

Don Quixote

Miguel de Cervantes

How does Don Quixote keep the helmet interpretation alive while a room full of people calls the object a basin?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The basin survives as a helmet
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Part I, Chapter XLV
START	What do you think now, gentlemen, said the barber, of what these gentles say, when they want to make out that this is a helmet?
END	you can see things in this castle as they really and truly are, and not as they appear to me.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dq-03

THE MOVE

Watch a belief protect itself from contradictory evidence

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Chapter XLV confines the basin/helmet dispute to one comic argument. Physical evidence, expert testimony, joking agreement, and Don Quixote’s enchantment theory all collide in the same scene, making it possible to see exactly how a belief protects itself when contradiction arrives.

MARK

Underline the evidence identifying the object as a barber’s basin. Circle every reply Don Quixote uses to preserve the helmet claim. Star the moment enchantment becomes the explanation that prevents contradictory evidence from settling the question.

NOTICE

- What evidence would normally settle whether the object is a basin or a helmet?
- How do the other characters' jokes accidentally help Don Quixote preserve his belief?
- What makes a belief difficult to correct once contradiction itself can be explained as enchantment?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Don Quixote keep the helmet interpretation alive while a room full of people calls the object a basin? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Don Quixote keep the helmet interpretation alive while a room full of people calls the object a basin? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Don Quixote preserves the helmet belief by changing the explanation whenever evidence contradicts it. A basin can still be a helmet if enchantment altered its appearance, and other people's disagreement becomes proof that they do not see what he sees.
EVIDENCE	Use the physical evidence for a basin, other characters' labels, and Don Quixote's enchantment-based explanations that let the conclusion survive.
WATCH FOR	Do not say he simply refuses to listen. Show how the belief system actively absorbs contradictory evidence.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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START ANCHOR	What do you think now, gentlemen, said the barber, of what these gentles say, when they want to make out that this is a helmet?
END ANCHOR	you can see things in this castle as they really and truly are, and not as they appear to me.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline the evidence identifying the object as a barber's basin. Circle every reply Don Quixote uses to preserve the helmet claim. Star the moment enchantment becomes the explanation that prevents contradictory evidence from settling the question.
2. **NOTICE** - What evidence would normally settle whether the object is a basin or a helmet? How do the other characters' jokes accidentally help Don Quixote preserve his belief? What makes a belief difficult to correct once contradiction itself can be explained as enchantment?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: How does Don Quixote keep the helmet interpretation alive while a room full of people calls the object a basin?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.