

# A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT



Webster's Thesaurus Edition for PSAT<sup>®</sup>, SAT<sup>®</sup>, GRE<sup>®</sup>, LSAT<sup>®</sup>,  
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Mark Twain

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## ICON CLASSICS

Published by ICON Group International, Inc.  
7404 Trade Street  
San Diego, CA 92121 USA

[www.icongrouponline.com](http://www.icongrouponline.com)

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court: Webster's Thesaurus Edition for PSAT®, SAT®, GRE®, LSAT®, GMAT®, and AP® English Test Preparation

This edition published by ICON Classics in 2005  
Printed in the United States of America.

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ISBN 0-497-25298-8

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## **PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR**

Designed for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Charles Dickens was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT®, SAT®, AP® (Advanced Placement®), GRE®, LSAT®, GMAT® or similar examinations.

Webster's edition of this classic is organized to expose the reader to a maximum number of synonyms and antonyms for difficult and often ambiguous English words that are encountered in other works of literature, conversation, or academic examinations. Extremely rare or idiosyncratic words and expressions are given lower priority in the notes compared to words which are "difficult, and often encountered" in examinations. Rather than supply a single synonym, many are provided for a variety of meanings, allowing readers to better grasp the ambiguity of the English language, and avoid using the notes as a pure crutch. Having the reader decipher a word's meaning within context serves to improve vocabulary retention and understanding. Each page covers words not already highlighted on previous pages. If a difficult word is not noted on a page, chances are that it has been highlighted on a previous page. A more complete thesaurus is supplied at the end of the book; Synonyms and antonyms are extracted from Webster's Online Dictionary.

Definitions of remaining terms as well as translations can be found at [www.websters-online-dictionary.org](http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org). Please send suggestions to [websters@icongroupbooks.com](mailto:websters@icongroupbooks.com)

The Editor  
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## P R E F A C E

The **ungentle** laws and customs touched upon in this tale are historical, and the episodes which are used to illustrate them are also historical. It is not pretended that these laws and customs existed in England in the sixth century; no, it is only pretended that **inasmuch** as they existed in the English and other civilizations of far later times, it is safe to consider that it is no libel upon the sixth century to suppose them to have been in practice in that day also. One is quite justified in **inferring** that whatever one of these laws or customs was lacking in that remote time, its place was **competently** filled by a worse one.

The question as to whether there is such a thing as divine right of kings is not settled in this book. It was found too difficult. That the executive head of a nation should be a person of **lofty** character and extraordinary ability, was manifest and **indisputable**; that none but the Deity could select that head **unerringly**, was also manifest and indisputable; that the Deity ought to make that selection, then, was likewise manifest and indisputable; consequently, that He does make it, as claimed, was an unavoidable deduction. I mean, until the author of this book encountered the Pompadour, and Lady Castlemaine, and some other executive heads of that kind; these were found so difficult to work into the scheme, that it was judged better to take the other **tack** in this book (which must be issued this fall), and then go into training and settle the question

### Thesaurus

**competently:** (*adv*) capably, efficiently, adequately, skillfully, satisfactorily, fitly, aptly, qualifiedly, ably, cleverly, effectively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) ineptly, clumsily, badly.

**inasmuch:** (*adv*) gradually, pro tanto, so, since, as, that, because, inasmuch as, seeing that, for.

**indisputable:** (*adj*) incontestable, incontrovertible, sure, irrefutable, undeniable, firm, absolute, positive, decided, obvious, unmistakable.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dubious, doubtful, questionable, disputable, equivocal, debatable, imitation, tenuous, weak.

**inferring:** (*adj*) deducing consequences; (*n*) deduction, thought.

**lofty:** (*adj, v*) high, elevated; (*adj*) exalted, eminent, arrogant, grand, tall, haughty, great, distinguished, majestic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) short, lowly, base, modest, deferential,

humble.

**tack:** (*v*) affix, attach, fasten, veer; (*n, v*) baste, shift, turn; (*n*) pin, tache, brad; (*adj, v*) sew. ANTONYMS: (*v*) separate, detach.

**unerringly:** (*adv*) surely, accurately, faithfully, exactly, certainly, infallibly, inerrantly, literally, perfectly, closely, inerringly.

**ungentle:** (*adj*) ignoble, rude, wild, ungainly, untitled, boisterous, bluff, lowborn.

in another **book**. It is, of **course**, a thing which **ought** to be **settled**, and I am not going to have **anything particular** to do next **winter anyway**.

## Thesaurus

**anything:** (*adv*) any, somewhat; (*n*) thing, aught, everything, something, any part; (*adj*) whatsoever; (*pron*) suchlike.

**anyway:** (*adv*) somehow, however, regardless, though, besides, at any rate, in any case, in any event, all the same, although, nonetheless.

**book:** (*v*) order, reserve, inscribe, apply, write; (*n*) account book, pamphlet, journal, volume; (*n, v*) list, record. ANTONYMS: (*v*) free,

exonerate.

**course:** (*n, v*) stream, flow; (*n*) bearing, route, career, track, path, road, channel; (*adj, n*) current; (*v*) chase.

ANTONYM: (*v*) trickle.

**ought:** (*n, v*) need; (*v*) had better, should, have, possessed, owned, owed, behoove; (*n*) aught, zero, duty.

**particular:** (*n*) detail, item; (*adj*) fastidious, fussy, finicky, exact, individual, careful, definite, delicate, detailed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) careless,

easy, vague, ordinary, collective, generalized, slapdash, universal, strong, normal, indeterminate.

**settled:** (*adj*) definite, set, firm, permanent, certain, calm, established, decided, formed, defined, finished. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unsettled, exciting, temporary.

**winter:** (*n*) wintertime, season, time of year, hiems, frost, chill; (*adj*) wintry, wintry; (*v*) spend. ANTONYM: (*n*) heat.

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION

It was in Warwick Castle that I came across the curious stranger whom I am going to talk about. He attracted me by three things: his candid simplicity, his **marvelous** familiarity with ancient **armor**, and the **restfulness** of his company--for he did all the talking. We fell together, as modest people will, in the tail of the herd that was being shown through, and he at once began to say things which interested me. As he talked along, softly, pleasantly, **flowingly**, he seemed to drift away imperceptibly out of this world and time, and into some remote era and old forgotten country; and so he gradually wove such a spell about me that I seemed to move among the specters and shadows and dust and mold of a gray antiquity, holding speech with a relic of it! Exactly as I would speak of my nearest personal friends or enemies, or my most familiar **neighbors**, he spoke of Sir Bedivere, Sir Bors de Ganis, Sir Launcelot of the Lake, Sir Galahad, and all the other great **names** of the Table Round--and how old, old, **unspeakably** old and faded and dry and musty and ancient he came to look as he went on! Presently he turned to me and said, just as one might speak of the weather, or any other common matter--

"You know about **transmigration** of souls; do you know about transposition of epochs--and bodies?"

I said I had not heard of it. He was so little interested--just as when people speak of the weather--that he did not notice whether I made him any answer or

### Thesaurus

**armor:** (*n, v*) armour, mask; (*n*) armature, defense, security, guard, protection, safeguard, crust, shell, skin.  
**flowingly:** (*adv*) smoothly, fluently, fluidly, runningly, streamingly, flowing, loosely, softly, yieldingly, copiously, cursively.  
**marvelous:** (*adj*) wonderful, fantastic, incredible, fabulous, extraordinary, tremendous, grand, astonishing, terrific, great; (*adj, v*) prodigious.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ordinary, mundane, abysmal, bad, dreadful, unworthy, dire, humdrum, unimpressive, unremarkable, boring.  
**names:** (*n*) calumny, defamation, hatchet job.  
**neighbors:** (*n*) neighbourhood.  
**restfulness:** (*n*) tranquility, rest, softness, comfort, ease, inactiveness, inactivity, inertia, lightness, mellowness, quietness. ANTONYM: (*n*) harshness.

**transmigration:** (*n*) metempsychosis, migration, mutagenesis  
 transanimation, mutagenesis, shifting, journey, transanimation, rebirth.  
**unspeakably:** (*adv*) indescribably, horrifically, horrifyingly, staggeringly, inexcusably, unbearably, unkindly, unpleasantly, unutterably, offensively, horrendously. ANTONYM: (*adv*) pleasantly.

not. There was half a moment of silence, immediately interrupted by the **droning** voice of the salaried **cicerone**:

"Ancient **hauberk**, date of the sixth century, time of King Arthur and the Round Table; said to have belonged to the knight Sir Sagramor le Desirous; observe the round hole through the chain-mail in the left breast; can't be accounted for; supposed to have been done with a bullet since invention of firearms--perhaps maliciously by Cromwell's soldiers."

My acquaintance smiled--not a modern smile, but one that must have gone out of general use many, many centuries ago--and muttered apparently to himself:

"Wit ye well, *I saw it done*." Then, after a pause, added: "I did it myself."

By the time I had recovered from the electric surprise of this remark, he was gone.

All that evening I sat by my fire at the Warwick Arms, **steeped** in a dream of the **olden** time, while the rain beat upon the windows, and the wind roared about the **eaves** and **corners**. From time to time I dipped into old Sir Thomas Malory's enchanting book, and fed at its rich feast of prodigies and adventures, breathed in the fragrance of its obsolete names, and dreamed again. Midnight being come at length, I read another tale, for a nightcap--this which here follows, to wit:

## HOW SIR LAUNCELOT SLEW TWO GIANTS, AND MADE A CASTLE FREE

Anon **withal** came there upon him two great giants, well armed, all save the heads, with two horrible clubs in their hands. Sir Launcelot put his shield **afore** him, and put the stroke away of the one giant, and with his sword he clave his head **asunder**. When his fellow saw that, he ran away as he were wood, for fear of the horrible strokes, and Sir Launcelot after him with all his might, and smote

### Thesaurus

**afore:** (*adv*) ahead, along, before, forwards, formerly, beforehand, previously; (*adj*) erewhile, beforehand, theretofore, preceding.

**asunder:** (*adj, v*) separate; (*adv*) aside, in two; (*adj, adv*) in Twain; (*adj*) loose, distant, adrift, aloof; (*v*) discrete, far between, free. ANTONYM: (*adv*) together.

**cicerone:** (*n*) dragoman, courier, showman, conductor; (*n, v*) valet de place.

**corners:** (*adj*) cornered.

**droning:** (*adj*) buzzing, humming, abuzz, booming, monotonous, noisy; (*n*) bourdon, dawdler, drone pipe, idleness, monotone. ANTONYM: (*adj*) varied.

**eaves:** (*n*) arch, balcony, cupola, dome, penthouse, eave, overhang, attic, loft, projection, roof space.

**hauberk:** (*v*) mail, cuirass, habergeon, breastplate, carapace, mask, buffer; (*n*) byrnie, chain mail, chain armour,

chain armor.

**olden:** (*adj*) old, past, former, whilom, archaic, bygone, early, previous, immemorial, outmoded, old-world. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) contemporary, modern.

**steeped:** (*adj*) seasoned, experienced. **withal:** (*adv*) nevertheless, notwithstanding, however, even so, all the same, nonetheless, with; (*adj*) likewise; (*n*) sufficiency, adequacy, enough.

him on the shoulder, and clave him to the middle. Then Sir Launcelot went into the hall, and there came afore him three score ladies and damsels, and all kneeled unto him, and thanked God and him of their **deliverance**. For, sir, said they, the most part of us have been here this seven year their prisoners, and we have worked all manner of silk works for our meat, and we are all great gentlewomen born, and blessed be the time, knight, that ever thou wert born; for thou hast done the most worship that ever did knight in the world, that will we bear record, and we all pray you to tell us your name, that we may tell our friends who delivered us out of prison. Fair damsels, he said, my name is Sir Launcelot du Lake. And so he departed from them and betought them unto God. And then he mounted upon his horse, and rode into many strange and wild countries, and through many waters and valleys, and evil was he lodged. And at the last by fortune him happened against a night to come to a fair courtilage, and **therein** he found an old gentle-woman that lodged him with a good-will, and there he had good cheer for him and his horse. And when time was, his host brought him into a fair **garret** over the gate to his bed. There Sir Launcelot **unarmed** him, and set his harness by him, and went to bed, and **anon** he fell on sleep. So, soon after there came one on **horseback**, and knocked at the gate in great haste. And when Sir Launcelot heard this he rose up, and looked out at the window, and saw by the moonlight three knights come riding after that one man, and all three lashed on him at once with swords, and that one knight turned on them **knightly** again and defended him. Truly, said Sir Launcelot, **yonder** one knight shall I help, for it were shame for me to see three knights on one, and if he be **slain** I am partner of his death. And **therewith** he took his harness and went out at a window by a sheet down to the four knights, and then Sir Launcelot said on high, Turn you knights unto me, and leave your fighting with that knight. And then they all three left Sir Kay, and turned unto Sir Launcelot, and there began great battle, for they alight all three, and **strake** many strokes at Sir Launcelot, and assailed him on every side. Then Sir Kay dressed him for to have holpen Sir Launcelot. Nay, sir, said he, I will none of your help, therefore as ye will have my help let me alone with them. Sir Kay for the pleasure of the knight suffered him for to do his

## Thesaurus

**anon:** (*adv*) directly, immediately, early, readily, soon, instantly, again, forthwith, promptly, shortly, rath.  
**deliverance:** (*n*) salvation, rescue, release, freedom, escape, emancipation, delivery, relief, liberation, liberty, salvage.  
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) downfall, suppression.  
**garret:** (*n*) cockloft, loft, attic, house top, storey, level, upper story, story, dome, noggin, classical Greek.

**horseback:** (*n*) hogback, body part.  
**knightly:** (*adj*) gallant, chivalric, courteous, courtly, attentive, medieval, magnanimous, gothic; (*adv*) chivalrously, attentively, courteously.  
**slain:** (*v*) slay; (*adj*) overthrown, mat, fallen, dejected, cast down.  
**strake:** (*n*) gunnel, garboard, gunwale, wheel girdle, garboard strake, gun rest, garboard plank, rubbing strake, straik, wale.

**therein:** (*adv*) in this, in there.  
**therewith:** (*adv*) herewith, moreover, therewithal, forthwith, with that, besides, wherewith.  
**unarmed:** (*adj*) naked, unprotected, open, simple, destitute, bare; (*v*) weaponless, harmless, unfortified, vincible, untenable.  
**yonder:** (*adv*) beyond, further, farther, abroad, thither, further away, at that place; (*adj*) distant, yond, furious, fierce.

will, and so stood aside. And then anon within six strokes Sir Launcelot had stricken them to the earth.

And then they all three cried, Sir Knight, we yield us unto you as man of might **matchless**. As to that, said Sir Launcelot, I will not take your yielding unto me, but so that ye yield you unto Sir Kay the **seneschal**, on that covenant I will save your lives and else not. Fair knight, said they, that were we **loath** to do; for as for Sir Kay we chased him **hither**, and had overcome him had ye not been; therefore, to yield us unto him it were no reason. Well, as to that, said Sir Launcelot, advise you well, for ye may choose whether ye will die or live, for an ye be yelden, it shall be unto Sir Kay. Fair knight, then they said, in saving our lives we will do as thou commandest us. Then shall ye, said Sir Launcelot, on Whitsunday next coming go unto the court of King Arthur, and there shall ye yield you unto Queen Guenever, and put you all three in her grace and mercy, and say that Sir Kay sent you **thither** to be her prisoners. On the **morn** Sir Launcelot **arose** early, and left Sir Kay sleeping; and Sir Launcelot took Sir Kay's armor and his shield and armed him, and so he went to the stable and took his horse, and took his leave of his host, and so he departed. Then soon after arose Sir Kay and missed Sir Launcelot; and then he espied that he had his armor and his horse. Now by my faith I know well that he will grieve some of the court of King Arthur; for on him knights will be bold, and deem that it is I, and that will **beguile** them; and because of his armor and shield I am sure I shall ride in peace. And then soon after departed Sir Kay, and thanked his host.

As I laid the book down there was a knock at the door, and my stranger came in. I gave him a pipe and a chair, and made him welcome. I also **comforted** him with a hot Scotch whisky; gave him another one; then still another--hoping always for his story. After a fourth **persuader**, he drifted into it himself, in a quite simple and natural way:

## THE STRANGER'S HISTORY

### Thesaurus

**arose:** (*v*) happen, occur.

**beguile:** (*v*) attract, charm, enchant, allure, captivate, bluff, entrap, enthrall, lure, fascinate; (*n, v*) cheat. ANTONYMS: (*v*) protect, irritate, irk, bore, advise, guard, annoy, repel.

**comforted:** (*adj*) thankful, pleased, comfortable, calmed.

**hither:** (*adv*) here, whither, hitherward, thither.

**loath:** (*adj*) unwilling, disinclined, reluctant, loth, indisposed, backward,

hesitant, antipathetic, antipathetical, loathe, shy of. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) eager, willing, disposed, keen.

**matchless:** (*adj*) inimitable, peerless, consummate, unique, unmatched, unrivaled, unequaled, unparalleled, superlative, unbeatable, unsurpassed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) common, vulnerable, abysmal, mediocre, worst.

**morn:** (*n*) dawn, daybreak, forenoon, period, prime, aurora, a, amount of

time, break of dawn, break of day, break of the day.

**persuader:** (*n*) communicator, tree pusher, inducer, club, coaxer, gun.

**seneschal:** (*n*) burgomaster, bailiff, Corregidor, castellan, factotum, warden, servant, shepherd, portreeve, retainer, alderman.

**thither:** (*adv*) hither, whither, on that point, in that respect, at that place, in that location; (*adj*) further, ulterior, remoter, succeeding, more distant.

I am an American. I was born and reared in Hartford, in the State of Connecticut--anyway, just over the river, in the country. So I am a Yankee of the Yankees--and practical; yes, and nearly barren of sentiment, I suppose--or poetry, in other words. My father was a **blacksmith**, my uncle was a horse doctor, and I was both, along at first. Then I went over to the great arms factory and learned my real trade; learned all there was to it; learned to make everything: guns, revolvers, cannon, boilers, engines, all sorts of labor-saving machinery. Why, I could make anything a body wanted--anything in the world, it didn't make any difference what; and if there wasn't any quick new-fangled way to make a thing, I could invent one--and do it as easy as rolling off a log. I became head superintendent; had a couple of thousand men under me.

Well, a man like that is a man that is full of fight--that goes without saying. With a couple of thousand rough men under one, one has plenty of that sort of amusement. I had, anyway. At last I met my match, and I got my dose. It was during a misunderstanding **conducted** with crowbars with a fellow we used to call Hercules. He laid me out with a **crusher** alongside the head that made everything crack, and seemed to spring every joint in my skull and made it overlap its **neighbor**. Then the world went out in darkness, and I didn't feel anything more, and didn't know anything at all-- at least for a while.

When I came to again, I was sitting under an oak tree, on the grass, with a whole beautiful and broad country landscape all to myself--nearly. Not entirely; for there was a fellow on a horse, looking down at me--a fellow fresh out of a picture-book. He was in **old-time** iron armor from head to heel, with a helmet on his head the shape of a nail-keg with slits in it; and he had a shield, and a sword, and a **prodigious spear**; and his horse had armor on, too, and a steel horn **projecting** from his forehead, and gorgeous red and green silk **trappings** that hung down all around him like a **bedquilt**, nearly to the ground.

"Fair sir, will ye just?" said this fellow.

"Will I which?"

"Will ye try a passage of arms for land or lady or for--"

## Thesaurus

**bedquilt:** (*n*) bedspread.

**blacksmith:** (*n*) farrier, horseshoer, forger, locksmith, metalworker, sailmaker, wheelwright, smithy, smith.

**conducted:** (*adj*) directed, guided.

**crusher:** (*n*) crushing mill, device, mill, pounder, breaker, argument, Kast brisance meter, scutcher roller, pestle.

**neighbor:** (*v*) abut, adjoin, populate, touch; (*n*) acquaintance, neighborhood, national; (*adj*)

neighborly, neighbouring, neighboring, adjacent. ANTONYM: (*n*) foreigner.

**old-time:** (*adj*) old, old-world, veteran, former, bygone, outmoded, practical, skillful, obsolete, versed.

**prodigious:** (*adj*) gigantic, enormous, huge, phenomenal, portentous, stupendous, exceptional, colossal, immense, gargantuan; (*adj, v*) monstrous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unexceptional, normal, average, tiny,

weak.

**projecting:** (*adj*) projected, protruding, jutting, protrusive, pendent; (*adj, v*) overhanging, jutting over, salient; (*v*) beetling, protuberant, convex.

**spear:** (*n*) harpoon, lance, pike, fizegig, prick, gig, javelin, shaft, halberd; (*v*) stab, spike.

**trappings:** (*n*) equipment, rigging, caparison, embroidery, trapping, tackle, suit, skirt, accouterment, lappet, flap.

"What are you giving me?" I said. "Get along back to your circus, or I'll report you."

Now what does this man do but fall back a couple of hundred yards and then come rushing at me as hard as he could tear, with his nail-keg bent down nearly to his horse's neck and his long spear pointed straight ahead. I saw he meant business, so I was up the tree when he arrived.

He allowed that I was his property, the **captive** of his spear. There was argument on his side--and the bulk of the advantage-- so I judged it best to **humor** him. We fixed up an agreement whereby I was to go with him and he was not to hurt me. I came down, and we started away, I walking by the side of his horse. We marched comfortably along, through glades and over **brooks** which I could not remember to have seen before--which puzzled me and made me wonder--and yet we did not come to any circus or sign of a circus. So I gave up the idea of a circus, and concluded he was from an asylum. But we never came to an asylum--so I was up a **stump**, as you may say. I asked him how far we were from Hartford. He said he had never heard of the place; which I took to be a lie, but allowed it to go at that. At the end of an hour we saw a far-away town sleeping in a valley by a winding river; and beyond it on a hill, a vast gray **fortress**, with towers and turrets, the first I had ever seen out of a picture.

"Bridgeport?" said I, pointing.

"Camelot," said he.

My stranger had been showing signs of **sleepiness**. He caught himself **nodding**, now, and smiled one of those pathetic, **obsolete** smiles of his, and said:

"I find I can't go on; but come with me, I've got it all written out, and you can read it if you like."

In his chamber, he said: "First, I kept a journal; then by and by, after years, I took the journal and turned it into a book. How long ago that was!"

He handed me his manuscript, and pointed out the place where I should begin:

## Thesaurus

**brooks:** (*n*) streams, Brookes, van Wyck Brooks.

**captive:** (*n*) convict, prisoner of war, slave, detainee, jailbird, gaolbird; (*adj*) confined, imprisoned, rapt, jailed, amoroso. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) free, uninterested, unconfined, liberated, emancipated, disillusioned; (*n*) guard, captor.

**fortress:** (*n*) fort, bulwark, fortification, castle, stronghold, citadel, alcazar, tower, presidio, redoubt; (*n, v*) keep.

**humor:** (*n, v*) caprice, freak, humour; (*n*) temper, mood, disposition, wit; (*v*) indulge, gratify; (*adj, n*) spirit, frame of mind. ANTONYMS: (*n*) seriousness, gravity, solemnity; (*v*) displease.

**nodding:** (*adj*) cernuous, drooping, dozy, dozing, somnolent, drugged, pendulous, drowsing, droopy, annuent, flagging. ANTONYM: (*adj*) awake.

**obsolete:** (*adj*) dead, archaic, ancient,

antique, outdated, extinct, old-fashioned, disused, outmoded, dated, old. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) current, contemporary, modern, trendy, new.

**sleepiness:** (*n*) somnolence, lethargy, laziness, indolence, somnolency, weariness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) alertness, vigor.

**stump:** (*n*) stub, end, pulpit; (*v*) confuse, stamp, baffle, perplex, nonplus, puzzle, bewilder, mystify. ANTONYM: (*v*) explain.

"Begin here--I've already told you what goes before." He was steeped in **drowsiness** by this time. As I went out at his door I heard him **murmur sleepily**: "Give you good den, fair sir."

I sat down by my fire and examined my **treasure**. The first part of it--the great bulk of it--was **parchment**, and yellow with age. I scanned a **leaf** particularly and saw that it was a **palimpsest**. Under the old dim writing of the Yankee historian appeared traces of a **penmanship** which was older and **dimmer** still--Latin words and sentences: fragments from old **monkish legends**, evidently. I turned to the place indicated by my stranger and began to read-- as follows:

## Thesaurus

**dimmer:** (*n*) rheostat.

**drowsiness:** (*n*) sleepiness, lethargy, dullness, doziness, laziness, somnolency, inertia, drowse, lassitude, languor, sluggishness.  
ANTONYM: (*n*) alertness.

**leaf:** (*n*) page, folio, foliage, petal, frond, leafage, slip, verdure, leaflet; (*n, v*) sheet; (*v*) leave.

**legends:** (*n*) tradition, mythology, myths.

**monkish:** (*adj*) clerical, nonindulgent.

**murmur:** (*n, v*) grumble, mumble, hum, whisper, mutter, whine, babble, drone; (*v*) complain, bubble, breathe.

**palimpsest:** (*n*) manuscript, tabula rasa.

**parchment:** (*n*) vellum, sheepskin, lambskin, diploma, testament, will; (*v*) foolscap, tablet, table, slate, pillar.

**penmanship:** (*n*) hand, penmanship, handwriting, chirography, autography, writing, script, authorship, beautiful handwriting,

craftmanship.

**sleepily:** (*adv*) drowsily, slowly, somnolently, lethargically, lazily, sluggishly, dreamily, tiredly, indolently, torpidly, languorously.  
ANTONYM: (*adv*) vigorously.

**treasure:** (*n*) gem, fortune, riches, funds; (*n, v*) hoard, prize, store; (*v*) cherish, appreciate; (*adj, n*) jewel, precious stone. ANTONYMS: (*v*) dislike, disparage, scorn, neglect; (*n*) dud, poverty.



## CHAPTER I

### CAMELOT

"Camelot--Camelot," said I to myself. "I **don't** seem to remember hearing of it before. Name of the asylum, likely."

It was a soft, **reposeful** summer landscape, as lovely as a dream, and as **lonesome** as Sunday. The air was full of the smell of **flowers**, and the buzzing of insects, and the **twittering** of birds, and there were no people, no wagons, there was no stir of life, nothing going on. The road was mainly a winding path with hoof-prints in it, and now and then a faint trace of wheels on either side in the grass--wheels that apparently had a tire as broad as one's hand.

Presently a fair slip of a girl, about ten years old, with a **cataract** of golden hair streaming down over her shoulders, came along. Around her head she wore a **hoop** of flame-red poppies. It was as sweet an outfit as ever I saw, what there was of it. She walked **indolently** along, with a mind at rest, its peace reflected in her innocent face. The circus man paid no attention to her; didn't even seem to see her. And she--she was no more startled at his fantastic make-up than if she was used to his like every day of her life. She was going by as **indifferently** as she might have gone by a couple of cows; but when she happened to notice me, *then* there was a change! Up went her hands, and she was turned to stone; her mouth dropped open, her eyes stared wide and **timorously**, she was the picture

### Thesaurus

**cataract:** (*n*) waterfall, torrent, falls, deluge, cataclysm, amaurosis, blindness, angel, flood, prestriction; (*v*) pour.

**don't:** (*adv*) not; (*n*) taboo, prohibition.

**flowers:** (*n*) analecta, anthology.

**hoop:** (*n*) circle, band, ring, loop, annulus, round, sphere, wheel, circlet, halo; (*v*) encircle.

**indifferently:** (*adv*) carelessly, coldly, nonchalantly, listlessly, unconcernedly, uninterestedly,

neutrally, middlingly, casually, unbiasedly, disinterestedly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) passionately, obsessively, carefully, eagerly, energetically, warmly, anxiously, enthusiastically, sympathetically.

**indolently:** (*adv*) lazily, sluggishly, slackly, slowly, languidly, torpidly, listlessly, lethargically, carelessly, inertly, shiftlessly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) nimbly, vigorously, dynamically.

**lonesome:** (*adj*) lone, desolate, forlorn, dreary, dismal, solitary, secluded, gloomy, unfrequented; (*adj, n*) isolated, alone. ANTONYM: (*n*) foe.

**reposeful:** (*adj*) restful, relaxing, calm, quieter.

**timorously:** (*adv*) fearfully, afraidly, anxiously, shily, bashfully, timidly, diffidently, shyly, trepidly, apprehensively, hesitantly.

**twittering:** (*n*) chirping, peeping, tweeting.

of astonished curiosity touched with fear. And there she stood **gazing**, in a sort of **stupefied** fascination, till we turned a corner of the wood and were lost to her view. That she should be startled at me instead of at the other man, was too many for me; I couldn't make head or tail of it. And that she should seem to consider me a spectacle, and totally overlook her own merits in that respect, was another puzzling thing, and a display of magnanimity, too, that was surprising in one so young. There was food for thought here. I moved along as one in a dream.

As we approached the town, signs of life began to appear. At intervals we passed a wretched cabin, with a thatched roof, and about it small fields and garden patches in an indifferent state of cultivation. There were people, too; **brawny** men, with long, coarse, **uncombed** hair that hung down over their faces and made them look like animals. They and the women, as a rule, wore a coarse tow-linen robe that came well below the knee, and a rude sort of **sandal**, and many wore an iron collar. The small boys and girls were always naked; but nobody seemed to know it. All of these people stared at me, talked about me, ran into the huts and fetched out their families to gape at me; but nobody ever noticed that other fellow, except to make him humble salutation and get no response for their pains.

In the town were some substantial windowless houses of stone scattered among a wilderness of thatched cabins; the streets were mere crooked alleys, and unpaved; troops of dogs and nude children played in the sun and made life and noise; **hogs** roamed and rooted contentedly about, and one of them lay in a **reeking** wallow in the middle of the main thoroughfare and suckled her family. Presently there was a distant **blare** of military music; it came nearer, still nearer, and soon a noble cavalcade wound into view, glorious with **plumed** helmets and flashing mail and flaunting banners and rich **doublets** and horse-cloths and gilded spearheads; and through the muck and swine, and naked brats, and joyous dogs, and shabby huts, it took its gallant way, and in its wake we followed. Followed through one winding alley and then another,--and climbing, always climbing--till at last we gained the breezy height where the huge castle

## Thesaurus

**blare:** (*v*) bellow; (*n, v*) sound, honk, beep, hoot; (*adj, n*) boom; (*n*) din, clamor, racket; (*adj*) peal, thunder.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) mute, stifle; (*n*) silence.

**brawny:** (*adj, n*) hefty, burly; (*adj*) strong, athletic, sturdy, strapping, beefy, powerful, robust, stalwart, mighty. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) skinny, puny, weak, frail, powerless, delicate, feeble.

**doublets:** (*n*) span, dyad.

**gazing:** (*adj*) fixed.

**hogs:** (*n*) Suidae, boars, family Suidae, stock.

**plumed:** (*adj*) plumate, crested, emplumed, plummy, plumose, decorated, flying, feathery.

**reeking:** (*adj*) dripping, overly diluted, odorous, noisome, high, fetid, stale; (*v*) sloppy, soft, soaking, sodden.

**sandal:** (*n*) shoe, boot, pump, espadrille, pusher, huaraches, sandals, sandalwood, galoche,

goloshes, huarache.

**stupefied:** (*adj*) stunned, amazed, astonished, bewildered, astounded, dumbfounded, stupid, confused, flabbergasted, dumfounded, groggy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) precise, unimpressed.

**uncombed:** (*adj*) disheveled, tousled, untidy, untamed, uncouth, unlicked, unpolished, shaggy, rumpled, messy, matted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) combed, tidy, neat.

stood. There was an exchange of **bugle** blasts; then a **parley** from the walls, where men-at-arms, in hauberk and **morion**, marched back and forth with **halberd** at shoulder under **flapping** banners with the rude figure of a dragon displayed upon them; and then the great gates were flung open, the **drawbridge** was lowered, and the head of the **cavalcade** swept forward under the frowning arches; and we, following, soon found ourselves in a great **paved** court, with towers and turrets stretching up into the blue air on all the four sides; and all about us the **dismount** was going on, and much greeting and ceremony, and running to and fro, and a gay display of moving and **intermingling colors**, and an altogether pleasant stir and noise and confusion.

## Thesaurus

**bugle:** (*v*) trumpet, clarion, pibroch, slogan; (*n*) horn, ophicleide, trombone, herb, cornopean, cornet, bugleweed.

**cavalcade:** (*n*) parade, pageant, caravan, spectacle, celebration, column, convoy; (*adj*) rank and file, line of battle, cortege; (*v*) file.

**colors:** (*n*) flag, colours, paints, banner, color, colour, ensign, pigment, tint, dye, paint.

**dismount:** (*v*) alight, light, get off,

disembark, get down, fall, come down, unhorse, go down; (*adj, v*) dismantle; (*adj*) dismast.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) mount, ascend.

**drawbridge:** (*n*) fire escape, draw-bridge, bridge, drawbridge sign, lift bridge.

**flapping:** (*adj*) loose, detached, baggy, streaming, flying, slack; (*n*) fluttering, flutter, flaps, dither, disturbance.

**halberd:** (*n*) gisarme, lance, tomahawk, javelin, pike, partisan,

Bowie knife.

**intermingling:** (*n*) entangling, mlangé, merger, combination.

**morion:** (*v*) helmet, bulletproof vest, carapace, gauntlet, buffer, coat of mail, corner stone, cowcatcher, cuirass, backplate; (*n*) cabasset.

**parley:** (*v*) negotiate, converse, confer, consult; (*n, v*) talk, treat; (*n*) conversation, interview, colloquy, meeting, consultation.

**paved:** (*adj*) cobbled.