

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Mark Twain

Why is the telephone-office sentence funnier because it appears inside a place famous for miracles?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	A telephone becomes the real miracle
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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	Valley of Holiness
START	what a fantastic conjunction of opposites and irreconcilables
END	the den of a mediaeval hermit turned into a telephone office!
PASSAGE ID	sec-cy-03

THE MOVE

Use juxtaposition to satirize definitions of magic and progress

WHY THIS PASSAGE

A medieval hermit's setting is paired with a telephone office, making modern technology look miraculous and old miracles look ordinary by comparison. The joke depends on placing incompatible definitions of wonder side by side.

MARK

Underline details associated with the old sacred or miraculous setting. Circle details of modern communication technology. Star the phrase where the two worlds collide most sharply.

NOTICE

- What would count as a miracle to people in the medieval setting?

- What does Hank treat as the more impressive achievement?
- How does juxtaposition satirize both superstition and modern confidence?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the telephone-office sentence funnier because it appears inside a place famous for miracles? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the telephone-office sentence funnier because it appears inside a place famous for miracles? 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	The joke works because a telephone office appears inside a culture famous for supernatural miracles. Modern technology becomes the narrator's 'real miracle,' exposing how definitions of wonder depend on what a culture understands.
EVIDENCE	Use the sacred/miraculous setting and the sudden modern communication reference.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Twain simply praises technology. The juxtaposition also invites satire of modern confidence about what counts as rational progress.
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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Why is the telephone-office sentence funnier because it appears inside a place famous for miracles?

START ANCHOR	what a fantastic conjunction of opposites and irreconcilables
END ANCHOR	the den of a mediaeval hermit turned into a telephone office!

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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 details associated with the old sacred or miraculous setting. Circle details of modern communication technology. Star the phrase where the two worlds collide most sharply.
2. NOTICE - What would count as a miracle to people in the medieval setting? What does Hank treat as the more impressive achievement? How does juxtaposition satirize both superstition and modern confidence?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why is the telephone-office sentence funnier because it appears inside a place famous for miracles?
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.