

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Mark Twain

Why does Hank say the world's consent to authority is finer than authority itself?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Power needs an audience
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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 VIII · The Boss
START	To be vested with enormous authority is a fine thing
END	The tower episode solidified my power, and made it impregnable.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cy-02

THE MOVE

Distinguish possessing power from having power recognized

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hank distinguishes formal authority from authority that people believe in. A title gives power on paper; public consent and spectacle make that power feel natural and durable.

MARK

Underline references to official authority or office. Circle the language about consent, reputation, or public belief. Star the event Hank says solidified his power.

NOTICE

- What power could Hank possess even if nobody admired or feared him?
- What changes when the public accepts his authority as legitimate or extraordinary?

- Why might recognized power be more stable than power granted only by position?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Hank say the world's consent to authority is finer than authority itself? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Hank say the world's consent to authority is finer than authority itself? 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	Recognized power is finer because authority becomes more stable when other people accept, fear, or consent to it rather than when it exists only as a formal title. An audience helps make power socially real.
EVIDENCE	Use Hank's distinction between office/authority and the world's consent or recognition.
WATCH FOR	Do not confuse consent here with democratic approval. Explain the broader difference between possessing power and having it acknowledged.
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.

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Why does Hank say the world's consent to authority is finer than authority itself?

START ANCHOR	To be vested with enormous authority is a fine thing
END ANCHOR	The tower episode solidified my power, and made it impregnable.

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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 references to official authority or office. Circle the language about consent, reputation, or public belief. Star the event Hank says solidified his power.
2. NOTICE - What power could Hank possess even if nobody admired or feared him? What changes when the public accepts his authority as legitimate or extraordinary? Why might recognized power be more stable than power granted only by position?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Hank say the world's consent to authority is finer than authority itself?
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.