

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Mark Twain

How does Hank convert an astronomical fact into political authority?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Knowledge becomes magic
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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	Chapter VI · The Eclipse
START	I knew that the only total eclipse of the sun
END	I was ready.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cy-01

THE MOVE

Turn private knowledge into public power

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hank knows the eclipse is a predictable astronomical event, but the people around him interpret prediction as supernatural power. Private knowledge becomes authority when an audience lacks the explanatory framework to classify it correctly.

MARK

Underline what Hank actually knows about the eclipse. Circle how the court interprets his prediction. Star the moment the event changes Hank’s political status.

NOTICE

- What is scientific knowledge to Hank?
- What does the same knowledge look like to his audience?

- Why does authority depend here on controlling the explanation as much as controlling the event?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Hank convert an astronomical fact into political authority? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Hank convert an astronomical fact into political authority? 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	Hank converts fact into authority because he knows an eclipse's cause and timing while the court reads prediction as supernatural power. Knowledge becomes political when the audience lacks the framework to classify it accurately.
EVIDENCE	Use the astronomical prediction, the court's interpretation, and the change in Hank's status or safety after the event.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Hank literally creates the eclipse. The power comes from controlling explanation, not the phenomenon.
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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How does Hank convert an astronomical fact into political authority?

START ANCHOR

I knew that the only total eclipse of the sun

END ANCHOR

I was ready.

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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 what Hank actually knows about the eclipse. Circle how the court interprets his prediction. Star the moment the event changes Hank's political status.
2. NOTICE - What is scientific knowledge to Hank? What does the same knowledge look like to his audience? Why does authority depend here on controlling the explanation as much as controlling the event?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Hank convert an astronomical fact into political authority?
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.