

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Mark Twain

What happens to Hank's idea of progress when his inventions make fifty-four men 'masters' over thousands of dead?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Progress becomes mass killing
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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 XLIII · The Battle of the Sand Belt
START	I shot the current through all the fences
END	Twenty-five thousand men lay dead around us.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cy-04

THE MOVE

Test a technology narrative against its human outcome

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hank’s technology has been presented as progress, efficiency, and mastery. In the final battle, the same systems produce mass death on an industrial scale, forcing the language of progress to confront its human outcome.

MARK

Underline the technological systems Hank uses in the battle. Circle the casualty numbers and descriptions of bodies. Star the point where victory language becomes difficult to separate from horror.

NOTICE

- What earlier values has Hank attached to technological superiority?
- What does the scale of killing reveal about those tools?
- Can a technology count as progress if its efficiency is mainly efficiency at destruction?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What happens to Hank's idea of progress when his inventions make fifty-four men 'masters' over thousands of dead? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What happens to Hank's idea of progress when his inventions make fifty-four men 'masters' over thousands of dead? 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 battle forces progress to confront its human result: systems celebrated for efficiency and modernity become extraordinarily efficient at killing. The word 'masters' sounds grotesque when mastery consists of standing over thousands of dead.
EVIDENCE	Use the technological defenses, scale of casualties, and language describing the tiny surviving group as masters.
WATCH FOR	Do not judge technology abstractly. The passage asks what happens to Hank's progress story when measured by the outcome it produces.
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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START ANCHOR	I shot the current through all the fences
END ANCHOR	Twenty-five thousand men lay dead around us.

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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 technological systems Hank uses in the battle. Circle the casualty numbers and descriptions of bodies.

Star the point where victory language becomes difficult to separate from horror.

2. NOTICE - What earlier values has Hank attached to technological superiority? What does the scale of killing reveal about those tools? Can a technology count as progress if its efficiency is mainly efficiency at destruction?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What happens to Hank's idea of progress when his inventions make fifty-four men 'masters' over thousands of dead?
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.