom encouraged him to go on, saying he was “in the granting mood.”

“Then will I speak it out, for it lieth near my heart. Sith thou art no more Prince of Wales but king, thou canst order matters as thou wilt, with none to say thee nay; wherefore it is not in reason that thou wilt longer vex thyself with dreary studies, but wilt burn thy books and turn thy mind to things less irksome. Then am I ruined, and mine orphan sisters with me!”

“Ruined? Prithee how?”

“My back is my bread, O my gracious liege! if it go idle, I starve. An' thou cease from study mine office is gone, thou'lt need no whipping-boy. Do not turn me away!”

Tom was touched with this pathetic distress. He said, with a right royal burst of generosity —

“Discomfort thyself no further, lad. Thine office shall be permanent in thee and thy line forever.” Then he struck the boy a light blow on the shoulder with the flat of his sword, exclaiming, “Rise, Humphrey Marlow, Hereditary Grand Whipping-Boy to the royal house of England! Banish sorrow — I will betake me to my books again, and study so ill that they must in justice treble thy wage, so mightily shall the business of thine office be augmented.”

If you are poor, what seems like a bad job to other people can seem like a good job to you. Better to be whipped for a living than for you and your orphaned sisters to be starved.

What use does Tom make of the whipping-boy?

The whipping-boy becomes a good source of information to Tom. He pumps the whipping-boy for information, and as soon as the whipping-boy tells him something, then Tom pretends to remember it.

This subterfuge is so successful that the lord Hertford thinks that the new king is regaining his memory — the lord Hertford asks Tom about dining in public, which is exactly the subject that Tom had asked Humphrey the whipping-boy about. The lord Hertford is pleased by Tom's answers, and so he asks Tom about the Great Seal. Unfortunately, this is something that Tom knows nothing about.

How powerful is Lord Hertford after the death of King Henry VIII?

In history, Edward Tudor (then only nine years old) was proclaimed King Edward VI on January

31, 1547. Of course, no one wants a nine-year-old boy to rule a kingdom, so Lord Hertford is chosen to be lord protector. This makes him England's most powerful man.

CHAPTER 15: TOM AS KING

In general, how good is Tom as King?

Satire: Tom is a better king than Henry VIII.

Tom turns out to be a good king. He sees a crowd of people, wonders what is happening — saying this out loud — and soon someone goes out and brings the people to him to satisfy his curiosity.

The crowd has gathered together because of two crimes for which these people have been convicted and are going to be punished.

By the way Tom deals with these so-called “criminals,” Tom shows that he would make a better king than most people living in his age.

How does Tom deal with Crime #1: Murder by Poison?

A man has been accused of committing murder by poison.

The man has been sentenced to death by being boiled alive.

Tom says that this kind of death sentence shall never be used again. Because he is the king, no one shall ever be boiled alive in England as punishment. Instead, their death shall be more humane.

The man is said to have visited an ill man, and within the hour after he left the ill man, the ill man died with symptoms of poisoning. However, no one ever saw any poison.

One piece of evidence against the man is that a witch foretold the man's death by poison. In fact, the witch described the poisoner — a description that matched the accused (as well as many other people) — and now condemned — man.

Actually, the man was saving the life of a boy at the time — which Tom of his own knowledge realizes is true.

Because Tom is able to vouch that the man was saving a life at the time he is accused of taking a life, Tom knows that the man is innocent, and he sets the man free.

Tom orders that the man be freed. He can't let people know how he knows that the man is innocent (because Tom was a pauper at the time, and so no one would believe him), so he says, “It enrageth me that a man should be hanged upon such idle, harebrained evidence” (129). His audience is impressed with the spirit with which Tom says this. They think that Tom has let a guilty criminal go free, but they think that he acted with the spirit of a king in doing so.

How does Tom deal with Crime #2: Witchcraft?

A woman and her daughter are accused of causing a storm by taking off their stockings. They are said to be able to do this by having sold themselves to the devil.

The evidence for this is lacking. When the woman and young girl sold themselves to the devil,

the only ones there were the two females and the devil.

Many witnesses have proved that a destructive storm did exist.

Tom asked if the woman and child were harmed by the storm. It so happens that they were. Their house was destroyed, and they are homeless.

Tom points out that the woman made so bad a bargain with the devil that she must be insane, and if she is insane, she is innocent of sin.

The daughter is only nine years old, and she is not old enough to enter into legal contracts. Apparently, and inconsistently, she cannot sell herself to an Englishman, although she can sell herself to the devil.

Tom then asks the woman to pull off her stockings so that he can see a storm. If the woman can do so, she and her daughter shall be unharmed. Of course, the woman can't cause a storm. Therefore, Tom decides that she and the daughter must be innocent. After all, any mother would cause a storm — if she could — if doing so would protect her child.

Tom then says that the woman and daughter are free. They will not be harmed. However, if the woman can cause a storm, they shall be free and rich. Although she tries to cause a storm (and pulls off her daughter's stockings as well as her own), she is unable to. Of course, pulling off stockings has nothing to do with storms.

Mark Twain got the idea of people being accused of causing storms by pulling off their stockings from his reading. On p. 293, Mark Twain's note says:

A woman and her daughter, *nine years old*, were hanged in Huntingdon for selling their souls to the devil, and raising a storm by pulling off their stockings!" — *Trumbull's Blue Laws, True and False*, p. 20.

What is the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy?

Post hoc, ergo propter hoc is Latin for "After this; therefore, because of this."

The *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy is a fallacy of false cause. A person erroneously assumes that because one event followed another event, the first event must have caused the second event.

Superstitions are often created by *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* reasoning. For example: I wore blue socks when my favorite team won; therefore, I should wear blue socks every time my favorite team plays so that they continue to win.

What is your impression of the evidence used in courts of law in some civilized countries of this period of history?

The evidence is quite poor.

The evidence is often circumstantial and fallacious. A man visits another man, and later the second man dies. Therefore, the first man must have poisoned the second man. This is a *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy.

This is a superstitious age that believes in witches. Two females pull off their stockings, and then a storm arises. Therefore, the pulling off of the stockings must have caused the storm.

What is your impression of this punishment meted out by law in some civilized countries of this period of history: Boiling to Death?

In this novel, the man accused of murdering another person with poison asks for a boon: to be hung instead of being boiled slowly to death.

In history, some people have actually been punished by being boiled alive — slowly lowered into boiling oil or water. On p. 293, Mark Twain’s note says:

In the reign of Henry VIII, poisoners were, by act of parliament, condemned to be *boiled to death*. This act was repealed in the following reign.

In Germany, even in the 17th century, this horrible punishment was inflicted on coiners and counterfeiters. Taylor, the Water Poet, describes an execution he witnessed in Hamburg, in 1616. The judgment pronounced against a coiner of false money was that he should “be *boiled to death in oil*, not thrown into the vessel at once, but with a pulley or rope to be hanged under the armpits, and then let down into the oil *by degrees*; first the feet, and next the legs, and so to boil his flesh from his bones alive.” — *Trumbull’s Blue Laws, True and False*, p. 13.

Of course, we would say that such a punishment is undeserved. Even a guilty person should not be punished with such a horrible death.

What is your impression of this punishment meted out by law in some civilized countries of this period of history: Being Hung Because of Witchcraft?

Of course, in this novel, as in history, a woman and her nine-year-old were sentenced to be hung because they were convicted of “selling their souls to the devil, and raising a storm by pulling off their stockings!” (293).

Of course, we would say that such a punishment is undeserved. We don’t think that people can cause storms by pulling off their stockings.

Which of the rights in the American Bill of Rights protects us from the abuses of justice practiced in some civilized countries of this period of history?

You can find the Bill of Rights at this WWW site: http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/charters_of_freedom/bill_of_rights/amendments_1-10.html. See also Appendix B in this book.

The most important amendment in this regard is probably Amendment 8, which is against cruel and unusual punishment:

AMENDMENT VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

What is the reaction of the court to Tom’s decisions as king in this chapter?

The reaction of the court is that Tom is showing good sense in his judgments as king. In fact, if Tom is insane, it would do the world good if more kings were insane.

The Earl of Hertford reacts when Tom bans execution by being boiled alive: “The earl’s face showed profound gratification, for he was a man of merciful and generous impulses — a thing not very common with his class in that fierce age” (128).

The court reacts favorably when Tom orders that the man convicted of murdering a person with poison be released. On pp. 129-130, we read (Tom speaks first):

“Let the prisoner go free — it is the king’s will!”

Another blush followed this unregal outburst, and he covered his indecorum as well as he could by adding —

“It enrageth me that a man should be hanged upon such idle, hare-brained evidence!”

A low buzz of admiration swept through the assemblage. It was not admiration of the decree that had been delivered by Tom, for the propriety or expediency of pardoning a convicted poisoner was a thing which few there would have felt justified in either admitting or admiring — no, the admiration was for the intelligence and spirit which Tom had displayed. Some of the low-voiced remarks were to this effect —

“This is no mad king — he hath his wits sound.”

“How sanely he put his questions — how like his former natural self was this abrupt imperious disposal of the matter!”

“God be thanked, his infirmity is spent! This is no weakling, but a king. He hath borne himself like to his own father.”

The air being filled with applause, Tom’s ear necessarily caught a little of it. The effect which this had upon him was to put him greatly at his ease, and also to charge his system with very gratifying sensations.

The elderly members of the court also react favorably when Tom points that the two females accused of witchcraft had made a bad deal with the devil. They had created a storm — but the storm had destroyed their own shelter. On p. 132, we read:

The elderly heads nodded recognition of Tom’s wisdom once more, and one individual murmured, “An’ the king be mad himself, according to report, then is it a madness of a sort that would improve the sanity of some I wot of, if by the gentle providence of God they could but catch it.”

CHAPTER 16: THE STATE DINNER

Why does Tom Canty make a good impression at the state dinner?

Tom Canty makes a good impression at the state dinner for a number of reasons:

- His confidence has been built up by his examination of the people being punished for crimes they did not commit. His ears caught words of praise for him, and that has built up his confidence.
- Tom Canty is used to keeping his hat on while he eats. That is something he and royalty have in common.

- Eating in public is a pleasure compared to the other duties of a king.
- The whipping-boy — and others — have been educating him in what to do at the state dinner.
- He is a good kid, even if he is not royalty.
- Children can adapt wonderfully. Tom has been royalty for only four days, but he is growing used to it. This includes becoming used to his clothes.

Was Mark Twain a reader?

We think of Mark Twain as a kind of a wild man, having many interesting experiences and drinking lots of alcohol while telling lots of stories and doing lots of cussing.

However, we should also realize that he was a great reader. He owned a good library, and he marked up his books and he took notes on his reading. If we look at the notes to this edition, we can see many of the books he used in his research:

David Hume's *History of England*

Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull's *Blue Laws, True and False*

John Timbs' *Curiosities of London*

J. Heneage Jesse's *London: Its Celebrated Characters and Places*

On pp. 301-302 appears a list of Twain's historical sources for this novel. The ones listed above are the ones he quotes in his notes at the end of the novel.

In fact, it was Twain's reading that got him thinking about writing this novel. Twain was shocked by the horrible laws and horrible superstitions of this era, and he wanted to write about them.

CHAPTER 17: FOO-FOO THE FIRST

What happens to Miles Hendon?

Of course, Miles Hendon searches for the king — unsuccessfully. Eventually, the trail grows cold and Miles has to decide what to do. He figures that the king will eventually escape, and when he does he will not go back to his familiar haunts in London because he will not want to be captured again. Instead, he will try to find his benefactor, Miles Hendon, and so he will go to Hendon Hall. Therefore, Miles decides to go to Hendon Hall.

What should we call the boy: the prince or the king?

Of course, now that King Henry VIII is dead, the boy is the king. However, he has not yet been crowned king; indeed, no one thinks that he is a member of the nobility. Nevertheless, he is next in the line of succession. We should now call him king, and I will call him king.

By which means is the king kidnapped?

Of course, the king is tricked. Tom's father waits until Miles Hendon is gone, then he sends a youth to the king with news that he is to come to Miles. Tom's father is disguised, and he

followed the youth and the king. The youth seeks for rags tied to boughs stuck in the ground, which tell him which way to go. When the king grows tired of this and says that it is Miles' place to come to him and not his to go to Miles, the youth tells the king that Miles is wounded. The king is then anxious to go to Miles. Eventually, they arrive at a ruined, decayed barn near a burned-down farmhouse. At that time, Tom's father reveals himself.

How does the king react when he hears that Miles is wounded?

The king is truly concerned about Miles Hendon. He is worried when he hears that Miles is wounded:

The king's manner changed at once. He cried out —

“Wounded? And who hath dared to do it? But that is apart; lead on, lead on! Faster, sirrah! art shod with lead? Wounded, is he? Now though the doer of it be a duke's son, he shall rue it!” (142)

John Canty does not know where Tom's mother and sisters are. What is your guess about what has happened to them?

Chances are, they chose to escape from John Canty, who beat them. Like the king, they chose to escape. Chances are, they separated themselves from John Canty on purpose, and on purpose did not go to London Bridge to meet him.

Where the grandmother is, we do not hear. Because John Canty did not ask about her, she must be with the tramps.

Write a character analysis of the tramps that the king falls in with.

They are all lower class. They are criminals and beggars and such-like people.

They dislike religious people. When Tom's father says that he killed a priest, they all applaud.

They beg, and to get more money, they pretend to be crippled when they are not crippled or they pretend to be blind when they are not blind.

They drink, they swear, they are dirty. They also laugh and sing.

They obey the “Ruffler” — the chief.

How did Black Bess's mother die?

The thieves and beggars respect Black Bess' mother, who was burned as a witch (she read palms and foretold fortunes) and died cursing the people who burned her and the crowd who watched her burn.

What do you think of the way that Black Bess is punished for being a fortune-teller?

The law is harsh. Today, we would hardly burn someone to death because he or she told a fortune. And we would hardly burn someone to death because he or she was a witch.

On pp. 148-149, we read:

“We lost her through it. Her gift of palmistry and other sorts of fortune-telling begot for

her at last a witch's name and fame. The law roasted her to death at a slow fire. It did touch me to a sort of tenderness to see the gallant way she met her lot — cursing and reviling all the crowd that gaped and gazed around her, whilst the flames licked upward toward her face and caught her thin locks and crackled about her old gray head — cursing them, said I? — cursing them! why an' thou should'st live a thousand years thou'dst never hear so masterful a cursing. Alack, her art died with her. There be base and weakling imitations left, but no true blasphemy.”

The Ruffler sighed; the listeners sighed in sympathy; a general depression fell upon the company for a moment, for even hardened outcasts like these are not wholly dead to sentiment, but are able to feel a fleeting sense of loss and affliction at wide intervals and under peculiarly favouring circumstances — as in cases like to this, for instance, when genius and culture depart and leave no heir. However, a deep drink all round soon restored the spirits of the mourners.

What art did Black Bess have that the tramps respect?

They respect well-done cursing and blasphemy. Black Bess was a master of both.

Do the tramps have any art?

The tramps do have art. In addition to Black Bess' profanity and blasphemy, the tramps sing and dance. They also engage in acting, as when they make fun of the king. Making jokes is also another kind of art. Of course, the tramps' art is low, but at least they have it.

What is your opinion of England's laws against begging?

The punishments for begging are harsh:

- 1) If you are caught begging a first time: you are whipped.
- 2) If you are caught begging a second time: your ear is cut off.
- 3) If you are caught begging a third time: you are branded on the cheek and sold into slavery.
- 4) If you are a run-away slave and you are caught, you are hanged.

The note on p. 304 states:

Laws passed under Henry VIII licensed begging by the needy aged and infirm, but severely punished anyone, whether incapacitated or able-bodied, who begged without a license. Punishments included confinement in the stocks, public whipping, the cutting off of ears, and, for repeat offenders, even death.

On p. 149, we read:

“Have any others of our friends fared hardly?” asked Hobbs.

“Some — yes. Particularly new-comers — such as small husbandmen turned shiftless and hungry upon the world because their farms were taken from them to be changed to sheep ranges. They begged, and were whipped at the cart's tail, naked from the girdle up, till the blood ran; then set in the stocks to be pelted; they begged again, were whipped again, and deprived of an ear; they begged a third time — poor devils, what else could

they do? — and were branded on the cheek with a red hot iron, then sold for slaves; they ran away, were hunted down, and hanged. 'Tis a brief tale, and quickly told. Others of us have fared less hardly. Stand forth, Yokel, Burns, and Hodge — show your adornments!”

What happened to make small farmers (husbandmen) beggars?

Many of the small farmers were forced to become beggars because the small farms they rented were made into sheep pastures. The landowners made much money from enclosing the land for sheep pastures, but it caused much hardship for small farmers such as Yokel.

What is Yokel's story?

Yokel's story is powerful. He undergoes all of the punishments given to people who are found to be beggars; indeed, both of his ears were cut off.

What is more, Yokel had to watch his wife die after being whipped in public, and he had to watch his children starve to death.

On pp. 149-151, we read Yokel's story:

“I am Yokel, once a farmer and prosperous, with loving wife and kids — now am I somewhat different in estate and calling; and the wife and kids are gone; mayhap they are in heaven, mayhap in — in the other place — but the kindly God be thanked, they bide no more in *England!* My good old blameless mother strove to earn bread by nursing the sick; one of these died, the doctors knew not how, so my mother was burnt for a witch, whilst my babes looked on and wailed. English law! — up, all, with your cups! — now altogether and with a cheer! — drink to the merciful English law that delivered *her* from the English hell! Thank you, mates, one and all. I begged, from house to house — I and the wife — bearing with us the hungry kids — but it was crime to be hungry in England — so they stripped us and lashed us through three towns. Drink ye all again to the merciful English law! — for its lash drank deep of my Mary's blood and its blessed deliverance came quick. She lies there, in the potter's field, safe from all harms. And the kids — well, whilst the law lashed me from town to town, they starved. Drink, lads — only a drop — a drop to the poor kids, that never did any creature harm. I begged again — begged, for a crust, and got the stocks and lost an ear — see, here bides the stump; I begged again, and here is the stump of the other to keep me minded of it. And still I begged again, and was sold for a slave — here on my cheek under this stain, if I washed it off, ye might see the red S the branding-iron left there! A SLAVE! Do you understand that word? An English SLAVE! — that is he that stands before ye.”

What is your opinion of England's law against run-away slaves?

Yokel continues his story on p. 151: “I have run from my master, and when I am found — the heavy curse of heaven fall on the law of the land that hath commanded it! — I shall hang!”

We learn in the notes on p. 293 and p. 315 that this is an anachronism — the law was not in effect at this time, but was actually passed during the reign of King Edward VI. Here we have an example of literary license.

Why does Yokel call the harsh English laws “merciful”?

They are merciful only in an ironic sense. They are merciful in that they are so harsh that they

kill people, and in this society, it is often better to be dead than to undergo the pain of life.

How does the king come to be crowned King Foo-foo the First, King of the Mooncalves”?

When the king hears how badly Yokel has been treated because he begged, and when he learned that if Yokel is caught, he will be hanged as a runaway slave, he says that Yokel will not be treated badly and the law that would hang Yokel has now come to an end, he draws the attention of the others to himself.

Note that the king, like Tom Canty, is against unjust and cruel laws and would repeal them. The king does not want runaway slaves hanged, and Tom does not want people to be executed by being slowly boiled to death.

When the others find out that he regards himself as King of England, they mock him. The Ruffler of course does not want the king to call himself the King of England, so the vagabonds decide to call him King Foo-foo, King of the Mooncalves.

The vagabonds easily accept that the king is mentally ill. Chances are, they know many mentally ill people.

What is a mooncalf?

A note by Lucy Rollin in the World’s Classics edition of this novel states:

Mooncalves: in the 16th century “mooncalf” referred to an aborted fleshy mass; later it became a term for a born fool. Twain is probably using the term anachronistically.

According to the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Edition, 2000, a mooncalf is “1. A fool. 2. A freak. ETYMOLOGY: Earlier, unformed embryo (from the supposed influence of the moon).”

Write a short character analysis of the Ruffler.

The Ruffler is the leader of the vagabonds.

The Ruffler rules by might. When he feels insulted by John Canty, he knocks him down.

The Ruffler looks out — to some extent — for his people. He doesn’t want the king to call himself the King of England. That could draw unwanted attention to him and to the people with him.

The Ruffler may be patriotic — I will have to think about that. He does lead the vagabonds in the cheer, “LONG LIVE, EDWARD, KING OF ENGLAND!” (152).

What is a Ruffler?

On p. 315, a note states,

As Mark Twain knew from Francis Grose’s *Dictionary*, the begging crew, male and female, was divided into 23 distinct castes, with the “rufflers” being the first in that hierarchy.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* gives these definitions of “ruffler”:

1. One of a class of vagabonds prevalent in the 16th century. Obs.
2. One who makes much stir or display; a proud swaggering or arrogant fellow.

CHAPTER 18: THE PRINCE WITH THE TRAMPS

The tramps are in a bad mood and thirsty. Why?

All of the tramps seem to like alcohol. They are hungover. Hangovers are unpleasant and put people in a bad mood. Hungover people are thirsty because alcohol makes them pee.

How do other people treat the tramps?

Other people are afraid of the tramps.

Other people give the tramps a lot of room when they meet on the road.

The tramps steal linen from hedges (where they have been put to dry) — sometimes in full sight of the linen's owners. No one says anything — they are simply glad that the tramps don't steal the hedges, too.

To get breakfast, the tramps make themselves at home in a farmer's house. They throw bones and vegetables at the farmer and his sons, and they chuck the housewife and her daughters under the chin and make crude comments about them. One daughter objects, so they butter her head. They also say that if a report is made to the authorities that they will burn down the house with the family in it.

Write a short character analysis of Hugo based on what you learn in this chapter.

We may want to say that Hugo is a hard worker. He is both a thief and a beggar, and he definitely plies his trade. First, he looks around to see if anything is worth stealing, but they are in an impoverished part of England, so nothing is in fact worth stealing.

Therefore, Hugo decides to beg. Since he is able-bodied, he runs a con. He pretends to be an epileptic and the brother of the king, and he tells the king to ask for money while Hugo pretends to have an epileptic fit.

Hugo likes the king's spirit, but wants him to do something to make money.

Hugo lies — it is a necessity of life.

Hugo is a miniature John Canty.

Hugo is everything that John Canty wishes that Tom Canty were — a liar, beggar, and thief.

How does the king escape from Hugo?

The king is neither a thief nor a beggar, and he will not assist Hugo in his schemes. When Hugo seems to have an epileptic fit and succeeds in getting three pennies from a man, the king tells the man that Hugo is faking the epileptic seizure and is lying when he says that the king is his brother. He also says that if the man wants to cause a "healing miracle," all he has to do is to hit Hugo, and Hugo will jump up and run away. This is in fact what happens (except that Hugo runs away before the man can hit him).

When Hugo flees, the king makes his escape by running in the opposite direction.

On p. 161, we read:

“[...] If he is not thy brother, who is he, then?”

“A beggar and a thief! He has got your money and has picked your pocket, likewise. An’ thou would’st do a healing miracle, lay thy staff over his shoulders and trust Providence for the rest.”

But Hugo did not tarry for the miracle. In a moment he was up and off like the wind, the gentleman following after and raising the hue and cry lustily as he went. The king, breathing deep gratitude to Heaven for his own release, fled in the opposite direction, and did not slacken his pace until he was out of harm’s reach.

In what way do people judge the king by his clothes?

When the king runs away from the tramps, he stops at a farmhouse hoping to get food, but he is driven away because of the rags he is wearing. Later, in the evening, he tries another farmhouse, but he is treated worse here (called hard names and threatened with arrest) than he was at the first farmhouse.

No doubt many people dressed like him have been thieves. No doubt many hungry, impoverished people wearing poor clothing are forced to steal. Possibly, the people in the farmhouses have little food.

Why do you suppose that Mark Twain wrote the episode about the king being frightened by the calf’s tail?

The king eventually stops at a barn and sleeps there. He does not demand help from the people in the farmhouse (or from the people who were working in the barn) because he has already been driven away from two farmhouses because of the way he is dressed.

It is dark in the barn. The king has some blankets (that have the odor of horses), and in the dark he is frightened because he feels a light touch on his face. Investigating, he discovers that the tail of a calf made the touch, and he sleeps with the calf in order to stay warm.

Mark Twain probably wrote this scene in order for us to feel sympathy for the king. He is just a kid, after all, and very human. He feels the same fears as other people, and he has the same need for the necessities of life: not just shelter, but company:

The king was not only delighted to find that the creature was only a calf, but delighted to have the calf’s company; for he had been feeling so lonesome and friendless that the company and comradeship of even this humble animal was welcome. And he had been so buffeted, so rudely entreated by his own kind, that it was a real comfort to him to feel that he was at last in the society of a fellow creature that had at least a soft heart and a gentle spirit, whatever loftier attributes might be lacking. So he resolved to waive rank and make friends with the calf. (166)

What does it take to make the king content?

The king is hungry, but he finds some contentment in a barn, lying by a calf that keeps him warm

as he sleeps.

On pp. 166-167, we read:

While stroking its sleek warm back — for it lay near him and within easy reach — it occurred to him that this calf might be utilized in more ways than one. Whereupon he rearranged his bed, spreading it down close to the calf; then he cuddled himself up to the calf's back, drew the covers up over himself and his friend, and in a minute or two was as warm and comfortable as he had ever been in the downy couches of the regal palace of Westminster.

Pleasant thoughts came, at once; life took on a cheerfuller seeming. He was free of the bonds of servitude and crime, free of the companionship of base and brutal outlaws; he was warm, he was sheltered; in a word, he was happy. The night wind was rising; it swept by in fitful gusts that made the old barn quake and rattle, then its forces died down at intervals, and went moaning and wailing around corners and projections — but it was all music to the king, now that he was snug and comfortable; let it blow and rage, let it batter and bang, let it moan and wail, he minded it not, he only enjoyed it. He merely snuggled the closer to his friend, in a luxury of warm contentment, and drifted blissfully out of consciousness into a deep and dreamless sleep that was full of serenity and peace. The distant dogs howled, the melancholy kine complained, and the winds went on raging, whilst furious sheets of rain drove along the roof; but the Majesty of England slept on, undisturbed, and the calf did the same, it being a simple creature, and not easily troubled by storms or embarrassed by sleeping with a king.

One good thing about sleeping is that you aren't hungry when you sleep. Russian bass Feodor Ivanovich Chaliapin was hungry early in his life, and he wrote in his autobiography, *Pages from My Life*, that he slept many, many hours a day.

Prince or pauper, people need the necessities of life to survive and to be happy. The king is happy because he is warm, while outside it is cold.

CHAPTER 19: THE PRINCE WITH THE PEASANTS

Why is the rat a good omen?

During the night, a rat curls up on the chest of the king and sleeps there, running around when the king wakes up in the morning. The king regards this as a good sign because it shows that the king's fortunes can go no lower (unless he should die).

On p. 169, we read:

WHEN THE KING awoke in the early morning, he found that a wet but thoughtful rat had crept into the place during the night and made a cosy bed for itself in his bosom. Being disturbed now, it scampered away. The boy smiled, and said, "Poor fool, why so fearful? I am as forlorn as thou. 'Twould be shame in me to hurt the helpless, who am myself so helpless. Moreover, I owe you thanks for a good omen; for when a king has fallen so low that the very rats do make a bed of him, it surely meaneth that his fortunes be upon the turn, since it is plain he can no lower go."

Write a short character analysis of the two peasant girls.

The two peasant girls — Prissy and Margery — are little, trusting, and innocent.

They think that the king is “comely” — that is, good looking (170). They also observe that he wearing rags and that he looks “starved” (170).

They believe that the king is the king because he says that he is the king. If he were to say that he was the king when he was not the king, then he would be lying, and the two little peasant girls don’t think that he would lie.

When they find out how long the king has been without food, they take steps to get him breakfast.

How does a person acquire empathy?

Empathy is the ability to understand the situation and feelings of another person.

The mother is a widow who is “rather poor” (171). Because of these things, “she had seen trouble enough to feel for the unfortunate” (171).

The mother is able to empathize with the king, who is having troubles, because she herself has had troubles.

Experience plays an important role in being able to empathize with another person. If politicians were able to experience the effects of all the laws they pass, they may start passing different kinds of laws. However, because of wealth and high social standing, politicians often don’t experience the troubles that are felt by the common people.

Of course, the king is experiencing the troubles of a pauper. Because of that, he will be able to empathize with the lowest classes, and he will pass better laws when he is crowned King Edward VI.

Education by experience is an important theme of *The Prince and the Pauper*.

Write a short character analysis of the mother of the two peasant girls.

The mother is a widow, and she is poor. Because she has had trouble, she is able to empathize for those who have trouble. She feels pity and empathy for the king.

The mother is clever. She thinks that the king is a young worker who has become mentally ill. She does her best to find out the kind of work the king did before becoming mentally ill. Eventually, she believes that he was a cook in the king’s palace, because he takes an interest in food and knows about fancy dishes.

The mother is not a pushover. She makes the king work — hard — for his breakfast.

The mother sets the king a task — he is supposed to watch the cooking food. Like Alfred the Great, however, he does a poor job of it.

Who was King Alfred the Great and how did he come to help in a kitchen?

Alfred the Great (849-899) was a king of the West Saxons. He was a warrior and a general as well as a king, and once while he was on a military campaign he found refuge at the cottage of a huntsman, whose wife asked him to look after some cakes that she was baking. King Alfred started thinking about his own affairs, forgot about the cakes, and let them burn. The wife of the

hunter scolded him for letting the cakes burn, a criticism that the king took well — he did not order her head chopped off, but instead he watched the cakes very carefully from then on.

Previously, the king ordered Miles Hendon to wait on him as he ate. Why doesn't the king order the peasant family to wait on him as he eats?

The mother shows pity for the king by letting him eat at the table instead of feeding him scraps in a corner like a tramp or a dog. For his part, the king does not object to the family's eating at the table with him — he feels guilty for letting the food begin to burn. Both people show magnanimity to the other.

The king learns to be sorry and to be magnanimous. He feels sorry when he almost lets the breakfast burn, and he magnanimously does not order the peasant family to wait on him while he dines.

In what ways does the king's education continue in this chapter?

The king's education continues. He had thought that cleaning wooden utensils was easy — but when he himself has to do it, he finds that it is difficult. In addition, he learns about the lives of the common people.

The king also learns to honor children because of the two little peasant girls who believed him when he said that he was the King of England:

The king was cheerful and happy, now, and said to himself, "When I am come to mine own again, I will always honor little children, remembering how that these trusted me and believed in me in my time of trouble, whilst they that were older, and thought themselves wiser, mocked at me and held me for a liar." (171)

Why does the king leave the household of the peasants?

Eventually, the king quietly leaves — when John Canty (with a peddler's pack) and Hugo come to the door of the peasant woman's house.

The appearance of John Canty and Hugo is important. Twain is letting the reader know that these characters are still around. They will soon play an important role again in the novel.

CHAPTER 20: THE PRINCE WITH THE HERMIT

Write a short character analysis of the hermit based on what you learn in this chapter.

The hermit appears to be a holy man — he is praying when the king runs across him — but he is not.

The hermit is mentally ill. He thinks that he is an archangel and has been for five years. We have seen that other people think that the king is mentally ill, but the hermit truly is mentally ill. One indication that the hermit is mentally ill is that he believes the king is the king when the king says that he is the king.

In addition, the hermit thinks that the angels promised him 20 years ago that he would be pope.

The hermit welcomes the king at first because he thinks that the king has forsaken worldly things, but the hermit himself actually has not done that. True, the hermit has few material

possessions, but the hermit is eaten up with ambition to be pope just as badly as Macbeth was to be King of Scotland.

The hermit thinks that being pope is better than being an archangel. I'm not sure many people would agree with that.

The hermit is an ascetic who apparently wears a hair shirt next to his skin and who apparently whips (scourges) his body. The hermit drinks only water.

The hermit is an ascetic. Define "ascetic."

Ascetics reject bodily pleasures. They practice self-denial, not allowing themselves things that many people want. By doing this, they think that they will have a better spiritual life.

The hermit is an ascetic who apparently wears a hair shirt next to his skin and who apparently whips (scourges) his body. A hair shirt is a garment made of hair that is worn next to the body. The hair shirt is very uncomfortable and is a way of rejecting the body in favor of the spirit.

Why is the hermit angry at King Henry VIII?

In the note on p. 304, we read:

In blaming Henry VIII for Father Andrew's outcast status, Mark Twain may have had in mind the king's dissolution of monasteries and sale of their lands, carried out in the 1530s and 1540s to supply the royal coffers.

King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, starting with the smaller, less powerful monasteries, and working his way up to the bigger, more powerful monasteries. Much of the wealth of the monasteries ended up in his royal treasury. For example, much of the land owned by the monasteries was sold, with King Henry VIII getting the money. Not surprisingly, the religious in the monasteries wanted the money to go to charity.

In addition, the hermit blames King Henry VIII for his not becoming pope. Apparently, the hermit thinks that if the monasteries had not been dissolved, then he would have become pope.

On p. 183, the hermit says to the sleeping king, who does not hear him, about King Henry VIII, the king's father, "Dost know it was he that turned us out into the world houseless and homeless?"

On p. 184, the hermit makes it clear that he thinks that King Henry VIII is now in Hell:

"His father wrought us evil, he destroyed us — and is gone down into the eternal fires! Yes, down into the eternal fires! He escaped us — but it was God's will, yes it was God's will, we must not repine. But he hath not escaped the fires! no, he hath not escaped the fires, the consuming, un pitying, remorseless fires — and *they* are everlasting!"

And so he wrought; and still wrought; mumbling — chuckling a low rasping chuckle at times — and at times breaking again into words:

"It was his father that did it all. I am but an archangel — but for him, I should be Pope!"

A truly religious person should not be happy that someone is in Hell.

What do you think of the end of this chapter? What more do we learn about the hermit?

It is a cliffhanger. The king's hands and feet are bound, and apparently the hermit will stab him to death at any moment.

On p. 185, we read:

He glided about his hovel, gathering a rag here, a thong there, and another one yonder; then he returned, and by careful and gentle handling he managed to tie the king's ankles together without waking him. Next he essayed to tie the wrists; he made several attempts to cross them, but the boy always drew one hand or the other away, just as the cord was ready to be applied; but at last, when the archangel was almost ready to despair, the boy crossed his hands himself, and the next moment they were bound. Now a bandage was passed under the sleeper's chin and brought up over his head and tied fast — and so softly, so gradually, and so deftly were the knots drawn together and compacted, that the boy slept peacefully through it all without stirring.

We see, of course, is the hermit is not so holy, after all. He is willing to murder an innocent boy because of who the innocent boy's father is.

The hermit is clever, however. The hermit ties up the king's jaws so that he cannot scream for help.

CHAPTER 21: HENDON TO THE RESCUE

Find a couple of instances of good writing in this chapter.

Mark Twain is a very good writer. Of course, we have an interesting plot, interesting characters, and good satire here in this novel; we also have some very good comparisons. For example:

THE OLD MAN glided away, stooping, stealthy, cat-like, and brought the low bench. He seated himself upon it, half his body in the dim and flickering light, and the other half in shadow; and so, with his craving eyes bent upon the slumbering boy, he kept his patient vigil there, heedless of the drift of time, and softly whetted his knife, and mumbled and chuckled; and in aspect and attitude he resembled nothing so much as a grisly, monstrous spider, gloating over some hapless insect that lay bound and helpless in his web. (187)

In addition, Mark Twain can write vivid dialogue and monologues. For example, Miles Hendon is very colorful when he speaks about being cheated when he buys a donkey for the king and a mule for himself. Actually, he complains only about the mule, so perhaps he made sure that he had a good donkey for the king:

“Wilt ride? Wilt take the wee donkey that's for my boy, or wilt thou fork thy holy legs over this ill-conditioned slave of a mule that I have provided for myself? — and had been cheated in, too, had he cost but the indifferent sum of a month's usury on a brass farthing let to a tinker out of work.” (191)

Why did Miles Hendon buy a donkey?

The donkey is for the king to ride. Miles must be an optimist. Most people would have waited until they had found the king (or the king had found them) before spending money to buy a donkey.

Miles seems to have few possessions with him, so he must not need the donkey to carry a load.

Write a short character analysis of the hermit based on what you learn in this chapter.

We already knew that the hermit was a would-be murderer of the king. This chapter confirms it.

The hermit is certainly a hypocrite. Which Bible verse justifies murdering the king? The hermit must read a Bible that is different from the one I have.

The hermit can lie well and stay cool under pressure. When Miles Hendon arrives and hears a noise that he wishes to investigate, the hermit says that the noise came from outside (it really came from the king, whose jaws are bound). The hermit leaves with Miles to investigate the noise.

As we have already learned, the hermit is insane.

How did Miles learn where the king is?

Miles caught up with John Canty (and Hugo) and made them tell him where the king is — apparently, John Canty and Hugo have been following the king (we remember that John Canty turned up at the peasant woman's house where the king had taken shelter).

How does the hermit trick Miles?

When Miles Hendon arrives at the hermit's hut and hears a noise that he wishes to investigate, the hermit says that the noise came from outside (it really came from the king, whose jaws are bound). The hermit leaves with Miles to investigate the noise. Of course, the hermit is trying — successfully — to lead Miles away from the king.

How is the king rescued?

After the hermit and Miles Hendon leave, Hugo and John Canty open the door of the hermit's hut and rescue the king.

Why do you suppose that John Canty and Hugo want to rescue the king? After all, we are told in the next chapter that they don't like the king.

We are never told specifically why John Canty and Hugo want the king back, but we can guess why:

- The Ruffler may have ordered them to track down and bring back the king.
- If the king can be broken and made to beg or steal, he will bring money to the vagabonds.
- They may think that if the king recovers from his mental illness, then he will beg again. (Of course, they think that the king is Tom Canty, a pauper, who used to beg although he could not be made to steal.)
- They may want him back so that they can exact revenge on him.
- John Canty thinks that the king is his son, and so he may think that he “owns” him.

In what way is the title of this chapter clever, but misleading?

Note the title of this chapter: “Hendon to the Rescue.” It is clever. It leads us to suspect that

Miles Hendon will rescue the king, but actually Hugo and John Canty do.

CHAPTER 22: A VICTIM OF TREACHERY

Who among the vagabonds really dislike the king?

We find out in this chapter that most of the vagabonds like the king, and all of them admire his spirit, but Hugo and John Canty really dislike the king. The king is actually popular among the vagabonds. It is only Hugo and John Canty who really dislike him.

Of course, the other vagabonds make fun of the king, but they probably make fun of almost everyone — except perhaps the Ruffler.

How do Hugo and the king come to fight in this chapter? Who wins the fight?

Hugo visits small indignities upon the king — either when the Ruffler's back is turned or when he can make the indignities look like an accident. For example, he treads upon the king's toes, making it look like an accident. The king ignores it twice, then cudgels Hugo the third time it happens.

Hugo cannot fight well with a cudgel against the king. The king has been trained in man-to-man combat, and Hugo is no match for him.

What is the king's new title after the old title, "Foo-foo the First, King of the Mooncalves," is retired?

Out of respect for the king's fighting prowess, the vagabonds give him a new title: King of the Game-Cocks.

And out of respect for him, they retire the old, insulting title: Foo-foo the First, King of the Mooncalves.

Is the king serviceable to the vagabonds?

The king is not serviceable to the vagabonds, although the Ruffler would like him to be:

- Asked to steal from a kitchen, he tries to rouse the residents instead.
- Asked to work with a tinker, he won't help but instead tries to run away. He also threatens the tinker with the tinker's own soldering-iron.
- Asked to beg with a woman and her "diseased baby" (195), he won't.

How do Hugo and the tinker attempt to make the king beg? Who rescues the king?

Hugo and the tinker hold the king down and put a clime on his leg to create an artificial sore that will come in handy for begging.

By the way, it is Yokel who rescues the king. He keeps the poultice from creating a clime on the king's leg, and he reports the affair to the Ruffler.

What is a clime?

On pp. 195-196, we read:

In pursuance of the first plan [forcing the king to beg], he [Hugo] purposed to put a “clime” upon the king’s leg; rightly judging that that would mortify him to the last and perfect degree; and as soon as the clime should operate, he meant to get Canty’s help, and *force* the king to expose his leg in the highway and beg for alms. “Clime” was the cant term for a sore, artificially created. To make a clime, the operator made a paste or poultice of unslaked lime, soap, and the rust of old iron, and spread it upon a piece of leather, which was then bound tightly upon the leg. This would presently fret off the skin, and make the flesh raw and angry-looking; blood was then rubbed upon the limb, which, being fully dried, took on a dark and repulsive color. Then a bandage of soiled rags was put on in a cleverly careless way which would allow the hideous ulcer to be seen, and move the compassion of the passer-by.

Note: Mark Twain got his information about climes from “The English Rogue,” London, 1665.

If you feel like doing research, write about some other tricks that beggars use to get money while begging.

A modern form of begging is to set up a website and beg for money. Karyn Bosnak did this. She created a website called <SaveKaryn.com> and wrote about her problems with debt. She also asked people to send her money, and many people did. However, we should point out that Karyn is probably actually giving people something for their money: entertainment. Someone reading her website may decide that it is entertaining and send her money as a reward for writing it. She wrote the book *Save Karyn: One Shopaholic’s Journey to Debt and Back* about her experiences. By the way, her website is now <<http://www.prettyinthecity.com/>>.

For more information, see the article “Beggars’ Belief” at <<http://www.maxpc.co.uk/features/default.asp?pagetypeid=2&articleid=16033&subsectionid=736&subsubsectionid=610>>.

How does Hugo get revenge on the king?

Hugo wants revenge. He wants to force the king to beg, then he wants to betray the king into the arms of the law. When forcing the king to beg doesn’t work — and the Ruffler promotes the king to the position of thief — Hugo is overjoyed. It should be easy to betray the king into the clutches of the law now.

(Note the topsy-turvy ethics of the vagabonds. Becoming a thief rather than a beggar is regarded as a promotion.)

Hugo does just that by stealing a package from a woman, then running away and giving it to the king:

[...] Hugo crept behind the woman, snatched the package, and came running back, wrapping it in an old piece of blanket which he carried on his arm. The hue and cry was raised in a moment by the woman, who knew her loss by the lightening of her burden, although she had not seen the pilfering done. Hugo thrust the bundle into the king’s hands without halting, saying, —

“Now speed ye after me with the rest, and cry ‘Stop thief!’ but mind ye lead them astray.”

The next moment Hugo turned a corner and darted down a crooked alley, — and in another moment or two he lounged into view again, looking innocent and indifferent, and took up a position behind a post to watch results.

The insulted king threw the bundle on the ground; and the blanket fell away from it just as the woman arrived, with an augmenting crowd at her heels; she seized the king's wrist with one hand, snatched up her bundle with the other, and began to pour out a tirade of abuse upon the boy while he struggled, without success, to free himself from her grip.

Hugo had seen enough — his enemy was captured and the law would get him, now — so he slipped away, jubilant and chuckling and wended campwards, framing a judicious version of the matter to give to the Ruffler's crew as he strode along. (198-199)

Write a short character analysis of the king based on what you learn in this chapter.

- The king continues to show a lot of spirit in this section.
- The king does not tolerate for long Hugo's small indignities.
- The king will not beg or rob. When he is put in a kitchen to steal, he alerts the inhabitants of the house. He will not help a tinker. He will not beg with a woman and a child.
- The king keeps trying to escape.
- Eventually, the king is captured. Hugo succeeds in getting the king accused of stealing. Hugo steals something from a woman, covers it with a blanket, runs to the king and gives him the bundle, then runs away. The king throws down the bundle, the blanket falls from it, and the woman recognizes her property. At first, a blacksmith in the crowd wants to punish the king without benefit of the law, but Miles Hendon arrives and says that it is a matter for the law.

How does Miles Hendon save the king from the crowd?

Miles shows up at exactly the right time. The crowd believes that the king stole the package, and a blacksmith wants to punish the king with a beating (199-200), but Miles convinces the blacksmith — with the *flat* of his sword — to let the law have its say.

Is vigilante justice good justice?

Law and the legal system are wonderful inventions. As we can see from this chapter, vigilantes sometimes get their facts wrong.

In the novel *Death Wish*, which became a very successful movie starring Charles Bronson, the author — Brian Garfield — did not want his protagonist to be a hero. By the end of the novel, the protagonist is shooting unarmed teenagers simply because he doesn't like the way they look.

By the way, Mr. Garfield got the idea for the novel when someone vandalized the top of his convertible with a sharp knife. At first, he was thinking, "I'll kill the SOB!" Of course, he calmed down and realized that actually he did not want to fight someone who had a big, sharp knife, but he started thinking about a protagonist who would stay angry and who would act on his anger.

CHAPTER 23: THE PRINCE A PRISONER

What is rhetoric?

Rhetoric is the art and science of using language effectively, in particular to persuade. To do this, one must either know one's audience well or be very lucky.

Is Miles Hendon a good rhetorician at the beginning of this chapter?

Miles Hendon is a good rhetorician in this chapter. At the end of the last chapter, the king had been arrested, and when Miles Hendon arrived to save him, the king gave him an order: "Thou hast lagged sorely, but thou comest in good season, now, Sir Miles; carve me this rabble to rags!" (200).

Of course, carving this rabble to rags would get Miles in a heap of trouble, so he does not want that, so he wants to persuade this boy, whom he thinks is mentally ill, not to order him to do that. Instead, he wants the boy to submit to the law. Of course, at this time Miles does not know what the boy will be accused of, but Miles thinks that whatever it is they will get through it OK. Therefore, Miles tells the boy, "Trust in me — all shall go well in the end" (201).

The king is inclined to rebel at going along with the constable, but knowing that the boy thinks that he is the king, Miles is able to persuade him to go along by telling him this:

"Reflect, sire — your laws are the wholesome breath of your own royalty; shall their source resist them, yet require the branches to respect them? Apparently, one of these laws has been broken; when the king is on his throne again, can it ever grieve him to remember that when he was seemingly a private person he loyally sunk the king in the citizen and submitted to its authority?" (201-202)

This is very intelligent of Miles. He realizes that his audience, the boy, thinks that he is a king, and he tells him that a king ought to respect his own laws. Miles is able to persuade the boy to come along quietly by telling him this.

Of course, Miles is lucky as well as intelligent. He thinks that the boy is mad, but actually, of course, the boy is the king and will be crowned King of England, if all goes well.

Should a king submit himself to his own laws? Should a queen submit herself to her own laws?

I think that no one should be above the law. Bad things happen when someone is above the law. For one thing, as Lord Acton said, "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

In addition, if a person knows that the laws he or she passes will apply also to him or her, he or she is more likely to pass just laws.

Of what is the king ignorant in this chapter? How is he unburdened of his ignorance?

Of course, in this novel the king is learning that many laws in his kingdom are unjust. Right now, because people think that he is a pauper, he is feeling the force of those laws. This helps make him know thoroughly that these laws are unjust, and in the novel when the boy becomes King of England he will get rid of many bad laws and put better laws in their place.

Miles Hendon even tells him that he ought to obey the law — but that is before Miles learns the value of the pig that was stolen.

The king is getting an education concerning one law in this chapter. He learns that petty larceny above the value of twelve pence — or perhaps thirteen pence, ha’penny — is a capital crime in England at that time. A capital crime is a crime that is punished by death.

Note that the king does not know the laws of his own kingdom. Miles and the king are disturbed when they note the value of the pig, but the king is not.

What do you think of the English law and punishment written about in this chapter?

The old woman had stolen from her a dressed pig that cost her three shillings and eightpence. A shilling is worth 12 pence; therefore, the dressed pig is worth 44 pence.

“Dressed” here means prepared for cooking.

At this time, trifling larcenies of thirteen pence ha’penny are capital crimes. In other words, the king can be killed for stealing the pig.

On pp. 293-294, Mark Twain’s Note says:

Death for Trifling Larcenies

When Connecticut and New Haven were framing their first codes, larceny above the value of twelve pence was a capital crime in England — as it had been since the time of Henry I. — Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull’s *Blue Laws, True and False*, p. 13.

The curious old book called “The English Rogue” makes the limit thirteen pence ha’penny, being the portion of any who steal a thing “above the value of thirteen pence ha’penny.”

Note that the judge has no leeway in sentencing. The law says that anyone who is found guilty of stealing something more than thirteen pence, ha’penny, shall be executed. What kinds of mandatory sentencing do we have in the United States?

In the United States, we have mandatory sentencing for certain crimes involving drugs and certain crimes involving guns. Many judges are against mandatory sentencing.

For more information, Google “Mandatory Sentencing.”

Write a short character analysis of the old woman and the judge.

Both are very kind and merciful. When the judge discovers the value of the pig, he dismisses the crowd from the court — only the principals remain — and then tells the woman the law. The old woman is upset — as is the king. No one wants the king to hang for a petty larceny such as this.

As soon as the old woman learns the law, she asks what she can do to keep the king from hanging. The judge suggests that she change the value of the pig — the value has not yet been officially written down. The woman does so.

Later, when the constable “buys” the pig from her for eight pence — a fraction of its real value — the old woman lets him rob her, since she doesn’t want the king to hang — and she doesn’t want to be accused of perjury.

Write a short character analysis of the constable.

Small people exist everywhere. This constable finds a way to cheat and rob a merciful old woman by “buying” the dressed pig for eight pence.

Note that Miles Hendon hears the constable cheat the old woman. That will be important later.

CHAPTER 24: THE ESCAPE

How does Miles Hendon save the king?

Miles Hendon is very clever. He uses what he learned about the constable’s robbing the old woman to free the king. He lets the constable know that he knows what happened, and he says that what happened is a capital crime — basically, the constable did what the old woman had accused the king of doing, which is stealing property above the value of thirteen pence ha’penny.

In doing this, Miles Hendon uses some fake Latin, which he says is the name of the constable’s capital crime.

On p. 210, we read:

“Yes, it hath a name. In the law this crime is called *Non compos mentis lex talionis sic transit gloria Mundi*.”

“Ah, my God!”

“And the penalty is death!”

“God be merciful to me, a sinner!”

“By advantage taken of one in fault, in dire peril, and at thy mercy, thou hast seized goods worth above thirteen pence ha’penny, paying but a trifle for the same; and this, in the eye of the law, is constructive barratry, misprision of treason, malfeasance in office, *ad hominem expurgatis in statu quo* — and the penalty is death by the halter, without ransom, commutation, or benefit of clergy.”

In the notes on p. 316, we read:

Non compos mentis lex talionis sic transit gloria Mundi

Nonsense Latin made by stringing three well-known phrases together — Not of sound mind, the law of retaliation, thus passes away the glory of the world.

ad hominem expurgatis in statu quo

More nonsense Latin: to the man you cleanse, in the existing state.

Which man is more educated: the constable or Miles Hendon?

The constable has no idea what the Latin means.

Miles has at least heard enough Latin to be able to repeat the Latin phrases. Perhaps, as a member of a class above that of the constable, Miles has learned at least some Latin. However, later, when the king writes a note in English, Latin, and Greek, Miles believes that the king does not know how to write Latin or Greek, but is instead writing “meaningless pot-hooks” (223), so perhaps he cannot write Latin. Miles probably knows that the Latin is nonsense (in this context),

but he also know that the constable will not understand it.

Once again, Miles is able to use rhetoric to his advantage. He knows what to say to persuade the constable to release the king.

Of course, Miles is much more educated in ethics than is the constable.

What does Miles Hendon persuade the constable to do?

Miles persuades the constable to do two things:

- 1) Allow the king to escape. The constable will batter down the door to the jail at night and say that Miles took the boy away from by force.
- 2) Return the dressed pig to the woman.

Is the constable likely to return the dressed pig to the woman?

I think that the constable is very likely to return the dressed pig to the woman. I think that Miles has scared him enough that the constable will return the dressed pig. When Miles asks him if he will return the dressed pig, the constable says this, "I will, I will indeed — nor ever touch another, though heaven send it and an archangel fetch it" (210).

In the novel *Don Quixote*, the don will sometimes people to do something, but after he leaves, the people don't do what they promised to do.

CHAPTER 25: HENDON HALL

What happened to Miles after he left with the hermit in chapter 21?

After Miles left with the hermit, the hermit led him all through the woods until he understood that he could not shake Miles from pursuing the king. He then led Miles back to his hut, where he was genuinely surprised to find the king gone. The hermit did lie well, saying that he had expected the king to return by then. Miles stays until he is sure that the king is not going to return, and then he leaves to travel to find the king. When he hears from the king that the hermit had planned to murder him, Miles is sorry that he did not kill the hermit.

What happened to the secondhand suit that Miles Hendon bought for the king when they first met?

Miles Hendon is an optimist. He has been carrying it around with him, sure that he would meet the king again. The king has cast off his rags and is now warm because he is wearing the secondhand suit.

How do we know that Miles Hendon is excited to be returning home after his 10 years' absence?

We know that Miles is excited to be returning home because of the way that he acts and speaks. Mark Twain is showing, not telling. That is what a good writer does.

We read:

During the last day of the trip, Hendon's spirits were soaring. His tongue ran constantly. He talked about his old father, and his brother Arthur, and told of many things which

illustrated their high and generous characters; he went into loving frenzies over his Edith, and was so gladhearted that he was even able to say some gentle and brotherly things about Hugh. (213)

And we read:

It was a fair region, dotted with cottages and orchards, and the road led through broad pasture lands whose receding expanses, marked with gentle elevations and depressions, suggested the swelling and subsiding undulations of the sea. In the afternoon the returning prodigal made constant deflections from his course to see if by ascending some hillock he might not pierce the distance and catch a glimpse of his home. (213)

No one recognizes Miles Hendon in the village. Why not?

In the village, no one recognizes Miles Hendon because he has changed so much in 10 years.

This is an important quotation by Miles Hendon:

“Here is the May-pole, and here the pump — nothing is altered; nothing but the people, at any rate; ten years make a change in people; some of these I seem to know, but none know me.” (214)

What story does Hugh tell about Miles’ death? What has happened to Miles’ father and older brother?

According to Hugh, a letter arrived from overseas six or seven years ago, bearing the news that Miles had died in battle.

Hugh also says that both Miles’ father and older brother (Arthur) had died.

What do we learn about Hugh in this chapter? Can he be trusted?

We learn a little more about Hugh in this chapter. We have already heard from Miles that Hugh is evil. We can certainly believe that in this chapter.

Of course, when we have a choice between believing Miles or believing Hugh, we believe Miles.

Hugh seems to want Hendon Hall — and Edith — for himself.

Hugh is manipulative. He pretends not to recognize Miles.

Some evidence that Hugh is evil is that all the remaining servants — five — are evil. The 22 “leal and honest” (217) servants are gone. By the way, “leal” means honest, trustworthy, and law-abiding.

What can we learn from the way that Edith acts?

We can be a little suspicious of the way Edith acts. She is sad and looks down. When she hears Miles’ voice, she starts slightly, even though a little later — at the urging of her husband, Hugh — she says that she does not recognize Miles.

What motivations does Hugh have to be the way he is?

Hugh has a number of motivations to be the way he is:

1. He is evil. That quite simply is one of his character traits.
2. He wants Edith's money; indeed, Edith has become his wife.
3. Hugh is a younger brother. If Miles is dead, then Hugh is the oldest living brother, and thus he inherits the property of Hendon Hall. If Hugh is a younger brother with a living older brother, then Hugh inherits little.

What is primogeniture?

“Primogeniture” is a term referring to inheritance. According to primogeniture, the oldest son will inherit most of the estate or the entire estate — especially land — of his parents. Daughters and younger sons will inherit little, if anything.

Why can't Miles Hendon prove who he is? In what way are affairs arranged against him?

The importance of fingerprints as a means of personal identification was not known until the 19th century; this novel is set in the 16th century. Therefore, Miles Hendon cannot use fingerprints to prove his identity.

In addition, this society does not have the personal documents such as Passports and Driver Licenses that we have nowadays. (Passports were invented many centuries ago, but did not come into wide use until the 20th century.)

In this society, one proves one's identity through being recognized. If people were to recognize Miles Hendon, then he could claim Hendon Hall as his own.

Unfortunately, Hugh pretends not to recognize Miles. The dishonest servants pretend not to recognize Miles. As we will see, Hugh forces Edith, his wife, to lie and say that she does not recognize Miles.

One way in which Hugh could prove his identity would be through a recognizable scar. That is how Odysseus (Ulysses) is able to reveal his identity to his loyal servants when he returns home to Ithaca after spending 20 years away from home, including 10 years fighting in the Trojan War.

By the way, Iggy Pop used to roll around in broken glass on stage as part of his act — an action that necessitated many, many stitches. When he would tell young ladies who he is, and they didn't believe him, they would tell him, “Show us your scars.”

How does Miles react when Hugh tells him that he married Edith?

Miles attacks Hugh after Hugh tells him:

“The servants know you not, sir. I fear there is some mistake. You have seen that my wife knew you not.”

“Thy *wife!*” In an instant Hugh was pinned to the wall, with an iron grip about his throat. “Oh, thou fox-hearted slave, I see it all! Thou'st writ the lying letter thyself, and my stolen bride and goods are its fruit. There — now get thee gone, lest I shame mine honorable soldiership with the slaying of so pitiful a manikin!” (219-220)

Of course, Miles knows that Hugh is evil. He knows that Hugh wanted to marry Edith because of her wealth.

How does Hugh react to Miles at the end of the chapter? Is Hugh brave?

Hugh is not brave. He does not face Miles by himself. First he orders his unarmed servants to attack Miles, who is armed. Not surprisingly, the servants don't want to do that, although Hugh points out that they outnumber Miles.

Hugh then summons help. He is a big man in the region, and he is able to summon the watch quickly. Miles will be overcome by officers at the end of the next chapter.

CHAPTER 26: DISOWNED

In which way are the positions of Miles Hendon and the king similar?

Miles is in the same position as the king. Their rightful positions have been taken from them.

Do we see a minor error at the beginning of chapter 26 — an inconsistency with what we read at the end of chapter 10?

At the beginning of chapter 26, the king wonders why no one is searching for him. At the end of chapter 10, the king believes that Tom Canty has usurped his position.

In chapter 26, what step does the king take to regain his rightful place?

The king takes the step of writing a letter in English, Latin, and Greek to his uncle, the lord Hertford. He wants Miles Hendon to deliver the letter rather than to worry about Hendon Hall. The king does, however, promise to restore Hendon Hall to Miles eventually — after his own affairs are in order.

Of course, this is a major plot development. Miles absent-mindedly puts the letter in his pocket and forgets about it. He and the king are soon thereafter arrested and placed in prison. The letter will be important later.

Miles apparently cannot read Latin and Greek, and he doesn't think that the king can either. He thinks that the king is scribbling meaningless symbols that are NOT Latin and Greek. Miles does not look in detail at the paper the king writes, however, but merely pockets it without being aware of his act. Later, in chapter 33, he glances at the letter and recognizes the "pot-hooks" (281) written by the king while they were at Hendon Hall.

Miles may not be able to read English, or he may not look at the letter beyond the Latin and Greek that the king writes.

Write a short character analysis of Hugh based on what we learn from Miles in this chapter.

Hugh does not appear in this chapter, so what we learn about him we learn from other characters.

Miles Hendon knows the character of his younger brother well. When the king is musing about a strange thing, Miles misinterprets what he means and says that nothing is strange — Hugh has been "a rascal from his birth" (221). Of course, what the king means is that it is strange that there has been no hue and cry after the missing king of England.

Miles Hendon is able to guess that Edith acted the way she did — saying that she did not know him — because of Hugh's influence:

“How marvelous strange she acted,” he muttered. “I think she knew me — and I think she did *not* know me. These opinions do conflict, I perceive it plainly; I cannot reconcile them, neither can I, by argument, dismiss either of the two, or even persuade one to outweigh the other. The matter standeth simply thus: she *must* have known my face, my figure, my voice, for how could it be otherwise? yet she *said* she knew me not, and that is proof perfect, for she cannot lie. But stop — I think I begin to see. Peradventure he hath influenced her — commanded her — compelled her, to lie. That is the solution! the riddle is unriddled. She seemed dead with fear — yes, she was under his compulsion.” (223)

Write a short character analysis of Hugh based on what we learn from Edith in this chapter.

We learn most about Hugh from his wife, Edith, the beloved of Miles. She has nothing good to say about her husband. Basically, he is a powerful man who can do great harm to Miles. Therefore, she urges Miles to flee.

On pp. 224-225, Edith says:

“I have warned you — I must still warn you, to go hence. This man will destroy you, else. He is a tyrant who knows no pity. I, who am his fettered slave, know this. Poor Miles, and Arthur, and my dear guardian, Sir Richard, are free of him, and at rest — better that you were with them than that you bide here in the clutches of this miscreant. Your pretensions are a menace to his title and possessions; you have assaulted him in his own house — you are ruined if you stay. Go — do not hesitate. If you lack money, take this purse, I beg of you, and bribe the servants to let you pass. O be warned, poor soul, and escape while you may.”

Write a short character analysis of Edith based on what you learn in this chapter. What could make her say the things she does?

Edith does say that she does not recognize Miles as Miles. This, of course, will be explained later, but we can already guess that she says this in an attempt to convince Miles to flee so that he can be safe.

Note that Edith calls herself her husband’s “fettered slave” (224). Fetters are shackles or leg irons. Obviously, Edith does not love her husband.

Also note that Edith says that Miles must be insane, another instance of the theme of insanity in this novel. Of course, Tom Canty is also thought to be insane. Also, of course, the hermit is truly insane.

How does this chapter end?

Edith’s attempt to save Miles fails, and both Miles and the king are arrested and taken to prison.

CHAPTER 27: IN PRISON

What is a simile? Give some examples of similes.

A simile is a comparison of two things that usually uses “like” or “as.”

Examples of similes:

- My love is like a red, red rose.
- She is sly like a fox.
- He is as mad as a hatter.

What excellent simile describing how Miles Hendon feels appears in the first paragraph of this chapter?

Miles Hendon was expecting to be greeted as a long-lost, loved member of the family; instead, he is thrown in prison. Mark Twain excellently describes how Miles feels: “He felt much as a man might who had danced blithely out to enjoy a rainbow, and got struck by lightning” (227).

What is a metaphor? How are metaphors different from similes? Give some examples of metaphors.

Similar to a simile, a metaphor is a comparison of two things, but it does NOT use words such as “like” or “as.”

Examples of metaphors:

- “I got the drunk up [the stairs] somehow. He was eager to help but his legs were rubber....” — Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*
- “My heart is a lonely hunter that hunts on a lonely hill.” — William Sharp, “The Lonely Hunter”

What do you think of the conditions of prison life at this time in England?

The conditions of prison life are poor.

The food is bad. If not for the loyal servant Blake Andrews, the king would go hungry.

The jailer can be bribed. In fact, each night he is bribed to bring in alcohol for those who pay the bribe.

Each night, the prison is loud. Some of the prisoners get drunk and carouse and fight.

The sexes are not segregated. One night, a man beats a woman, and then the jailer beats the man. That night, the two beaten people fill the air with groans.

The prisoners are chained.

Prison life is monotonous.

Write a short character analysis of the old servant Blake Andrews based on what you learn in this chapter.

This old servant is loyal, although at first he appears not to be loyal.

Blake Andrews at first denies that Miles is Miles, and he denounces him. However, as soon as the jailer is gone, and Blake Andrews is alone with Miles, he says that he recognizes him and that he is glad that Miles has returned.

The old servant is useful in bringing food to Miles, who gives the food to the king.

The old servant is also useful in giving news to Miles Hendon.

Why doesn't Blake Andrews publicly proclaim that Miles Hendon has returned to Hendon Hall?

Blake Andrews is afraid to acknowledge that Miles is Miles publicly. Hugh is a powerful and evil man who will get revenge. However, Blake says that if Miles says the word, he will proclaim loudly and publicly that Miles has returned: "I am old and poor, Sir Miles; but say the word and I will go forth and proclaim the truth though I be strangled for it" (229).

Miles tells him not to proclaim loudly and publicly that Miles has returned. It won't help Miles, and it will ruin the old, loyal servant: "No," said Hendon; "thou shalt not. It would ruin thee, and yet help but little in my cause. But I thank thee; for thou hast given me back somewhat of my lost faith in my kind" (230).

Of course, this shows that Miles Hendon is kind.

What news does Blake Andrews bring to Miles Hendon?

Blake Andrews is also useful in bringing news to Miles and the king. Miles learns how Edith and Hugh came to be married — a letter came saying that Miles was dead. Edith did not want to marry Hugh, but eventually she was forced to.

Miles also learns that according to rumor, after her marriage Edith found some early drafts of the letter announcing Miles' death among the effects of Hugh. In other words, Hugh forged the letter announcing that Miles was dead.

What news does the king learn from Blake Andrews?

The king learns that his uncle, Lord Hertford, is now a duke and Lord Protector, and he learns that a coronation is scheduled to take place. He suspects that the pauper boy has taken his place as king.

The king also learns that people think that the king is mad, but improves daily. He also learns that people support the king because he is doing away with the worst English laws.

When the king asks what king Blake Andrews is talking about, the old servant replies:

"What king, indeed! (God-a-mercy, what aileth the boy?) Sith we have but one, 'tis not difficult to answer — his most sacred majesty King Edward the Sixth — whom God preserve! Yea, and a dear and gracious little urchin is he, too; and whether he be mad or no — and they say he mendeth daily — his praises are on all men's lips; and all bless him, likewise, and offer prayers that he may be spared to reign long in England; for he began humanely, with saving the old Duke of Norfolk's life, and now is he bent on destroying the cruelest of the laws that harry and oppress the people." (232-233)

Why do people think that the supposed king "mendeth daily" (232)?

Tom Canty is becoming accustomed to being treated like a king, and he is becoming accustomed to the daily routine at the palace.

In addition, he is getting information from the whipping-boy, and he is reading the book about court etiquette that he found.

What do you think about the two female Baptists written about in this chapter?

First, Mark Twain shows how kind these two women are by showing them interacting with the king. They are able to comfort him. Afterward, Twain shows the horrible punishment that these women suffer.

What do you think of the punishment given to the two female Baptists written about in this chapter?

These women are burned at the stake because of their beliefs. Mark Twain makes their death more horrible by having the two young daughters of one of the women try to die with her.

In a note on pp. 316-317, we read:

Although the Baptist movement was of English origin, it did not begin until the early seventeenth century. In sixteenth-century England, these women would have been Anabaptists, members of a movement that originated in Switzerland. Like the later Baptists, Anabaptists believed in adult, rather than infant, baptism. It was this doctrine, coupled with a call for radical social as well as religious reform, that led to their persecution.

Have Baptists and other religious groups been persecuted in the United States?

Yes, even in the United States Baptists have been persecuted, as have Catholics and pretty much everybody else.

The Puritans faced religious discrimination in Great Britain, so they moved to Massachusetts Bay — where they engaged in discrimination. When the Quakers arrived in Massachusetts Bay in 1655, the Puritans whipped them, put them in prison, and then banished them. After some Quakers returned to Massachusetts Bay, the Puritans passed a law calling for the execution by hanging of any Quaker who had been banished, but returned. The Puritans also banned Catholic priests and sometimes whipped and imprisoned Baptists. James Madison put freedom of religion into the Bill of Rights in order to outlaw such religious discrimination. (Source: J. Edward Evans, *Freedom of Religion*, p. 17.)

Patrick Henry was raised as an Anglican (a member of the Church of England), but he sometimes attended Presbyterian churches in Virginia, where he heard sermons about the meaning of liberty. From 1768-1776, more than 40 Baptist preachers were persecuted by being whipped, fined, and jailed, but Mr. Henry helped them. He represented the Baptist preachers in court, and he often paid their fines with his own money. As a lawyer, he also helped Baptist preachers get the right to preach to Baptist soldiers in the Revolutionary Army. (Source: J. Edward Evans, *Freedom of Religion*, p. 33.)

Why can't Baptists in 21st-century America be punished as the Baptists in this chapter are punished? What right mentioned in the Bill of Rights protects Baptists and members of other religions?

The most important amendment in this regard is Amendment 1, which is about freedom to worship as you wish:

AMENDMENT I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Of course, this establishes the separation of church and state in the United States.

What do you think of the other English laws and punishments written about in this chapter?

1) Petty Larceny

The people accused of petty larceny are punished way too severely for their offense — or supposed offence.

On p. 237, we read:

That same day several prisoners were brought in to remain over night, who were being conveyed, under guard, to various places in the kingdom, to undergo punishment for crimes committed. [...] One of them was a poor half-witted woman who had stolen a yard or two of cloth from a weaver — she was to be hanged for it.

On p. 237, we read:

Another was a man who had been accused of stealing a horse; he said the proof had failed, and he had imagined that he was safe from the halter; but no — he was hardly free before he was arraigned for killing a deer in the king's park; this was proved against him, and now he was on his way to the gallows.

On p. 237, we read:

There was a tradesman's apprentice whose case particularly distressed the king; this youth said he found a hawk, one evening, that had escaped from its owner, and he took it home with him, imagining himself entitled to it; but the court convicted him of stealing it, and sentenced him to death.

In Mark Twain's note on p. 294, we read:

From many descriptions of larceny, the law expressly took away the benefit of clergy; to steal a horse, or a *hawk*, or woolen cloth from the weaver, was a hanging matter. So it was, to kill a deer from the king's forest, or to export sheep from the kingdom. — Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull's *Blue Laws, True and False*, p. 13.

2) Exercising Free Speech: The old lawyer with “honorable scars” (238)

The old lawyer is punished way too severely for his supposed offence. We think that no one ought to be punished harshly for exercising free speech.

On p. 238, we read:

Among these prisoners was an old lawyer — a man with a strong face and a dauntless mien [appearance or manner]. Three years past, he had written a pamphlet against the Lord Chancellor, accusing him of injustice, and had been punished for it by the loss of his

ears in the pillory, and degradation from the bar, and in addition had been fined £3,000 and sentenced to imprisonment for life. Lately he had repeated his offence; and in consequence was now under sentence to lose *what remained of his ears*, pay a fine of £5,000, be branded on both cheeks, and remain in prison for life.

“These be honorable scars,” he said, and turned back his grey hair and showed the mutilated stubs of what had once been his ears.

In Mark Twain’s note on p. 294, we read:

William Prynne, a learned barrister, was sentenced — [long after Edward the Sixth’s time] to lose both his ears in the pillory; to degradation from the bar, a fine of £3,000, and imprisonment for life. Three years afterwards, he gave new offence to Laud, by publishing a pamphlet against the hierarchy. He was again prosecuted, and was sentenced to lose *what remained of his ears*; to pay a fine of £5,000, and to be *branded on both his cheeks* with the letters S. L. (for Seditious Libeler,) and to remain in prison for life. The severity of this sentence was equalled by the savage rigor of its execution. — *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

In the United States, which of the Bill of Rights would protect the old lawyer with “honorable scars” (238)?

Of course, in the United States, Mr. Prynne would be protected by two of the Bill of Rights:

AMENDMENT I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

In addition, these amendments would protect the two Baptist women who were burned at the stake. The women would be able to worship as they please because of the First Amendment, and they would not be burned at the stake because of the Eighth Amendment.

The king is among the common folk of England. What kind of education is he getting? Will this education be useful to him if he ever becomes King of England? What kind of crowned king do you think he will make?

We find out that the king questions many people. This is an attempt to educate himself as king.

We find out that the king has not known the severity of the laws. He thinks that at most the Baptists will be whipped; instead, they are burned at the stake.

On p. 237, we read:

That same day several prisoners were brought in to remain over night, who were being conveyed, under guard, to various places in the kingdom, to undergo punishment for

crimes committed. The king conversed with these, — he had made it a point, from the beginning, to instruct himself for the kingly office by questioning prisoners whenever the opportunity offered — and the tale of their woes wrung his heart.

On p. 238, we read:

The king was furious over these inhumanities, and wanted Hendon to break jail and fly with him to Westminster, so that he could mount his throne and hold out his sceptre in mercy over these unfortunate people and save their lives.

The king vows to reform the laws. On p. 238, he says to the persecuted lawyer,

“None believe in me — neither wilt thou. But no matter — within the compass of a month thou shalt be free; and more, the laws that have dishonored thee, and shamed the English name, shall be swept from the statute books. **The world is made wrong; kings should go to school to their own laws, at times, and so learn mercy.**” (emphasis added)

CHAPTER 28: THE SACRIFICE

How do these titles rank in England: knight, earl, duke? Which is highest? Which is lowest?

Knight is the lowest title of the three. An earl ranks higher than a knight, and a duke ranks higher than an earl.

Miles Hendon is already a knight, as he is Sir Miles. Note that “Sir” goes with the first name, not the last name. Thus, we should call Paul McCartney Sir Paul, not Sir McCartney.

How does Miles Hendon become an earl?

Miles Hendon is subjected to two hours in the pillory because he is supposed to be pretending to be Miles Hendon. This kind of punishment can be severe. For example, someone throws an egg at Miles Hendon and later someone thinks of throwing a dead cat at him. The king protests, but Hugh Hendon suggests that the king be given a lash or two. Miles volunteers to take the lashes — and additional lashes — for the king, and in gratitude that Miles Hendon saved the king the shame of being whipped, the king makes him Miles an earl:

Hendon was removed from the stocks, and his back laid bare; and while the lash was applied the poor little king turned away his face and allowed unroyal tears to channel his cheeks unchecked. “Ah, brave good heart,” he said to himself, “this loyal deed shall never perish out of my memory. I will not forget it — and neither shall *they!*” he added, with passion. While he mused, his appreciation of Hendon’s magnanimous conduct grew to greater and still greater dimensions in his mind, and so also did his gratefulness for it. Presently he said to himself, “Who saves his prince from wounds and possible death — and this he did for me — performs high service; but it is little — it is nothing! — O, less than nothing! — when ’tis weighed against the act of him who saves his prince from SHAME!” (241)

What is the difference between stocks and pillories?

A stock is a wooden board on which are cut semicircles. Two stocks put together can be used to

restrain a prisoner. The semicircles can be used to restrain a person's feet. Also, stocks can be used to restrain a person's hands in addition to his feet.

A pillory is a set of stocks with three circles: two restrain the hands and one restrains the head.

Mark Twain writes that Miles Hendon was "sentenced to sit two hours in the pillory" (239).

Actually, the drawing on p. 240 shows that Miles Hendon's feet are restrained by stocks. This is perhaps the fault of the artist.

Why does the crowd respect Miles Hendon when he is put in the pillory?

The crowd respects Miles Hendon because he protected the king — whom the crowd thinks is a pauper — by taking his lashes for him. Miles Hendon ends up taking a dozen lashes. The king is unable to speak out because Hugh threatens that Miles shall be given six more lashes for each word that the king speaks.

In addition, the crowd would dislike Hugh. We have already heard that he is a cruel landowner. If Hugh is against Miles Hendon, that is a point in Miles' favor.

On pp. 243-244 of *The Prince and the Pauper*, we read:

The dreaded Sir Hugh wheeled his horse about, and as he spurred away, the living wall divided silently to let him pass, and as silently closed together again. And so remained; nobody went so far as to venture a remark in favor of the prisoner, or in compliment to him; but no matter, the absence of abuse was a sufficient homage in itself. A late comer who was not posted, as to the present circumstances, and who delivered a sneer at the "impostor," and was in the act of following it with a dead cat, was promptly knocked down and kicked out, without any words, and then the deep quiet resumed sway once more.

Why is being put in the pillory dangerous?

Someone in the pillory is helpless, unable to defend himself. Anyone who wishes to mock or hurt him or her — and yes, women were pilloried — could do so.

Some unpopular people died of injuries sustained while they were in the pillory.

What do we learn about the pillory from Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*?

On pp. 331-332 of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, we read (the Yankee speaks first and Dowley answers):

"What usually happens when a poor fellow is put in the pillory for some little offence that didn't amount to anything in the world? The mob try to have some fun with him, don't they?"

"Yes."

"They begin by clodding him; and they laugh themselves to pieces to see him try to dodge one clod, and get hit with another?"

"Yes."

“Then they throw dead cats at him, don’t they?”

“Yes.”

“Well, then, suppose he has a few personal enemies in that mob and here and there a man or a woman with a secret grudge against him — and suppose especially that he is unpopular in the community, for his pride, or his prosperity, or one thing or another — stones and bricks take the place of clods and cats presently, don’t they?”

“There is no doubt of it.”

“As a rule he is crippled for life, isn’t he? — jaws broken, teeth smashed out? — or legs mutilated, gangrened, presently cut off? — or an eye knocked out, maybe both eyes?”

“It is true, God knoweth it.”

“And if he is unpopular he can depend on *dying*, right there in the stocks, can’t he?”

“He surely can! One may not deny it.”

In the explanatory notes on p. 473 of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*, we read:

Mark Twain learned from Lecky that “the punishment of the pillory, which was very common, seemed specially adapted to encourage the brutality of the populace, and there are several instances of culprits who perished from the usage they underwent” (1887, 1:549). In chapter 28 of *The Prince and the Pauper*, the mob shows its respect for the pilloried Miles Hendon by not abusing him.

The king does make a reference to “the scourging of an English king with whips” (241). Which king does he mean?

The king is referring to King Henry II, who was scourged with a whip in 1174 at the tomb of Thomas à Beckett because he had wanted Beckett, the Archbishop of Canterbury, dead. Beckett in fact was murdered.

On p. 241, we read:

The king was seized. He did not even struggle, so paralyzed was he with the mere thought of the monstrous outrage that was proposed to be inflicted upon his sacred person. History was already defiled with the record of the scourging of an English king with whips — it was an intolerable reflection that he must furnish a duplicate of that shameful page. He was in the toils, there was no help for him; he must either take this punishment or beg for its remission. Hard conditions; he would take the stripes — a king might do that, but a king could not beg.

CHAPTER 29: TO LONDON

Why does Miles Hendon decide to go to London?

Miles Hendon remembers what he had heard earlier from the loyal servant about King Edward VI being merciful. Therefore, he wants to go to London to see if the king will help him. He does not tell the king this, but when he asks the king where they should go he is very happy to hear the king say, “To London!” (247). Of course, Miles was afraid that the king would not want to go to

London because Miles thinks that the king has always had harsh treatment there, but the king wants to go to England to get his rightful crown.

As a reminder of how Miles Hendon has heard that the king is merciful, remember that on pp. 232-233, we read what Blake Andrews said while visiting Miles in prison:

“What king, indeed! (God-a-mercy, what aileth the boy?) Sith we have but one, ’tis not difficult to answer — his most sacred Majesty King Edward the Sixth — whom God preserve! Yea, and a dear and gracious little urchin is he, too; and whether he be mad or no — and they say he mendeth daily — his praises are on all men’s lips; and all bless him, likewise, and offer prayers that he may be spared to reign long in England; for he began humanely with saving the old Duke of Norfolk’s life, and now is he bent on destroying the cruellest of the laws that harry and oppress the people.”

How do Miles Hendon and the king become separated? Which event are people celebrating?

Many, many people are on London Bridge — getting ready for the coronation that will be held the next day. The crowning of a king is an important event, and so people are celebrating mightily, in part by getting drunk.

Miles and the king are separated in the crush of people after a decaying head falls down and is the cause of a fight.

Note the decaying head — it is part of Twain’s satire of King Henry VIII and of royalty. On pp. 247-248, we read:

The whole journey was made without an adventure of importance. But it ended with one. About ten o’clock on the night of the 19th of February they stepped upon London Bridge, in the midst of a writhing, struggling jam of howling and hurraing people, whose beer-jolly faces stood out strongly in the glare from manifold torches — and at that instant the decaying head of some former duke or other grandee tumbled down between them, striking Hendon on the elbow and then bounding off among the hurrying confusion of feet. So evanescent and unstable are men’s works in this world! — the late good King is but three weeks dead and three days in his grave, and already the adornments which he took such pains to select from prominent people for his noble bridge are falling.

CHAPTER 30: TOM’S PROGRESS

“Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” — Lord Acton. What does this quote mean?

The words mean exactly what they say. If you have lots of power, you will be corrupted by it. If you have absolute power, you will absolutely be corrupted by it.

The pauper now has much power; to what extent is he corrupted by it?

We see evidence of corruption with Tom Canty. In his case, he does not have absolute power. In many ways, he does the bidding of the Lord Protector. However, he does use and abuse some power.

On pp. 249-250, we read:

He ordered my Lady Elizabeth and my Lady Jane Grey into his presence when he wanted to play or talk, and dismissed them when he was done with them, with the air of one familiarly accustomed to such performances. It no longer confused him to have these lofty personages kiss his hand at parting.

He came to enjoy being conducted to bed in state at night, and dressed with intricate and solemn ceremony in the morning. It came to be a proud pleasure to march to dinner attended by a glittering procession of officers of state and gentlemen-at-arms; insomuch, indeed, that he doubled his guard of gentlemen-at-arms, and made them a hundred. He liked to hear the bugles sounding down the long corridors, and the distant voices responding, "Way for the king!"

He even learned to enjoy sitting in throned state in council, and seeming to be something more than the Lord Protector's mouthpiece. He liked to receive great ambassadors and their gorgeous trains, and listen to the affectionate messages they brought from illustrious monarchs who called him brother. O happy Tom Canty, late of Offal Court!

He enjoyed his splendid clothes, and ordered more: he found his four hundred servants too few for his proper grandeur, and trebled them. The adulation of salaaming courtiers came to be sweet music to his ears.

Tom Canty is not entirely corrupted. How does he use his power wisely?

Tom Canty is not entirely corrupted. He gives good and merciful laws to the people of England:

He remained kind and gentle, and a sturdy and determined champion of all that were oppressed, and he made tireless war upon unjust laws. Yet upon occasion, being offended, he could turn upon an earl, or even a duke, and give him a look that would make him tremble. Once, when his royal "sister," the grimly holy lady Mary, set herself to reason with him against the wisdom of his course in pardoning so many people who would otherwise be jailed or hanged or burned, and reminded him that their august late father's prisons had sometimes contained as high as sixty thousand convicts at one time, and that during his admirable reign he had delivered seventy-two thousand thieves and robbers over to death by the executioner, the boy was filled with generous indignation, and commanded her to go to her closet, and beseech God to take away the stone that was in her breast and give her a human heart. (250-251)

Has Tom Canty forgotten the real king and his real family?

Tom Canty has not entirely forgotten the real king and his own real family. However, they intrude on his thoughts less and less often. Tom does not want to remember the real king and his real family because he feels guilty when he remembers them:

Did Tom Canty never feel troubled about the poor little rightful prince who had treated him so kindly and flown out with such hot zeal to avenge him upon the insolent sentinel at the palace gate? Yes; his first royal days and nights were pretty well sprinkled with painful thoughts about the lost prince, and with sincere longings for his return and happy restoration to his native rights and splendors; but as time wore on, and the prince did not come, Tom's mind became more and more occupied with his new and enchanting experiences, and by little and little the vanished monarch faded almost out of his

thoughts; and finally when he did intrude upon them at intervals he was become an unwelcome spectre, for he made Tom feel guilty and ashamed.

Tom's poor mother and sisters traveled the same road out of his mind. At first he pined for them, sorrowed for them, longed to see them; but later, the thought of their coming some day in their rags and dirt, and betraying him with their kisses, and pulling him down from his lofty place and dragging him back to penury and degradation and the slums, made him shudder. At last they ceased to trouble his thoughts, almost wholly. And he was content, even glad; for whenever their mournful and accusing faces did rise before him now, they made him feel more despicable than the worms that crawl. (251-252)

To a great extent, Tom Canty has acted like a great king — certainly he has been more merciful than King Henry VIII. What satiric points could Mark Twain be making here?

I think that clearly, Mark Twain supports a meritocracy over an aristocracy.

Leaders should not be chosen because of who their parents are, but because of their abilities. A pauper boy can rule more wisely than can a person who was born to one day be king.

I think we can agree with this idea. Does anyone want our generals to be chosen by their birth rather than their ability? Does anyone want to be given orders by General Paris Hilton?

However, I think also that Mark Twain would agree that people are corrupted by power. A system of checks and balances can be a good idea. No one should have as much power as a tyrant.

Experience is important. If rich politicians experienced the effects of some of their laws that affect poor people, the rich politicians may choose to pass different, more merciful laws.

Where do things stand at the end of this chapter? How do we know that we are heading very quickly to a resolution of the plot?

We can tell that we are heading to a resolution of the plot for a couple of reasons:

- 1) Obviously, we don't have very many pages left to read in this novel. (Knowing the number of pages left can be regarded as an advantage — or a disadvantage — of reading a book rather than an e-book.)
- 2) The king and the pauper are very close in space. Both are in London, and both are near the building in which the coronation of the king will take place.

On p. 252, we read:

At midnight of the 19th of February, Tom Canty was sinking to sleep in his rich bed in the palace, guarded by his loyal vassals, and surrounded by the poms of royalty, a happy boy; for to-morrow was the day appointed for his solemn crowning as king of England. At that same hour, Edward, the true king, hungry and thirsty, soiled and dragged, worn with travel, and clothed in rags and shreds — his share of the results of the riot — was wedged in among a crowd of people who were watching with deep interest certain hurrying gangs of workmen who streamed in and out of Westminster Abbey, busy as ants; they were making the last preparation for the royal coronation.

CHAPTER 31: THE RECOGNITION PROCESSION

“Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” — Lord Acton. The pauper now has much power; is he corrupted by it?

We have seen that Tom Canty uses his power to fight the unjust laws of England. However, Tom Canty is corrupted to an extent.

The worse thing that he does is to deny his own mother to her face because he does not want to stop being king. However, later, he acknowledges to the Lord Protector that the pauper woman was his mother.

What is an allusion?

Whenever a speaker or writer refers to something from history or mythology and expects the audience to understand what he or she is referring to, the speaker or writer is making an allusion.

In *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain opens the novel with Tom eating forbidden jam. Jam is made of fruit, and so Tom is eating forbidden fruit. Mark Twain wants his audience to understand that he is making a reference to the forbidden fruit of a tree in the Garden of Eden.

Allusions should be regarded as a compliment to the audience. The speaker or writing is assuming that the audience is well educated enough to understand the allusion.

How does Tom’s mother recognize him?

Note that his mother really does know him. At first she looks earnestly at him, but then she knows for sure that this boy is her son because Tom makes a gesture with his palm out facing his mother — a gesture that his mother knows very well.

The words “I do not know you, woman” are an allusion to what famous New Testament story?

It is an allusion to the New Testament story of St. Peter denying Christ three times before a rooster crows. True, Tom Canty denies his mother only once, but the allusion is real. One similarity is that both St. Peter and Tom are sorry for what they did. Another is that they made their denials out of fear. Peter is afraid of being captured and killed, and Tom is afraid that he will be no longer be king.

Where in the Bible does the story of Peter denying Christ three times appear?

The story appears in chapter 22 of the book of Luke in the New Testament. This is the King James version:

47: And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

48: But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

49: When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

50: And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

51: And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

52: Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves?

53: When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

54: Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

55: And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

56: But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

57: And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

58: And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

59: And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen.

60: And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

61: And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice.

62: And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Why is the pauper downcast during parts of the Recognition Procession?

At first, Tom Canty is proud of all the festivity surrounding him. He even wishes at first that two of his companions from his Offal Court days would recognize him. Of course, he knows that if that were to happen, he would cease to be regarded as the king, and so he does not reveal his identity to them.

However, later in the procession the pauper — Tom Canty — denies knowing his own mother, and he feels guilty about it. Note in his favor, however, that he does acknowledge to the Lord Protector that the pauper woman who came out of the crowd was his mother. The Lord Protector, of course, thinks that Tom is mad again.

Previously, the Lord Protector had thought that the king was making much progress and ceasing to be mentally ill. Of course, Tom has made a fair show of being king for a few reasons:

- 1) he mines the whipping-boy for information,
- 2) he has grown accustomed to being treated like a king, and
- 3) he has been studying a book about court etiquette.

CHAPTER 32: CORONATION DAY

What is the stone of Scone?

The stone of Scone is also known as the Stone of Destiny. It is made of sandstone from Scone, Scotland, and on it many Scottish kings — including Macbeth — were crowned. In 1296, King Edward I of England brought it to England, where it became part of the coronation chair for English kings at Westminster Abbey.

How do people at the court react when the real king, who is dressed as a pauper, shows up at the coronation ceremony?

In this chapter, the real king arrives at the coronation, dressed as a pauper boy. He announces during the coronation — just before the crown is placed on Tom Canty's head — that he is the real king. Of course, people denounce him and they try to arrest him, but Tom Canty states clearly that the boy is the real king.

Twain uses humor in this section. Nobody knows which boy is the real king — except for the two boys themselves. (St. John once bows in a direction that is directly in between the two boys. Also, the crowd of supporters moves from one boy to the other depending on which boy is likely to be the true king.)

How does the king prove that he is the true king?

The real king does answer very well all questions put to him. Eventually, the Lord Protector thinks up a way for the real king to prove that he is the real king. That way is to say where the Great Seal is.

Mark Twain handles the plot masterfully in this section. The king names a place — a secret compartment — but the Great Seal is not there. The Lord Protector wants the real king arrested, but Tom Canty helps the real king remember what he has done with it — it is “in an armpiece of the Milanese armor that hangs on the wall” (274).

What has Tom Canty been doing with the Great Seal during the time he has been treated as a prince and king?

After the king has identified where the Great Seal is and has been recognized as the real king, it is found what Tom Canty has been doing all this time he has been pretending to be the king — he has used the Great Seal to crack nuts with. This removes all doubt — everybody knows that Tom Canty is not the real king.

What does the Lord Protector want to be done to Tom Canty?

The Lord Protector says, “Let the small varlet be stripped and flung into the Tower” (275). Of course, the real king stops him.

By the way, a varlet is a scoundrel.

We see that Tom Canty has risen in the world. The Tower of London is used only for high-ranking prisoners. Earlier, in chapter 3, the prince had talked about putting Tom's grandmother in the Tower of London because she beat Tom, but Tom pointed out, “In sooth you forget, sir, her low degree. The Tower is for the great alone” (15).

Why doesn't the king punish the pauper for taking his place?

If not for Tom Canty, the king would not be king. If Tom had wanted, he could have had the real king whipped and thrown back into the streets. Tom could have been king for the rest of his life. Instead, Tom Canty did the right thing and allowed the real king to be crowned.

Also, as we know, it is not Tom Canty's fault that he has been regarded as the rightful king.

We find out later that King Edward VI treats Tom Canty well.

Why didn't the pauper take advantage of the situation and allow the king to remain a pauper and himself to continue being treated as a king?

Tom Canty could have had the real king thrown into the streets or in prison. However, he has a few reasons not to do that:

- 1) Tom Canty is feeling guilty because he has denied knowing his own mother. This guilt makes being a king undesirable.
- 2) Tom Canty is simply a good person. The king was good to him, and Tom Canty does not want to be unjust to him.

What does Miles Hendon do in chapter 32 before he goes to Westminster?

After becoming separated from the king, Miles thinks about a plan of action. He decides to look for the king. He thinks that the king will return to what Miles thinks are his old haunts — the beggarly parts of London. Of course, the king is not there.

Tired and hungry, Miles rests, going to sleep as cannons let him know that the new king is crowned.

CHAPTER 33: EDWARD AS KING

How does Miles Hendon get in the presence of the king?

Miles Hendon decides to see old Sir Humphrey Marlowe so he can borrow some money, get better clothing (and food) and see if the king will right Miles' wrongs. (Alert readers will recognize that Humphrey Marlowe is also the name of the whipping-boy — old Sir Humphrey Marlowe was his late father.)

The whipping-boy sees Miles Hendon, tells him to stay in a recess of the palace wall, then leaves (no doubt to see the king or a close advisor of the king). Miles is discovered there by soldiers, he is searched, the letter is found in his pocket, an officer takes the letter away, then the officer comes back and treats Miles Hendon with great respect. (Miles thinks that the officer is mocking him and that he will be sentenced to death.)

How does Miles Hendon come to learn that the King of England is the supposed mad boy he has been taking care of?

The officer takes Miles Hendon to see the king. Astonished, Miles sees the resemblance to the pauper boy he has been protecting, and to test if the king is his pauper boy, he sits down in the king's presence. Of course, everyone is shocked, but the king says that Miles and Miles' descendants have that right.

And so Miles knows that his pauper boy is the true King of England.

What is Miles Hendon's reaction when he learns that the supposed mad boy is actually the King of England?

Realizing that yes, indeed, this king is the supposed mad boy that he had been protecting, Miles feels embarrassed because he had been boasting about Hendon Hall to a king:

“O, body o’ me! *This* my pauper! this my lunatic! This is he whom *I* would show what grandeur was, in my house of seventy rooms and seven and twenty servants! This is he who had never known aught but rags for raiment, kicks for comfort, and offal for diet! This is he whom *I* adopted and would make respectable! Would God I had a bag to hide my head in!” (284-285)

Miles then remembers his duty and swears allegiance to his king:

Then his manners suddenly came back to him, and he dropped upon his knees, with his hands between the king’s, and swore allegiance and did homage for his lands and titles. Then he rose and stood respectfully aside, a mark still for all eyes — and much envy, too. (285)

Was Tom Canty a good ruler?

Yes, the real king is very pleased with the way that Tom Canty ruled. Of course, the real king is now familiar with the harsh laws of the kingdom because he has experienced them. We have read previously in chapter 27 that the supposed king — Tom Canty — has been getting rid of the harshest laws of the land. This is something that the real king approves of.

On p. 286, we read:

“I have learned the story of these past few weeks, and am well pleased with thee. Thou hast governed the realm with right royal gentleness and mercy.

What happens to Tom Canty?

Only good things. He is reunited with his mother and his sisters. He becomes the King’s Ward, he is given a special suit of clothing to wear, and he has a job and a position at Christ’s Hospital.

On p. 286, the king says to Tom Canty:

“Thou hast found thy mother and thy sisters again? Good; they shall be cared for — and thy father shall hang, if thou desire it and the law consent. Know, all ye that hear my voice, that from this day, they that abide in the shelter of Christ’s Hospital and share the king’s bounty shall have their minds and hearts fed, as well as their baser parts; and this boy shall dwell there, and hold the chief place in its honorable body of governors, during life. And for that he hath been a king, it is meet that other than common observance shall be his due; wherefore, note this his dress of state, for by it he shall be known, and none shall copy it; and wheresoever he shall come, it shall remind the people that he hath been royal, in his time, and none shall deny him his due of reverence or fail to give him salutation. He hath the throne’s protection, he hath the crown’s support, he shall be known and called by the honorable title of the King’s Ward.”

What will happen to the boys of Christ's Hospital?

Because of the prince's experiences in Chapter 4, he now recognizes that the care of young people should include education, not just food, shelter, and clothing. The young people at Christ's Hospital shall now receive an education as well as the bodily necessities of life.

CONCLUSION. JUSTICE AND RETRIBUTION

Why did Edith say that she did not recognize Miles Hendon when he was at Hendon Hall?

Edith's husband, the evil Sir Hugh, threatened to take Edith's life if she said that she recognized Miles Hendon. This threat had no effect on Edith, who did not value her life because she was married to such a monster.

Therefore, Sir Hugh threatened to have Miles killed. Edith did not want Miles to die, so she said that she did not recognize him.

Note that in this chapter we learn that Hugh — who has been stripped of his title and possessions — flees to the continent, then dies, with the result that Miles and Edith get married and live happily together.

What did the king do the night before Coronation Day?

The king frequently tells this story:

As long as the king lived he was fond of telling the story of his adventures, all through, from the hour that the sentinel cuffed him away from the palace gate till the final midnight when he deftly mixed himself into a gang of hurrying workmen and so slipped into the Abbey and climbed up and hid himself in the Confessor's tomb, and then slept so long, next day, that he came within one of missing the Coronation altogether. He said that the frequent rehearsing of the precious lesson kept him strong in his purpose to make its teachings yield benefits to his people; and so, whilst his life was spared he should continue to tell the story, and thus keep its sorrowful spectacles fresh in his memory and the springs of pity replenished in his heart. (288)

What kind of a king does Edward VI make? Has the king's experience among the common people made him a better king?

King Edward VI becomes a just and a merciful king.

Definitely the king's experience among the common people made him a better king. He now knows and has experienced the effects of the laws of England. This makes him a just and merciful king.

On p. 289, we read:

Yes, King Edward VI lived only a few years, poor boy, but he lived them worthily. More than once, when some great dignitary, some gilded vassal of the crown, made argument against his leniency, and urged that some law which he was bent upon amending was gentle enough for its purpose, and wrought no suffering or oppression which any one need mightily mind, the young king turned the mournful eloquence of his great compassionate eyes upon him and answered —

“What dost *thou* know of suffering and oppression? I and my people know, but not thou.”

The reign of Edward VI. was a singularly merciful one for those harsh times. Now that we are taking leave of him, let us try to keep this in our minds, to his credit.

How does King Edward VI balance punishment and mercy as king?

King Edward VI rewards the good, such as Tom Canty and his mother and sisters.

King Edward VI punishes the evil, when he can. He would punish John Canty, Tom’s father, but John Canty cannot be found. He does, however, take Hugh Hendon’s unjustly acquired title and property from him.

King Edward VI sees that Yokel, the farmer who was branded and sold as a slave, is taken care of. The same is true of the lawyer who was in prison for exercising his right of free speech.

King Edward VI provides good homes for the daughters of the two Baptist women he saw burned at the stake.

He saves the boy who had captured the stray hawk and the woman who had stolen a remnant of cloth.

He would — but is too late to — save the man who was convicted of killing a deer in the royal forest.

He shows favor to the judge who showed him mercy when he was convicted of stealing a dressed pig. That judge becomes esteemed.

Both punishment and mercy are important in a well-regulated state. What would happen if a state has an abundance of cruel and unusual punishment? What would happen if a state has an overabundance of mercy?

An abundance of cruel and unusual punishment would make a bad state. People would be unjustly punished.

An overabundance of mercy would also make a bad state. Criminals should be punished, but they should be justly punished.

Aristotle’s mean between extremes will work well here. Punish criminals justly. Don’t give criminals too harsh or too easy a punishment.

Note: It is best to err on the side of mercy. If we can’t agree that someone is guilty, it is better to call them innocent rather than guilty.

King Edward VI died young. Name some other people who would probably have done much more good in their lives had they not died young.

Jesus: 7 – 2 BC/BCE to 26 – 36 AD/CE

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: January 27, 1756 – December 5, 1791

Jane Austen: December 16, 1775 – July 18, 1817

Martin Luther King, Jr.: January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

Robert Kennedy: November 20, 1925 – June 6, 1968

***The Prince and the Pauper* is fiction, of course, so don't cite it in a history paper, but Twain does attempt to make it appear to be nonfiction. How does he do this? (See this chapter and Twain's preface that appears immediately before Chapter 1.)**

One thing that Twain does is to cite historical documents. Sometimes, he quotes historical documents; sometimes, he makes up historical documents and pretends to quote them.

Also, in his conclusion Twain says that the king was fond of telling this story.

In addition, in his paragraph before Chapter 1, Twain says that this is a story that he heard from his father who heard it from his father and so on. He does say that it may be true or it may be false, but the important thing is that it **could** be true.

GENERAL NOTE

What do you think of Mark Twain's GENERAL NOTE at the end of the novel?

This note appears in the Oxford World's Classics edition of this novel (the note is by the editor, Lucy Rollin):

"hideous Blue-Laws of Connecticut"

so named because they were written on blue paper, these laws, begun in New Haven around 1650, regulated church attendance, travel on the Sabbath, clothing, eating and drinking, and many other kinds of public and private behavior. Most of the colonies had such laws by the mid-18th century, but Connecticut's had a reputation for special harshness.

Twain points out that the hideous blue laws are much better than the laws we read about in the novel.

Appendix A: Bibliography

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Appendix B: The Bill of Rights

The Ten Original Amendments: The Bill of Rights.

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789.

Ratified December 15, 1791.

AMENDMENT I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free

exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT II

A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

AMENDMENT III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

AMENDMENT VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

AMENDMENT VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

AMENDMENT VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

AMENDMENT IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

AMENDMENT X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Appendix C: Topics for Papers

- How does the prince's experience among the common people help educate him to become a just king?
- Discuss Mark Twain's criticism of unjust laws in this novel.
- Discuss Mark Twain's satire of royalty in this novel.
- Write a character analysis of one of these characters, or compare and contrast two of these characters: the prince, the pauper, Miles Hendon.
- In *The Prince and the Pauper*, we read about many bad laws. Of course, the society described in this novel did not have the American Bill of Rights. Discuss the bad laws described in *The Prince and the Pauper*. Which rights does the Bill of Rights enumerate that are lacking in this society? (The Bill of Rights appears in Appendix B.)
- Mark Twain himself summarized his purpose in writing this novel in these words:

My idea is to afford a realizing sense of the exceeding severity of the laws of the day by inflicting some of their penalties upon the king himself & allowing him a chance to see the rest of them applied to others — all of which is to account for certain mildnesses which distinguished Edward VI's reign from those that preceded & followed it. (xvi)

American politicians at the higher levels tend not to be poor. What would be the result if American politicians were to experience such things as poverty?

Appendix D: Short Reaction Memos

The questions in this short guide can be used in discussions; however, they can also be used for short reaction memos. For example, I do this at Ohio University. See below for the assignment and sample short reaction memos.

How Do I Complete the Reaction Memo Assignments?

During the quarter, you will have to write a series of short memos in which you write about the readings you have been assigned.

Each memo should be at least 250 words, not counting long quotations from the work of literature. Include a word count for each memo, although that is not normally part of the memo format.

Following the memo heading (To, From, Re, Date, Words), write the question you are answering and the part of the book that the question applies to.

You may answer one question or more than one question. I will supply you with a list of questions that you may answer

Note that a Works Cited list is needed if you use quotations.

For examples from my Great Books courses at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, see the following pages.

To: David Bruce

From: Jane Student

Re: *Odyssey*, Book 12 Reaction Memo

Date: Put Today's Date Here

Words: 323

***Odyssey*, Book 12: Is Odysseus a bad leader?**

This is an important question in the *Odyssey*. After all, Odysseus leads 12 ships and many men to Troy, but the ships are all destroyed and all of his men die and he returns home to Ithaca alone. Who is responsible for the deaths of Odysseus' men? Is Odysseus responsible for their deaths, or do the men bear some responsibility for their own deaths? Many readers prefer Odysseus, the great individualist, to Aeneas, the man who founds the Roman people, but then they realize that all of Odysseus' men died, while Aeneas succeeded in bringing many Trojans to Italy. When readers think of that, they begin to have a greater respect for Aeneas.

From the beginning of the *Odyssey*, this has been an issue. The bard says that the men perished because of the "recklessness of their own ways" (1.8). However, we notice that Odysseus is asleep at odd times. In Book 10, Aeolus gives Odysseus a bag in which the contrary winds have been tied up. This allows Odysseus to sail to Ithaca safely. However, they reach the island and see smoke rising from the fires, Odysseus goes to sleep and his men open the bag, letting the contrary winds escape, and the ship is blown back to King Aeolus' island. Similarly, in Book 12, on the island of the Sun-god, Odysseus is asleep when his men sacrifice the Sun-god's cattle.

It does seem that Odysseus does not bear the blame for his men's death. In many cases, they do perish through their own stupidity. In other cases, of course, they die during war or during adventures, but in those times, Odysseus was with them, and he could have died, too.

One other thing to think about is that Odysseus is telling his own story. Could he be lying? After all, some of the adventures he relates are pretty incredible. (Probably not. The gods vouch for some of what he says.)

Works Cited

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Trans. Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin Books, 1996. Print.

To: David Bruce

From: Jane Student

Re: *Inferno*, Canto 1 Reaction Memo

Date: Put Today's Date Here

Words: 263

***Inferno*, Canto 1**

• **What do you need to be a member of the Afterlife in Dante's *Inferno*?**

To be a member of the afterlife in Hell, you must meet a number of criteria:

- 1) You must be dead.
- 2) You must be an unrepentant sinner.
- 3) You must be a dead, unrepentant sinner by 1300.

Of course, only dead people — with a few exceptions such as Dante the Pilgrim — can be found in the *Inferno*.

Only unrepentant sinners can be found in the *Inferno*. Everyone has sinned, but sinners who repented their sins are found in Purgatory or Paradise, not in the *Inferno*.

Dante set his *Divine Comedy* in 1300, so the characters who appear in it are dead in 1300.

***Inferno*, Canto 1**

• **What does it mean to repent?**

A sinner who repents regrets having committed the sin. The repentant sinner vows not to commit the sin again, and he or she does his or her best not to commit the sin again.

***Inferno*, Canto 1**

• **What is the geography of Hell? In *The Divine Comedy*, where is Hell located?**

Hell is located straight down. We will find out later that when Lucifer was thrown out of Paradise, he fell to the Earth, ending up at the center of the Earth. The center of the Earth is the lowest part of Hell. Lucifer created the Mountain of Purgatory when he hit the Earth.

To: David Bruce

From: Jane Student

Re: *Candide*, Ch. 26-30

Date: Today's Date

Words: 368

Ch. 30: Write a brief character analysis of the old man and his family.

When Candide and his friends meet the old man, the old man is “sitting in front of his door beneath an arbor of orange trees, enjoying the fresh air” (119). The old man basically ignores politics that he cannot influence. Some people have recently been killed in Constantinople, and the old man does not even know their names. However, the old man does enjoy some material things, including good food, and he enjoys hospitality.

The old man invites Candide and his friends to enjoy some refreshments inside his house. They are served with “several kinds of fruit-favored drinks” and “boiled cream with pieces of candied citron in it, oranges, lemons, limes, pineapples, pistachio nuts, and mocha coffee” (119). The old man and his family have an abundance of food, but although Candide wonders if the old man has

an enormous farm, the old man tells him, “I have only twenty acres of land, which my children and I cultivate. Our work keeps us free of three great evils: boredom, vice, and poverty” (119).

From this brief encounter, we learn several things:

- The old man and his family are content — even happy.
- The old man and his family ignore the wars and murders and crimes that happen elsewhere.
- The old man and his family have enough. They work hard on their little farm, and they have plenty of food and good things to eat.
- The old man and his family have only 20 acres, but 20 acres are enough.

Candide and his friends decide to emulate the old man and his family. Each of them begins to work hard on their little farm. Cunegonde learns to make pastry, Paquette begins to embroider, and the old woman does the laundry and repairs the linen. Brother Giroflée becomes a carpenter, and Candide and the others grow “abundant crops” (120). At the end of the short novel, the group of friends seem to have come the closest they can to happiness in a world filled with evil, but it does take an effort on their part. As Candide says in the short novel’s last words, “... we must cultivate our garden” (120).

Works Cited

Voltaire. *Candide*. Trans. Lowell Bair. New York: Bantam Books, 1981. Print.

To: David Bruce

From: Jane Student

Re: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*, Ch. 1-4 Reaction Memo

Date: Put Today’s Date Here

Words: 286

CH. 3: “KNIGHTS OF THE TABLE ROUND”

• What hints do we have of the relationship between Queen Guenever and Sir Launcelot?

Some hanky-panky is going on between Sir Launcelot and King Arthur’s wife, Queen Guenever. Some six or eight prisoners address her, and they tell her that they have been captured by Sir Kay the Seneschal. Immediately, surprise and astonishment are felt by everybody present. The queen looks disappointed because she had hoped that the prisoners were captured by Sir Launcelot.

As it turns out, they were. Sir Launcelot first rescued Sir Kay from some attackers, then he took Sir Kay’s armor and horse and captured more knights. All of these prisoners were actually captured by Sir Launcelot, not by Sir Kay at all.

Two passages let us know that something is going on between Sir Launcelot and Queen Guenever:

1. The first is subtle; she looks disappointed when Sir Kay says that he captured the knights: “Surprise and astonishment flashed from face to face all over the house; the queen’s gratified

smile faded out at the name of Sir Kay, and she looked disappointed ...” (503).

2. The other is much more overt and occurs after Guenever learns that the knight who really captured the prisoners was Sir Launcelot: “Well, it was touching to see the queen blush and smile, and look embarrassed and happy, and fling furtive glances at Sir Launcelot that would have got him shot in Arkansas, to a dead certainty” (503).

Works Cited

Twain, Mark. *Four Complete Novels*. New York: Gramercy Books, 1982. Print.

Appendix E: Mark Twain’s Life

What was Mark Twain’s real name?

Mark Twain’s real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

What is one story of how Mark Twain got his pseudonym?

Of course, a pseudonym is a fictional name. Many writers publish works of literature using a fictional name or pseudonym.

When Sam Clemens was a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River, he liked the words that rivermen called when they measured 12 feet of water. This much water had a depth of two fathoms, so the rivermen called out, “Mark twain.” The phrase meant, “Note that (or mark) there are two (or twain) fathoms of water.” Since two fathoms of water was deep enough to be safe for the steamboat, the pilot could heave a sigh of relief.

Mr. Twain once took his family for a trip on a steamboat, and he stood on the deck listening to the cries of “Mark twain” coming from the rivermen. His daughter Clara came up to him and said, “I have hunted all over the boat for you. Don’t you know they are calling for you?”

Twain scholar Stephen Railton points out that the phrase “Mark twain” can be either good news or bad news. River steamboats needed a certain level of water in order to stay afloat — between 9 ½ and 10 ½ feet. If the water was getting shallower when the person measuring the level of water shouted “Mark twain,” that was bad news. If the water was getting deeper when the person measuring the level of water shouted “Mark twain,” that was good news.

Similarly, in much of Twain’s writing is an ambiguity. His writing can be very funny, but it is also sharply satiric. He uses satire to criticize the bad parts of being human beings. Satire is humorous criticism. The humor makes you laugh, but the criticism can make you cry.

What is the other, less known story of how Mark Twain got his pseudonym?

When Sam Clemens was a newspaper reporter working in the Nevada Territory, he used a variety of pseudonyms, including Mark Twain.

The second story of how he got his pseudonym was that he drank a lot, and he enjoyed drinking a lot although he didn’t have much money. Sam Clemens always ordered two drinks when he walked into the saloon either because he was powerful thirsty, or because he wanted to treat a friend.

Therefore, he opened up a tab in the saloon. When he walked into the saloon, he would call out,

“Mark twain.” This meant, “Mark (or write down) two more drinks on my tab.”

In time, he adopted the pseudonym “Mark Twain.”

Mark Twain and Bill Nye journeyed to Nevada, where the frontiersmen tried to drink them under the table. However, after a night of hard drinking, the only people still conscious were Mr. Twain and Mr. Nye. Finally, Mark Twain told his friend, “Well, Bill, what do you say we get out of here and go somewhere for a drink?”

What does the phrase “mark twain” mean?

The phrase means “note the two.” Of course, many two’s appear in Mark Twain’s writings. The major two that appears in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, and of course another notable two appears in *The Prince and the Pauper*. In *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, another notable two, besides Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, is the King and the Duke.

Which is the best biography of Mark Twain?

The best biography of Mark Twain is probably Justin Kaplan’s *Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Kaplan focuses mainly on Mark Twain and his life in 1865 and after. Of course, 1865 is the year the Civil War (1861-1865) ended.

What happened to Sam Clemens from 1835-1955 (His Birth and Youth)?

On November 30, 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in a very small village named Florida in Missouri. He was the sixth child among seven children, but only three of his siblings survived to become adults. In those days, death during childhood was common because antibiotics and other modern medicines had not been discovered. His older siblings were his brother Orion and his sister, Pamela. He also had a younger brother named Henry. Sam was born when Halley’s Comet was very visible from the Earth.

When Sam was four years old, his family moved to Hannibal, Missouri. This is the village that Mark Twain writes about as St. Petersburg in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. This is where Sam grew up among other children and had many experiences such as exploring a cave that appear in his novels.

As a young schoolboy, Sam got into trouble with his teacher, and she sent him outside to find a switch that she could use to hit him. Young Sam returned with a wood shaving that would definitely not hurt if it were used as a switch.

When Sam was 11, his father, John Marshall Clemens, died of pneumonia acquired while riding in the rain as he sought to be elected to public office to support his family. John was a big dreamer, but his dreams never came to fruition. His businesses tended to fail, and his family was impoverished.

In his book *Roughing It*, Mark Twain wrote:

He left us a sumptuous legacy of pride in his fine Virginia stock and his national distinction, but I presently found I could not live on that alone without occasional bread to wash it down with.

His family needed money, so Sam went to work as a typesetter in printing offices. This, of course, involved working with words, although other people wrote the words.

One important fact of Sam's early life is that Missouri was a slave state. This meant that slaves surrounded Sam when he was growing up, and it meant that people who supported slavery surrounded him when he was growing up. As a result, he accepted slavery when he was young. He once wrote, "In church we were told, 'God approved it. Slavery was a holy thing.'"

However, Sam did see slaves being mistreated — even killed — when he was growing up. He also saw slaves waiting to be taken down the Mississippi River to be sold to plantation owners.

But at the same time he played with young slave children when he was growing up. In addition, he listened to stories told by elderly slaves. In particular, he listened to stories told by an elderly slave named Dan'l, who told him the story about "The Golden Arm," a story that Mark Twain told often during lectures and a story that actor Hal Holbrook tells in his one-man show *Mark Twain Tonight*.

When Sam was 17 or 18 years old, he ran away from Hannibal, Missouri, and he went to New York to see the World's Fair there. He never lived in Hannibal again.

What happened to Sam Clemens from 1855-1865 (Mark Twain is born)?

Sam did return to the Mississippi River, however, becoming a riverboat pilot after being apprenticed under pilot Horace Bixby. He wrote about his time of his life in his fictionalized autobiography titled *Life on the Mississippi*.

As a cub steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River, Mark Twain was taught a valuable, but embarrassing, lesson by an experienced pilot, Mr. Bixby. Mr. Bixby asked Mark if he knew enough to take the steamboat across the next crossing. Aware that there was plenty of water in the channel and no chance of running aground, Mark replied that of course he could, since "I couldn't get bottom there with a church steeple." Mr. Bixby replied, "You think so, do you?" Something in Mr. Bixby's voice shook Mark's confidence, which Mr. Bixby's leaving Mark alone in the pilothouse did nothing to restore. The crossing did not go smoothly. Mark imagined shallow water and reefs everywhere, and eventually had to be rescued by Mr. Bixby, although there was absolutely no danger of grounding the steamboat. After the ordeal, Mr. Bixby told his protégé, "You shouldn't have allowed me or anybody else to shake your confidence Try to remember that. And another thing: when you get into a dangerous place, don't turn coward. That isn't going to help matters any."

Mark Twain told this story in *Life on the Mississippi*: A riverboat pilot named Stephen was out of money and in New Orleans. Aware of Stephen's plight, a steamboat captain offered him the job of piloting a steamboat up the Mississippi — but at a salary of \$125 instead of Stephen's usual salary of \$250. Having no choice, Stephen accepted the offer, but he piloted the boat up the middle of the river so that it had to fight the current instead of seeking the stiller water nearer the shore. Much slower boats sped past the steamboat Stephen was piloting. When the captain remonstrated with Stephen, he replied, "I know as much as any man can afford to know for \$125." On hearing this, the captain raised Stephen's salary to \$250, and Stephen began to make that steamboat fly upstream.

In 1859, Sam received his riverboat license. He served as a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi

River until 1861, when the Civil War broke out.

Sam could have served either the North or the South as a riverboat pilot, but he briefly served as a Confederate irregular on horseback before going west. He wrote about this part of his life in “The Private History of a Campaign that Failed.” Of course, after the Civil War both the North and the South could have been angry at him. The North could have been angry at him because he fought briefly for the South, and the South could have been angry at him because he served only briefly and went West quickly. However, neither side became angry at him. Humor is an excellent way of deflecting anger, and both the North and the South laughed at his explanation of why he went West: He got tired of constantly retreating.

Sam’s older brother, Orion, had been appointed Secretary of the Nevada Territory, and Sam went West with Orion. Many prospectors were searching for and finding silver, which they mined, and Sam was hopeful — or even certain — that he would become rich as a prospector.

Sam never did find silver — or gold — metal. However, he did find lots of humor. The miners amused themselves by telling tall tales, and Sam listened to those stories, and later he retold them in his books. His first important story, “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” is one he heard out West. In Sam’s hands, these stories became silver and gold of a different sort.

Because Sam had no luck as a prospector, he decided to make a living with words. He had been making money by publishing articles — in the form of letters — in newspapers, and he got a job as a reporter at the *Virginia City Enterprise*.

Because Sam had no money, he walked 120 miles to get to his new job.

In her book *Mark Twain in Nevada*, Effie Mona Mack wrote about the cheapness of life in the frontier. In 1863, a man who was shot and died in Virginia City, Nevada, remained under a billiards table from 4 a.m. until noon while frontiersmen continued to shoot billiards above him. The coroner was too busy to come and take away the corpse.

Still, humor existed out West, and Sam provided some of it. Early in 1863, he started using the pseudonym “Mark Twain,” and this is the pseudonym that stuck. Many of his articles were humorous, and the name “Mark Twain” became associated with humor, especially in 1865, when he published “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” the story that made him nationally famous after it was published in the east and in newspapers across the country. The Civil War was over, people were tired of suffering, and they were eager to laugh at Mark Twain’s story.

What happened to Mark Twain from 1865 to 1875 (Sam comes east)?

Mark Twain went East, and in 1867, he took a trip to Europe and the Holy Land. His expenses were paid by a California newspaper for which he worked.

Mark had earlier published a book titled *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and Other Stories*, but the book was badly proofread and did not sell many copies, so he regarded his first real book as *Innocents Abroad*, which was written about his trip to Europe and the Holy Land. This book was his best-selling book during his life — his best-selling novel during his life was *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. *Innocents Abroad* is well worth reading today; in it, Mark Twain criticizes both Europe and the Holy Land. The United States comes off well by comparison.

One other important thing happened to Mark Twain during his trip abroad. He saw an ivory miniature portrait of Olivia Langdon, the sister of fellow traveler Charles Langdon, and he fell in love. Eventually, he married her, but it took some persuasion.

Olivia's family was wealthy, in contrast to Mark Twain's family. She was 10 years younger than he was, and Mark Twain's manners were much rougher than those of Olivia and her family. One of the things that Mark Twain did was to ask her to help him reform. He called her "Livy."

When Mark Twain wanted to marry Olivia Langdon, the daughter of a wealthy family in Connecticut, her father asked him to provide character references. Mr. Twain gave him the names of some prominent men, including ministers, whom he had known in the West. Unfortunately, the men reported that Mr. Twain was "born to be hung" and would end up in a "drunkard's grave." Nevertheless, Mr. Langdon allowed Mr. Twain to marry his daughter, saying, "Take the girl. I know you better than they do."

As you may expect, Mark Twain was a hard man to reform, and his reformation was a work in progress:

- Mark Twain liked to visit neighbors informally — without wearing a collar or tie. This upset his wife, Livy, so Mr. Twain wrapped up a package which he sent to his neighbors along with a note that read: "A little while ago, I visited you for about half an hour minus my collar and tie. The missing articles are enclosed. Will you kindly gaze at them for 30 minutes and then return them to me?"
- Mark Twain enjoyed reading and writing in bed. One day, a reporter was coming over to interview him, so his wife, Livy, said, "Don't you think it would be a bit embarrassing for the reporter — your being in bed?" Mr. Twain replied, "Why, Livy, if you think so, we might have the other bed made up for him."
- Mark Twain believed that vigorous cussing was one of the greatest joys of life; unfortunately, his wife, Livy, disagreed. One morning, Mr. Twain cut himself while shaving, so he vigorously shouted a long stream of cuss words. Livy, in an attempt to shock him, calmly repeated each word he had said. Mr. Twain smiled at his wife, then said, "You know the words, dear Livy, but you don't know the tune."

Mark Twain and Livy got married in 1870, and immediately Mark became a member of the upper class as a result of marrying well. Livy's father even gave them a house in Buffalo, New York. It was a surprise. Mark Twain was expecting to have to stay in a hotel, but instead his father-in-law presented him and Livy with a house. Mark Twain joked that his father-in-law could stay there anytime he wanted to — and he wouldn't have to pay anything, either.

Eventually, Mark Twain and Livy moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where he had built a house. The house was lavish, and it required seven servants to run. Mark Twain had to work very hard to pay the bills. In fact, sometimes he and his family lived in Europe to cut down on living expenses.

Mark Twain was a true original. He lived for years in Hartford, Connecticut, whose most learned citizen was J. Hammond Trumbull. Mr. Twain was very impressed by him — because he knew how to use profanity in 27 languages. While Mr. Twain was living in Hartford, he attended a baseball game at which a boy stole his umbrella. Mr. Twain offered two rewards: \$5 for the

umbrella, and \$200 for the boy's corpse.

What happened to Mark Twain from 1875 to 1885 (productivity and happiness)?

From 1875 to 1885, Mark Twain was at his happiest and his most productive. This is when he published the novels he is most remembered for.

Twain published *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in 1876.

He published *The Prince and the Pauper* in 1881.

He published *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1885.

During this time, a son named Langdon was born, but the child died when he was two years old. Mark Twain felt guilty because he had taken his son out for a ride in a carriage and had not noticed that the furs keeping his son warm had fallen from around his legs. The son died of diphtheria in 1872.

Mark Twain also had three daughters, all of whom he loved deeply. In 1872, Susy was born. As a young girl, she wrote a book, the first sentence of which stated, "We are a very happy family." Daughter Clara was born in 1874, and daughter Jean was born in 1880.

However, Mark Twain needed money. His elaborate house required \$100,000 annually to maintain, and he once wrote in a letter to one of his friends, "My household expenses are something ghastly."

In part because of this, Mark Twain was always in search of ways to make money — lots of money. He invested in many inventions that he hoped would make his fortune, but unfortunately these inventions seldom worked out and ended up costing him money instead of making him money.

What happened to Mark Twain from 1885 to 1895 (bankruptcy)?

Mark Twain wrote two important novels during this time: He published *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* in 1889, and he published *Pudd'nhead Wilson* in 1894.

Unfortunately, much of the money he made was going into keeping his speculative ventures afloat. He invested a fortune into perfecting the Paige typesetting machine, but the machine was never perfected. This machine was supposed to do mechanically what Sam had done as a teenager: set type so it could be printed. (The Duke sets type in one of his scams in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.) Unfortunately, this machine and its failure bankrupted Mark Twain.

In 1894, he found that he was bankrupt, and that he owed \$100,000 — a lot of money now, and a great fortune at the time.

What happened to Mark Twain from 1895 to 1910 (the last 15 years of his life)?

Mark Twain did not stiff his creditors. He got financial advice from Henry Rogers, a Standard Oil executive, and he set out on an around-the-world lecture tour to earn money to pay off all his debts. He did pay off his debts, and in his old age he actually had lots of money.

Mark Twain was a lecturer for a long time. He did not always enjoy it, but the audience did. He was able to draw humor from his life of lecturing:

- Mark Twain understood small print and advertising. One of his advertisements for a lecture tour consisted of the huge words “MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS” followed by the small print “were in contemplation for this occasion, but the idea has been abandoned.” Another of his advertisements read, “The doors open at 7; the trouble begins at 8.”

- While on a lecture tour, Mark Twain got a shave in a local barber shop. The barber knew that he was shaving a stranger, but he didn’t recognize Mr. Twain, so he said, “You’ve come into town at the right time. Mark Twain is lecturing tonight.” When Mr. Twain said that he was planning to attend the lecture, the barber asked if he had bought his ticket yet. Hearing that he had not, the barber said that he would have to stand, as most of the tickets were already sold. Mr. Twain sighed, then said, “That’s my luck. Whenever that fellow gives a lecture, I always have to stand.”

- When Mark Twain was scheduled to speak at a small town, he would often enter a store and ask if people knew about his lecture being scheduled that night. Once he entered a grocery store and asked if there were anything special going on that evening. The grocer replied, “I think there’s a lecture tonight — I’ve been selling eggs all day.”

Of course, Mark Twain was widely loved, and his books were widely loved. He also earned a large amount of respect because he had paid all his debts.

However, Mark Twain suffered in his old age because of deaths in the family.

First Susy died in 1896 of spinal meningitis, an infection. This hit Mark Twain hard. He loved his daughter, and he did not get to see her before she died. The last time he saw her was when he set off on his around-the-world lecture tour. She died at the end of the tour, but before Mark Twain made it home again.

His wife, Livy, died in 1904. For much of the time Mark Twain was not allowed to see her, as the doctors thought that seeing him might excite Livy and that would be bad for her. They often exchanged affectionate notes, however.

His daughter Jean died on December 24, 1909. She had an epileptic seizure when taking a bath and drowned to death.

Mark Twain was often depressed and unhappy at the end of his life. He wrote dark stories such as *The Mysterious Stranger*. Much of his writing remained unfinished and unpublished.

He also worked on his *Autobiography*, which remained unfinished at the time of his death.

Still, Mark Twain retained his humor:

- When Mark Twain was very old, he sometimes would reach for a doorknob but miss it. He then would turn to his secretary and say, “Just practicing.”

- When his wife, Livy, worried that his spending lots of time in bed reading and writing might sap his strength, she had their daughter Clara read him a biographical passage about the poet William Cullen Bryant, who at age 80 was still taking vigorous and invigorating early-morning walks. Mr. Twain said, “Mr. Bryant was wonderful to do those early risings, and all that at eighty. If ever I get to be eighty, I mean to do them, too.”

- When he was even older, and a widower, he built and lived in a house he called Stormfield. Quickly, burglars stole the silverware from the house. Also quickly, Mr. Twain posted this note on the front door of the house: “To the next burglar. There is nothing but plated ware in this house, now and henceforth. You will find it in that brass thing in the dining-room over in the corner by the basket of kittens. If you want the basket, put the kittens in the brass thing.”
- Before he died, he felt ill. Of course, he was widely loved by the reading public, and many fans sent him home remedies in hopes that they would make him feel better. He replied using this letter: “Dear Sir (or Madam). I try every remedy sent to me. I am now on no. 67. Yours is 2,653. I am looking forward to its beneficial results.” In his old age, Mr. Twain was also still capable of savage satire: He advocated the passing of a law that would forbid white people from lynching black people on Christmas.

Mark Twain died on April 21, 1910, of a heart attack. A nation mourned him. Halley’s Comet was visible from the earth that year.

Appendix F: Some Mark Twain Anecdotes

Spelling

When Samuel Langhorne Clemens was a schoolboy, he was very good at spelling and usually won the Friday afternoon spelling bee in his class. However, one Friday he deliberately misspelled a word so a young girl he liked would win. As an adult writer, Mr. Clemens used the pseudonym “Mark Twain.”

Name

Mark Twain’s real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. When he was a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River, he liked the words that rivermen called when they measured 12 feet of water. This much water had a depth of two fathoms, so the rivermen called out, “Mark twain.” The phrase meant, “Note that (or mark) there are two (or twain) fathoms of water.” Since two fathoms of water was deep enough to be safe for the steamboat, the pilot could heave a sigh of relief. Mr. Twain once took his family for a trip on a steamboat, and he stood on the deck listening to the cries of “Mark twain” coming from the rivermen. His daughter Clara came up to him and said, “I have hunted all over the boat for you. Don’t you know they are calling for you?”

Steamboat Pilot

As a cub steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River, Mark Twain was taught a valuable, but embarrassing, lesson by an experienced pilot, Mr. Bixby. Mr. Bixby asked Mark if he knew enough to take the steamboat across the next crossing. Aware that there was plenty of water in the channel and no chance of running aground, Mark replied that of course he could, since “I couldn’t get bottom there with a church steeple.” Mr. Bixby replied, “You think so, do you?” Something in Mr. Bixby’s voice shook Mark’s confidence, which Mr. Bixby’s leaving Mark alone in the pilothouse did nothing to restore. The crossing did not go smoothly. Mark imagined shallow water and reefs everywhere, and eventually had to be rescued by Mr. Bixby, although there was absolutely no danger of grounding the steamboat. After the ordeal, Mr. Bixby told his protégé, “You shouldn’t have allowed me or anybody else to shake your confidence Try to remember that. And another thing: when you get into a dangerous place, don’t turn coward. That

isn't going to help matters any."

Shoddy Contractors

While anchored before Constantinople (an adventure he described in *Innocents Abroad*), Mark Twain read up on the history of the Hellespont, a narrow channel of water over which the Persian king Xerxes ordered a bridge of ships to be built that his armies could cross on their way to attack Greece. The first bridge was destroyed, Mr. Twain writes, so Xerxes ordered the contractors to be rebuked — in other words, he had them beheaded. The second bridge was much more sturdy. According to Mr. Twain, "If our Government would rebuke some of our shoddy contractors occasionally, it might work much good."

Innocents Abroad

While Mark Twain was traveling in Europe (an adventure he wrote about in *Innocents Abroad*), a number of tour guides made his life miserable, so with the help of a few friends, he decided to make the tour guides' lives miserable. For the duration of the trip, Mark Twain and his friends refused to be impressed by anything a tour guide showed them. Once, a tour guide showed them a letter handwritten by Christopher Columbus. One of Mark Twain's friends looked at the letter and complained about the sloppy penmanship, "Why, I have seen boys in America only fourteen years old that could write better than that."

Irritating Tour Guides

While traveling, Mark Twain and his friends tortured irritating tour guides by constantly asking if someone was dead. Thus, when a tour guide showed them a bust of Christopher Columbus, they would ask, "Is he dead?" Once, Mr. Twain and friends visited the Capuchin Cemetery, where the bones of dead monks were used to make arches and other ornaments. One of the exhibitions of the cemetery was the corpse of a monk who had been dead for 150 years. Mr. Twain decided to cut the tour short because he could tell that his friends were tempted to ask, "Is he dead?"

Climbing Stairs

While visiting the cathedral at Milan, Italy, Mark Twain and a friend wished to go aloft. A sacristan told the party "to go up one hundred and eighty-two steps and stop till he came." According to Mr. Twain, "It was not necessary to say stop — we should have done that anyhow. We were tired by the time we got there."

David and Goliath

In *The Innocents Abroad*, Mark Twain wrote about visiting the Mosque of Omar and other interesting sites in the Holy Land. He writes, "Just outside the mosque is a miniature temple, which marks the spot where David and Goliath used to sit and judge the people." In a footnote, Mr. Twain explains, "A pilgrim informs me that it was not David and Goliath, but David and Saul. I stick to my own statement — the guide told me, and he ought to know."

Adam's Grave

While on a trip to the Holy Land, Mark Twain visited the reputed grave of Adam. In *Innocents Abroad*, Mr. Twain writes, "There is no question that he is actually buried in the grave which is pointed out as his — there can be none — because it has never yet been proven that that grave is

not the grave in which he is buried.”

Hotels

Mark Twain once stayed in a hotel where the person before him had signed the register, “Countess X — and suite.” Mr. Twain therefore signed the register, “Mark Twain — and valise.”

Zwei Glas

While traveling abroad, Mark Twain heard of an American student who had struggled to learn German for three whole months, but who had learned to say only “*zwei glas*,” which means “two glasses” (of beer). Still, the student reflected, he had learned those words very thoroughly.

Class Attendance

In his book *A Tramp Abroad*, Mark Twain wrote about the lecture system at Heidelberg, where attendance was not mandatory. Often, only a few students showed up for especially arcane lectures. Mr. Twain told of a lecturer who spoke day after day to an audience consisting of three students. One day, two of the students were away, and only one student showed up for the lecture. The lecturer began his remarks as usual by saying, “Gentlemen,” corrected himself and said, “Sir,” then went on with his lecture.

Learning French

While in San Francisco, Mark Twain undertook to learn French. One day, a Frenchman who knew no English started asking questions of a group Mr. Twain was in. Because Mr. Twain was the only person in the group who had studied French, he listened to the Frenchman. However, before Mr. Twain had said a half-dozen words of French in reply, the Frenchman fainted, possibly from hunger. Mr. Twain said later, “I’ll learn French if it kills every Frenchman in the country.”

Learning German

When Mark Twain decided to take his family to Germany, his family started to study German. He even instructed Rosa, his German maid, to speak only German to his children. His daughter Susy tried to learn the language, but she said to her mother, “I wish Rosa was made in English.”

Language

Mark Twain wrote in *Innocents Abroad* that when he was in Paris, he fell into the trap of thinking that no one around him could speak English. He told a friend, “Dan, just look at this girl — how beautiful she is!” The “girl” turned to him and said, “I thank you more for the evident sincerity of the compliment, sir, than for the extraordinary publicity you have given to it!”

Travel

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things can not be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.” — Mark Twain.

Profanity

Mark Twain believed that vigorous cussing was one of the greatest joys of life; unfortunately, his

wife, Livy, disagreed. One morning, Mr. Twain cut himself while shaving, so he vigorously shouted a long stream of cuss words. Livy, in an attempt to shock him, calmly repeated each word he had said. Mr. Twain smiled at his wife, then said, “You know the words, dear Livy, but you don’t know the tune.”

More Profanity

“When angry, count to four; when very angry, swear.” — Mark Twain.

Yet More Profanity

The Reverend Joseph Twichell taught Mark Twain how to ride a bicycle. When they were taking a bicycle ride one day — Mr. Twain somewhat unsteadily — they came to a large stone in the middle of the road. Mr. Twain headed right toward the rock and didn’t know what to do to avoid hitting it and crashing. Reverend Twichell offered advice, but Mr. Twain replied, “Shut up, Joe. You ride ahead. I’m going to swear like hell in a minute.”

Work

In *Roughing It*, Mark Twain wrote about working as a common laborer in a quartz mill, where he refined silver ore into silver bricks. After a week of backbreaking labor, he went to his employer and said that although he had come to love the work, he felt that he could not continue working without a raise. The employer countered by saying that he was paying Mr. Twain \$10 a week, which he felt was a fair sum, and just how much of a raise did Mr. Twain want? Mark Twain replied that \$400,000 a month, and board, was all he could reasonably ask, considering the hard times. Of course, Mr. Twain was then ordered off the premises of the quartz mill.

Advertising

As the editor of a Western newspaper, Mark Twain once received a letter from one of its readers: “Dear Sir: When I opened my newspaper this morning, there was a spider inside; does this mean good luck or bad for me?” Mr. Twain replied, “Finding a spider in your paper did not mean either good luck or bad luck for you. He was merely looking to see which merchants advertised, so that he could go to the store of one who did not do so, build his web over the door, and remain peaceful and undisturbed for the rest of his days.”

Mark Twain in Nevada

In her book *Mark Twain in Nevada*, Effie Mona Mack wrote about the cheapness of life in the frontier. In 1863, a man who was shot and died in Virginia City, Nevada, remained under a billiards table from 4 a.m. until noon while frontiersmen continued to shoot billiards above him. The coroner was too busy to come and take away the corpse.

Alcohol

Mark Twain and Bill Nye journeyed to Nevada, where the frontiersmen tried to drink them under the table. However, after a night of hard drinking, the only people still conscious were Mr. Twain and Mr. Nye. Finally, Mark Twain told his friend, “Well, Bill, what do you say we get out of here and go somewhere for a drink?”

Rare Women

Women were a rare sight in the western frontier. Mark Twain relates in *Roughing It* that “once in Star City, in the Humboldt Mountains, I took my place in a sort of long, post-office single file of miners, to patiently await my chance to peep through a crack in the cabin and a sight of the splendid new sensation — a genuine, live Woman! And at the end of half of an hour my turn came, and I put my eye to the crack, and there she was, with one arm akimbo, and tossing flapjacks in a frying pan with the other. And she was one hundred and sixty-five years old, and hadn’t a tooth in her head.” (In a footnote, Mr. Twain says that since he is now in a calmer mood, he would knock 100 years off her age.)

No Place for a Presbyterian

Mark Twain, during his travels as a young man, went to Virginia City, Nevada, where a mining boom had brought in saloons, gambling places, and brightly painted women. Mr. Twain said, “It was no place for a Presbyterian, and I did not long remain one.”

Begging

Mark Twain was once down on his luck in San Francisco and almost resorted to begging. Here’s how he tells it: “I remember a certain day in San Francisco, when, if I hadn’t picked up a dime that I found lying in the street, I should have asked someone for a quarter. Only a matter of a few hours and I’d have been a beggar. That dime saved me, and I have never begged — never.”

Snoring

Mark Twain was in a sleeper on a train, snoring loudly, when a porter awoke him to say that his snoring was keeping the other passengers awake. Mr. Twain said that he never snored, but the porter insisted that he had heard him. Mr. Twain replied, “You shouldn’t believe all you hear.”

Traveling by Train

Mark Twain was riding on a train from Hartford, Connecticut, to New York City when a woman asked him if the train would stop at Grand Central Station. Mr. Twain replied, “I hope it will, madam, for if it does not there will be the devil of a smash.”

An Eccentric Friend

Mark Twain was at the races outside London, where he met a friend who had lost all his pocket money gambling and who asked if Mr. Twain would buy him a ticket back to London. “I’m nearly broke myself but I’ll tell you what I’ll do,” Mr. Twain replied. “You can ride under my seat and I’ll hide you with my legs.” The friend agreed, but unknown to the friend, Mr. Twain bought two train tickets. When the train inspector came by to collect the tickets, Mr. Twain handed him the two tickets, then said, “My friend is a little eccentric and likes to ride under the seat.”

Noisy Clocks

Humorist Mark Twain, author of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, once stayed at the home of political cartoonist Thomas Nast, who first used the images of an elephant and a donkey to represent the Republican and the Democratic parties. During the night, Mr. Twain was bothered by the sounds of the Nast family’s clocks, so he got up and stopped all of them. The next morning, everyone overslept. Mr. Twain explained what had happened and stated that the clocks had been working too hard, so they should benefit from a good night’s rest.

Practical Jokes

Mark Twain was addicted to practical jokes — especially when they were jokes he played on other people. One day, when he was looking out the window of an editor's office on the third floor of a building, he noticed a friend of his standing immediately below. Unfortunately for his friend, Mr. Twain had just been made the recipient of the gift of a watermelon by the editor. You can guess what happened to the friend and the watermelon. Still, Mr. Twain reflected, the friend came out ahead because the practical joke spoiled the watermelon, making it unsuitable for eating.

Beds

Mark Twain enjoyed reading and writing in bed. One day, a reporter was coming over to interview him, so his wife, Livy, said, "Don't you think it would be a bit embarrassing for the reporter — your being in bed?" Mr. Twain replied, "Why, Livy, if you think so, we might have the other bed made up for him."

An Interview

Edgar White, a reporter, was once asked to interview Mark Twain on a certain subject. He went to Mr. Twain's hotel close to midnight, and was shown to Mr. Twain's room. Mr. Twain was in bed, reading and smoking. Unfortunately, Mr. Twain announced that he couldn't talk about the reporter's proposed topic, as a contract he had signed forbade it. Mr. White was understandably disappointed and said in that case he had nothing to write about. "I've been in that fix many and many a time," Mr. Twain said. "Now if I were the reporter and you were the man in bed I'd tell how, over the vigorous remonstrances of the clerk I'd come up here in the dead hour of the night and aroused you from a sound sleep to" Mr. White interrupted to point out that that was not the truth — the clerk had politely shown him to the room and Mr. Twain had not been asleep. Mr. Twain sighed, then said, "If you're going to let a little thing like that stand in the way, I'm afraid I can't help you. Good night." Mr. White decided to write an article stating the absolute truth, just as it is related here. The newspaper ran his article under a big headline.

Photograph

A man was repeatedly told that he looked just like Mark Twain, so he finally sent Mr. Twain a photograph and asked if it were a good resemblance. Mr. Twain wrote back, saying that the photograph was such a good resemblance that he was using it instead of a mirror to shave by.

Lecture Tour

While on a lecture tour, Mark Twain got a shave in a local barbershop. The barber knew that he was shaving a stranger, but he didn't recognize Mr. Twain, so he said, "You've come into town at the right time. Mark Twain is lecturing tonight." When Mr. Twain said that he was planning to attend the lecture, the barber asked if he had bought his ticket yet. Hearing that he had not, the barber said that he would have to stand, as most of the tickets were already sold. Mr. Twain sighed, then said, "That's my luck. Whenever that fellow gives a lecture, I always have to stand."

No Visit

Mark Twain wrote a letter to a friend, asking him to visit. The friend wrote back, "God be with you, for I cannot." Mark Twain wrote this note at the bottom of his friend's letter, then sent it

back: “He didn’t come. Next time please send someone we can depend upon.”

Birthday Letter

Some friends of Mark Twain wrote him a humorous letter for his birthday, but then discovered that they did not have his address, because he was so often globetrotting. So the friends addressed the letter: “MARK TWAIN. LORD KNOWS WHERE.” A few months later, one of the friends in the group received a note from Mr. Twain: “HE DID.”

Letters

Sometimes Mark Twain was slow in answering letters. Once a friend wanted a quick reply from Mr. Twain, so he enclosed in his letter some paper and a stamp. Very quickly, a postcard arrived from Mr. Twain: “Thanks for the sheet of writing paper and the stamp. Please send an envelope.”

A Thank-You Letter

In December 1908 Mark Twain received a gift of tobacco and whiskey from some family friends. In his thank-you letter, he wrote, “I had just reformed, but it is not too late to rearrange that.”

Angry Letters

When Mark Twain got angry, he used to write a letter denouncing the person who had made him angry, but he wouldn’t mail the letter right away. He waited three days, and if he was still angry at the end of that time, he mailed the letter. But if he had stopped being angry, he would burn the letter.

An Angry Letter

Mark Twain once wrote this letter to the gas company: “Some day you will move me almost to the verge of irritation by your chuckle-headed Goddamned fashion of shutting your Goddamned gas off without giving any notice to your Goddamned parishioners. Several times you have come within an ace of smothering half of this household in their beds and blowing up the other half by this idiotic, not to say criminal, custom of yours. And it has happened again today. Haven’t you a telephone?”

Jokes

Many people who tell stories have the bad habit of stopping repeatedly to ask the listener if he or she has heard the story before. Henry Irving was one such person. In telling a story to Mark Twain, he stopped three different times to ask if Mr. Twain had heard the story before. Finally, Mr. Twain could stand it no longer and said, “I can lie once, I can lie twice for the sake of politeness, but there I draw the line. I not only heard the story — I invented it.”

Sholom Aleichem

Sholom Aleichem (1859-1916) was a Yiddish humorist. Among the characters he created in his stories were those that became the basis of *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 1906, he came to the United States, where he met Mark Twain, to whom he was introduced as the “Jewish Mark Twain.” Mr. Twain then said that he would like to be introduced in Yiddish to Mr. Aleichem as the “American Sholom Aleichem.”

Introductions

A boy named Pat, comic writer H. Allen Smith's nephew, had a unique way of introducing his uncle to his friends. One of Mr. Smith's many books was on the coffee table, and whenever one of Pat's friends came by, Pat would pick up the book, read one of the blurbs on the cover, then use the blurb as an introduction; for example, "Meet my uncle. He's a screwball" or "Meet my uncle. He's another Mark Twain."

Insults

While in the company of Mark Twain, the French author Paul Bourget insulted all Americans by saying, "When an American has nothing else to do, he can always spend a few years trying to discover who his grandfather was." Mr. Twain replied, "And when all other interests fail for a Frenchman, he can always try to figure out who his father was."

Tobacco

Mark Twain constantly smoked cigars. Sometimes, he visited his friend and fellow novelist William Dean Howells, who declared that after Mr. Twain had stayed with him for a few days, he had to air out his entire house because Mr. Twain smoked from the time he got up to the time he went to bed — and sometimes later. Often, Mr. Howells would go to Mr. Twain's bedroom at night and find him in bed asleep with a lit cigar in his mouth. (According to Mr. Twain, moderate cigar smoking consists of smoking "only one cigar at a time." He also said that the first cigar he had smoked was probably not a good one — "or the previous smoker would not have thrown it away so soon.")

Smoking Cigars

"More than one cigar at a time is excessive smoking." — Mark Twain.

Invitations

Enrico Caruso was multi-talented — in addition to being the best tenor of his time, he was a skilled caricaturist. When Mark Twain invited a number of cartoonists to a dinner, but did not invite him, Mr. Caruso was disappointed and said, "Perhaps he knows me only as a tenor."

Life on the Mississippi

Mark Twain told this story in *Life on the Mississippi*: A riverboat pilot named Stephen was out of money and in New Orleans. Aware of Stephen's plight, a steamboat captain offered him the job of piloting a steamboat up the Mississippi — but at a salary of \$125 instead of Stephen's usual salary of \$250. Having no choice, Stephen accepted the offer, but he piloted the boat up the middle of the river so that it had to fight the current instead of seeking the stiller water nearer the shore. Much slower boats sped past the steamboat Stephen was piloting. When the captain remonstrated with Stephen, he replied, "I know as much as any man can afford to know for \$125." On hearing this, the captain raised Stephen's salary to \$250, and Stephen began to make that steamboat fly upstream.

Money

People thought that Mark Twain received a dollar a word for his writing. Someone once sent him a dollar and requested, "Please send me a word." Mr. Twain wrote back, "Thanks."

“Take the Girl”

When Mark Twain wanted to marry Olivia Langdon, the daughter of a wealthy family in Connecticut, her father asked him to provide character references. Mr. Twain gave him the names of some prominent men, including ministers, whom he had known in the West. Unfortunately, the men reported that Mr. Twain was “born to be hung” and would end up in a “drunkard’s grave.” Nevertheless, Mr. Langdon allowed Mr. Twain to marry his daughter, saying, “Take the girl. I know you better than they do.”

Gifts

Mark Twain married a woman from a wealthy family. Arriving in Buffalo, New York, Mr. and Mrs. Twain were driven to a house, where his new wife told Mr. Twain that house mansion was a gift to them from her father. Mr. Twain shook hands with his father-in-law, then said, “If you ever come to Buffalo, bring your grip [suitcase] and stay all night — it won’t cost you a cent.”

Clothing

Mark Twain liked to visit neighbors informally — without wearing a collar or tie. This upset his wife, Livy, so Mr. Twain wrapped up a package which he sent to his neighbors along with a note that read: “A little while ago, I visited you for about half an hour minus my collar and tie. The missing articles are enclosed. Will you kindly gaze at them for 30 minutes and then return them to me?”

Help Yourself

In his book *Roughing It*, Mark Twain tells a story that was old in 1872. A traveler sat down at a table on which was nothing but mackerel and mustard. The traveler asked, “Is that all there is?” The landlord replied, “*All!* Why, thunder and lightning, I should think there was mackerel enough there for six people.” The traveler said, “But I don’t like mackerel.” The landlord paused a moment, then said, “Oh — then help yourself to the mustard.”

Golf

Mark Twain once golfed with a very bad player who constantly missed the golf ball, striking the ground instead and throwing dust into the air where it settled on Mr. Twain’s hair and clothes, and in his mouth. When the very bad player asked Mr. Twain for his opinion of the golf course, he replied, “The best I’ve ever tasted.”

Hot Soup

Mark Twain once put a spoonful of very hot soup in his mouth, then turned his head and spit it out. He then remarked to his friends, “Some darn fools would have swallowed that.”

Fishing

A man once asked Mark Twain if he had caught any fish lately. Mr. Twain said that he had caught 12 trout the day before. Hearing this, the man said, “Obviously, you don’t know who I am. I am a game warden, and the season for catching trout is over.” Mr. Twain replied, “Obviously, you don’t know who I am. I am the biggest liar in the world.”

Cloves

At one time, people chewed cloves to make their breath smell good. Once, a melancholy man who was depressed by statistics regarding death told Mark Twain, “Do you realize that every time I breathe an immortal soul passes into eternity?” Mr. Twain replied, “Have you ever tried cloves?”

Friends

Mark Twain attended a large dinner where the topic of conversation was Heaven and Hell. Mr. Twain remained quiet — something very uncharacteristic of him. When a woman asked him, “Why don’t you say something? I would like to hear your opinion,” he replied, “Madam, you must excuse me. I am silent of necessity — I have friends in both places!”

Pun

Because of his white hair and large moustache, Mark Twain resembled Melville Fuller, the Chief Justice of the United States. While Mr. Twain was visiting Washington, D.C., a little girl saw him, mistook him for Mr. Fuller, and asked, “Mr. Chief Justice Fuller, won’t you write something for me in my autograph book?” Mr. Twain agreed, wrote “It’s glorious to be full but it’s heavenly to be Fuller,” and then signed his own name.

Autographs

A nine-year-old boy knocked on Mark Twain’s hotel door to get an autograph, not knowing that Mr. Twain was very ill. The boy was about to be sent away when Mr. Twain called from his sickbed and asked that the boy be sent in to see him. He then wrote in the boy’s autograph book, “So live, that when you come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry.”

Mark Twain and a Preacher

Humorist Mark Twain once attended a sermon that he listened to very intently. After church was over, he told the preacher, “I have a book at home that has every word of your sermon in it.” The preacher was astonished because he thought that he had written his sermon without plagiarism. The preacher was also worried because he thought that he had perhaps read a sermon at seminary, then unconsciously plagiarized it while writing his sermon. Therefore, the preacher asked Mr. Twain to send him the book to look at. Mr. Twain did send him the book — it was a dictionary.

Dictionaries

While speaking at a graduation class at a grammar school, Mark Twain awarded one of the students a dictionary. As he gave it to the boy, Mr. Twain said, “This is a very interesting and useful book, my son. I have studied it often but I never could discover the plot.”

Printers

Mark Twain was once upset with the way that the printers of one of his books had changed his punctuation, so he said, “In the beginning God Almighty made men, and then He made damn fools, and when He got His hand in He must have made printers.”

Punctuation

Books should be properly edited and punctuated. When sending a book to his publishers, Mark

Twain added this note: “Gentlemen: ,?!”“ — *’;,: Please scatter these throughout according to your taste.”

Book Shelves

Mark Twain once showed a visitor his library. The visitor commented on the large numbers of books piled everywhere — on the floor, in chairs, everywhere handy. Mr. Twain explained, “It’s next to impossible to borrow shelves.”

Dedication

Mark Twain dedicated his first book — *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and Other Sketches* — to “John Smith” because he had heard that people always buy a copy of any book that is dedicated to them. Mr. Twain wrote, “It is said that the man to whom a volume is dedicated, always buys a copy. If this prove true in the present instance, a princely affluence is about to burst upon the author.”

Publisher

A man had the opportunity to publish Mark Twain’s first book, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and Other Sketches*, but declined it. Years later, the man chanced to meet Mr. Twain, and told him, “I refused a book of yours and for this I stand without competitor as the prize ass of the nineteenth century.”

Lawyers

After Mark Twain had finished a humorous after-dinner speech, a lawyer stood up, put his hands in his pockets, then said, “Doesn’t it strike this company as a little unusual that a professional humorist should be so funny?” Mr. Twain replied, “Doesn’t it strike this company as a little unusual that a lawyer should have his hands in his own pockets?”

Two Important Facts

Before giving a speech, Mark Twain once introduced himself in this way: “I know of only two important facts about the man I am introducing. First, he has never been in a state prison, and second, I can’t imagine why.”

Punishment

As a young schoolboy, Samuel Langhorne Clemens got into trouble with his teacher, and she sent him outside to find a switch that she could use to hit him. Young Samuel returned with a wood shaving that would definitely not hurt if it were used as a switch. Later in life, Samuel became better known to the world as the celebrated humorist Mark Twain.

High Praise

The writer J.I.C. Clarke once introduced Mark Twain and very highly praised the stories Mr. Twain had set in Yuba Dam, saying that they were the best things Mr. Twain had ever written. Mr. Twain then stood up and enthusiastically praised a German girl for 10 minutes — to no point, it seemed. Finally, Mr. Twain said, “Gentlemen, I suppose you are wondering what my story of that German girl has to do with Mr. Clarke’s speech and his reference to Yuba Dam. Well, nothing at all, and that’s just it. I never wrote about Yuba Dam. Mr. Clarke is thinking of

Bret Harte.” Everyone, including an embarrassed Mr. Clarke, laughed, then Mr. Twain and Mr. Clarke shook hands.

Advertising

Mark Twain understood small print and advertising. One of his advertisements for a lecture tour consisted of the huge words “MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS” followed by the small print “were in contemplation for this occasion, but the idea has been abandoned.” Another of his advertisements read, “The doors open at 7; the trouble begins at 8.”

Public Speaking

When Mark Twain was scheduled to speak at a small town, he would often enter a store and ask if people knew about his lecture being scheduled that night. Once he entered a grocery store and asked if there were anything special going on that evening. The grocer replied, “I think there’s a lecture tonight — I’ve been selling eggs all day.”

More Public Speaking

On a voyage, Mark Twain and Chauncey Depew were asked to speak after dinner. Mr. Twain spoke for 20 minutes and was a huge hit with the audience. Mr. Depew then arose and said, “Mr. Toastmaster and Ladies and Gentlemen, before this dinner Mark Twain and I made an agreement to trade speeches. He has just delivered my speech, and I thank you for the pleasant manner in which you received it. I regret to say that I have lost the notes of his speech and cannot remember anything he has to say.” Mr. Depew then sat down to much laughter. The next day a passenger on the ship said to Mr. Twain, “I consider you were much imposed upon last night. I have always heard that Mr. Depew is a clever man, but really, that speech of his you made last night struck me as being the most infernal rot.”

Speech

Mark Twain once attended a dinner with the understanding that he would not make a speech. Near the end of the dinner, Mr. Twain arose and everyone applauded. Mr. Twain then said, “Waiter, please pass the bread.”

Speakers Should Be Brief

Mark Twain once told a story that illustrated why speakers should be brief: Mr. Twain said he attended a church when a missionary began to speak. At first Mr. Twain was fired up with enthusiasm for the missionary’s work and wanted to donate the \$400 he had and borrow all he could to give to the missionary. However, the missionary kept talking, and the longer the missionary talked, the less enthusiastic Mr. Twain became — when the offering plate was finally passed around, Mr. Twain stole ten cents from it.

“To Hell With! To Hell With!”

In his sketch “‘Party Cries’ in Ireland,” Mark Twain tells of the conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. Commonly, according to Mr. Twain, Irishmen would cry out either “To hell with the Pope” or “To hell with the Protestants,” depending on the religion of the crier. This became so common that a law was passed attempting to stop the custom by imposing a fine and court costs on anyone found guilty of giving a party cry. Once, a drunk was found lying in an alley, shouting, “To hell with! To hell with!” A police officer found the drunk and

asked him, “To hell with what?” But the drunk replied, “Ah, bedad ye can finish it yourself — it’s too expinsive for me!”

Family Prayers

Mark Twain once stayed over at the house of a friend. The next morning, he was seen standing at the top of the staircase. His friend said, “What’s the matter? Why not come on down?” Mr. Twain asked, “Family prayers over yet?” Hearing that they were over, Mr. Twain said, “All right then, I’ll come down.”

Attending Church

Mark Twain attended the church of his friend, the Reverend Joseph Twichell, and he became very interested in the sermon. After the church service was over, Mr. Twain told Reverend Twichell, “Joe, this mustn’t happen again. When I go to church, I go for a good rest and quiet nap. Today I haven’t been able to get a single wink. I tell you it won’t do; and it must not happen again.”

Request for a Donation

Andrew Carnegie was a very wealthy man who had a reputation for donating money to charitable causes. Mark Twain wrote him to say that he wanted to buy a \$2 hymn-book, pointing out that “I will bless you, God will bless you and it will do a great deal of good.” Mr. Twain then added a postscript: “Don’t send me the hymn-book — send me the two dollars.”

Politics

George Haven Putnam was Executive of the Copyright League from 1886-1891 and worked for the passage of bills to protect the copyrights of authors. Often he testified before Congress, sometimes taking along an author to buttress his arguments about the importance of a bill to provide copyright protection. Once he took along Mark Twain, but as soon as the members of Congress saw Mr. Twain, they immediately cried out for a story. For the next hour, Mr. Twain told anecdotes. Finally, the members of Congress had to leave, although no testifying had been done about the bill before Congress. After that experience, Mr. Putnam was careful not to take Mr. Twain along when he went to Congress.

More Politics

President Woodrow Wilson liked to tell a story of his incognito visit to Hannibal, Missouri, famous for its association with Mark Twain, who grew up there. President Wilson fell into conversation with a native and asked, “Have you ever heard of Tom Sawyer?” The native had not, so President Wilson asked, “Have you ever heard of Huckleberry Finn?” Again, the native had not, so President Wilson asked, “Do you know of Pudd’neath Wilson?” This time, the native recognized the name and said, “Sure do — voted for him twice.”

The Damned Human Race

In his personal copy of Charles Darwin’s *Journal of Researches* (1890), Mark Twain wrote, “Can any plausible excuse be furnished for the crime of creating the human race?”

Ulysses S. Grant

When Ulysses S. Grant was dying of cancer of the throat, he knew he needed money to provide for his family after he died. Mark Twain came to the rescue. He had recently become a publisher, and he agreed to pay Mr. Grant the huge royalty of 20 percent for his memoirs, much more than authors usually received. In July 1885, only three days after he had completed the second volume of his memoirs, Mr. Grant died. His family received more than enough money to take care of their needs, collecting over \$400,000 from the sale of his book.

Mark Twain in Old Age

When Mark Twain was very old, he sometimes would reach for a doorknob but miss it. He then would turn to his secretary and say, “Just practicing.”

A Funeral

A few days before Christmas, a man named Smith at the Players Club asked Mark Twain to lend him his long-tailed black coat, as he needed something suitable to go to a funeral and he hadn't a long-tailed black coat himself. Mr. Twain agreed, but told Smith to take good care of the contents in the pockets. Smith found an assortment of junk in the pockets, which he wrapped up and gave to the clerk at Mr. Twain's hotel. When Mr. Twain was given the wrapped-up package later, he remarked that he must be getting an early Christmas present. After unwrapping the “present” and realizing where the junk had come from, he remarked, “I hope that damned Smith's funeral will be a failure.”

Reports of Mark Twain's Death

While travelling abroad, Mark Twain read newspapers reports that he had died, so he sent this telegram to the Associated Press: “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.”

Joan of Arc

When he was a young boy, Samuel Langhorne Clemens saw a piece of paper flying down the street. He chased after it, caught it, and discovered that the page came from a biography of Joan of Arc. He asked his brother who she was, discovered that she was a French heroine who had died by being burned at the stake, and started reading as much as he could about her. As an adult, he wrote a book titled *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, using his world-famous pseudonym, Mark Twain.

More Joan of Arc

Among Mark Twain's favorites of the books he had written was *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, about a French heroine for whom Mr. Twain had enormous respect. Mr. Twain met the Archbishop of Orléans, who told him that St. Joan (aka the Maid of Orléans) would no doubt see to it that anyone who wrote so beautifully about her would get into Heaven. Mr. Twain replied that he would be “perfectly satisfied” in the next life if he were near Joan of Arc and as far away as possible from her enemies.

Cremation

Mark Twain once remarked that when his time came, he wanted to be cremated. His pastor replied, “I wouldn't worry about that, if I had your chances.”

Deep Pleasure

When Mark Twain was dying, a relative wrote him to say that she had asked some nuns to pray for him. Mr. Twain wrote back, "I am grateful for the prayers of those good nuns and for yours; they have already answered themselves in giving me a deep pleasure."

Appendix G: Some Mark Twain Quotations

It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt.

Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company.

Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress; but I repeat myself.

Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.

A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.

A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read.

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.

Truth is stranger than Fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't.

In the first place, God made idiots. That was for practice. Then he made school boards.

Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I've done it thousands of times.

A man is never more truthful than when he acknowledges himself a liar.

To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence.

The lack of money is the root of all evil.

The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.

Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native criminal class except Congress.

Don't let schooling interfere with your education.

Patriot: the person who can holler the loudest without knowing what he is hollering about.

If the world comes to an end, I want to be in Cincinnati. Everything comes there ten years later.

It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.

There are lies, damned lies, and statistics.

Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.

It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.

When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old.

Honesty is the best policy — when there is money in it.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

I can live for two months on a good compliment.

Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.

It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare.

Man was made at the end of the week's work when God was tired.

It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.

If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first.

The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.

Under certain circumstances, profanity provides a relief denied even to prayer.

By trying we can easily endure adversity. Another man's, I mean.

Everything has its limit — iron ore cannot be educated into gold.

Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.

I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said I didn't know.

Man is the only animal that blushes — or needs to.

There are times when one would like to hang the whole human race, and finish the farce.

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.

There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist, except an old optimist.

Never pick a fight with people who buy ink by the barrel.

Familiarity breeds contempt — and children.

Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of

the other person.

Part of the secret of a success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.

Truth is the most valuable thing we have. Let us economize it.

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

No sinner is ever saved after the first twenty minutes of a sermon.

I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it had ceased to be one.

Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits.

It usually takes me more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech.

I have never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.

Truth is mighty and will prevail. There is nothing wrong with this, except that it ain't so.

Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do. Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.

Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered — either by themselves or by others.

Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old secondhand diamonds than none at all.

I have made it a rule never to smoke more than one cigar at a time.

George Washington, as a boy, was ignorant of the commonest accomplishments of youth. He could not even lie.

I make it a rule never to smoke while I'm sleeping.

To be good is noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble.

Humor must not professedly teach and it must not professedly preach, but it must do both if it would live forever.

There are basically two types of people: people who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.

Go to heaven for the climate and hell for the company.

A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it.

Classic — a book which people praise and don't read.

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them.

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

But who prays for Satan? Who, in eighteen centuries, has had the common humanity to pray for the one sinner that needed it most?

God created war so that Americans would learn geography.

Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

I would rather have my ignorance than another man's knowledge, because I have so much more of it.

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either.

We ought never to do wrong when people are looking.

Be good and you will be lonesome.

Books are the liberated spirits of men.

A full belly is little worth where the mind is starved.

Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits.

I was born modest, but it didn't last.

All good things arrive unto them that wait and don't die in the meantime.

Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it.

Appendix H: About the Author

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy — me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine's brother, to name their first-born. Reuben, aka "The Joker," decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name — David — ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn't been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don't often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for "sounds like" and "two words," then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn't let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in

Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor's degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a master's degree in English and a master's degree in Philosophy. Currently, and for a long time to come, I publish a weekly humorous column titled "Wise Up!" for *The Athens News* and I am a retired English instructor at Ohio U.

If all goes well, I will publish one or two books a year for the rest of my life. (On the other hand, a good way to make God laugh is to tell Her your plans.)

Appendix I: Some Other Books by the Author

Discussion Guide Series

Dante's Inferno: A Discussion Guide

Dante's Paradise: A Discussion Guide

Dante's Purgatory: A Discussion Guide

Forrest Carter's The Education of Little Tree: A Discussion Guide

Homer's Iliad: A Discussion Guide

Homer's Odyssey: A Discussion Guide

Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: A Discussion Guide

Jerry Spinelli's Maniac Magee: A Discussion Guide

Jerry Spinelli's Stargirl: A Discussion Guide

Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal": A Discussion Guide

Lloyd Alexander's The Black Cauldron: A Discussion Guide

Lloyd Alexander's The Book of Three: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's The Prince and the Pauper: A Discussion Guide

Nancy Garden's Annie on My Mind: A Discussion Guide

Nicholas Sparks' A Walk to Remember: A Discussion Guide

Virgil's Aeneid: A Discussion Guide

Virgil's "The Fall of Troy": A Discussion Guide

Voltaire's Candide: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: A Discussion Guide

William Sleator's Oddballs: A Discussion Guide

(Oddballs is an excellent source for teaching how to write autobiographical essays/personal narratives.)

Retellings of a Classic Work of Literature

Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose

From the Iliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica

Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose

Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose

Jason and the Argonauts: A Retelling in Prose of Apollonius of Rhodes' Argonautica

Virgil's Aeneid: A Retelling in Prose

Kindest People Series

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 1

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 2

(Free) Kindest People Volumes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 3

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 4

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 5

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 6

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 7

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 1)

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 2)

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 3)

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 4)

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 5)

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 6)

The Kindest People: Heroes and Good Samaritans (Volume 7)

The Kindest People: Be Excellent to Each Other (Volume 1)

The Kindest People: Be Excellent to Each Other (Volume 2)

The Kindest People: Be Excellent to Each Other (Volume 3)

Anecdote Books Series

250 Anecdotes About Opera

250 Anecdotes About Religion

250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2

The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Relationships: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Television and Radio: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 1: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes

Seize the Day: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

Children's Biography

Nadia Comaneci: Perfect Ten