Mark Twain

*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*
A Connecticut Yankee: Overview
A Connecticut Yankee: Overview

- inspiration
- narrative structure
- critical reactions
A Connecticut Yankee: Adaptations
Film Adaptations
Samuel Clemens & Mark Twain

- 1835 - 1910
- early life
  - Mississippi
  - Nevada
- later travails
- literary output
- style
The Paige Compositor
Satire and Social Criticism

- politics and literature
- humor
  - comedy
  - satire
    - irony, sarcasm, ridicule
- comic violence
- critical?
  - transgression
  - power
  - moral criticism
    - mendacious; lachrymose; mendacious; sanctimonious
- conservative?
CALVIN AND HOBBES

I USED TO HATE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, BUT NOW I ENJOY THEM.

I REALIZED THAT THE PURPOSE OF WRITING IS TO INFLATE WEAK IDEAS, OBSCURE POOR REASONING, AND INHIBIT CLARITY.

WITH A LITTLE PRACTICE, WRITING CAN BE AN INTIMIDATING AND IMPENETRABLE FOG! WANT TO SEE MY BOOK REPORT?

"THE DYNAMICS OF INTERBEING AND MONOLOGICAL IMPERATIVES IN DICK AND JANE: A STUDY IN PSYCHIC TRANSRELATIONAL GENDER MODES."

ACADEMIA, HERE I COME!
Satire and Social Criticism

- politics and literature
- humor
  - comedy
  - satire
    - irony, sarcasm, ridicule
- comic violence
- critical?
  - transgression
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    - mendacious; lachrymose; mendacious; sanctimonious
- conservative?
Comic Violence
Transgression
Family Values Bobbleheads

Signe Wilkinson
Philadelphia Daily News
Washington Post Writers Group
Ancient & Modern Virtue

- allegory
- Hank Morgan
  - Yankee virtues
  - ideal social order
- Camelot
  - knights
  - commoners
  - ideal social order
- happy slaves?
  - subjective; objective
Ancient & Modern Virtue

- allegory
- Hank Morgan
  - Yankee virtues
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  - knights
  - commoners
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Social Rank
Ancient & Modern Virtue

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  - knights
  - commoners
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  - subjective; objective
Social Order

Ancient & Modern Virtue

- allegory
- Hank Morgan
  - Yankee virtues
  - ideal social order
- Camelot
  - knights
  - commoners
  - ideal social order
- happy slaves?
  - subjective and objective freedom
The Yankee Prometheus

- progress
- environmentalism
  - misfortune; injustice
- Prometheanism
- progress and social practice
Prometheus
Arcadia & Apocalypse

- disillusionment
  - Manicheanism
  - megalomania
  - contempt
- apocalypse
  - “battle of the sand belt”
- Arcadia
  - pastoralism
The End to Slavery

Abraham Lincoln, *Emancipation Proclamation* (1863)

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

Amendment XIII (1865)

- Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
- Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
The End

For Next Time:

- Get to work on your paper!
  - Due 11 August.
- You will receive the next assignment prompt on Wednesday