

# A TRIP BACK IN TIME



*Hank Morgan pays me a visit.*

**Preview:**

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Hank Morgan's life changed after he was hit on the head with

- a. a piece of wood.
- b. a metal pipe.
- c. a flashlight.
- d. a glass bottle.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out what happened to Hank after he was hit on the head.

# A TRIP BACK IN TIME

This story is true. Maybe things in King Arthur's time didn't happen this way. But people had about the same ideas *then* as they have *now*. If I say terrible things about the past, I could be wrong. Maybe things were even more terrible than I say.

In the year 1879, I went to Warwick Castle to see what it could teach me about the past. A man stood by a suit of very old armor. The armor had once belonged to a knight named Sir Sagramor le Desirous. The man pointed to a small hole cut through the metal. "I fired the gun that made that hole," he said. Giving me a strange, sad smile, he walked away.

I was staying in a room in town. That night, he knocked on my door. He was staying in the next room. We sat by the fire and talked. Hank Morgan was a Yankee from Connecticut. He had been the boss at a factory that made guns and machines. One day an angry worker hit Hank over the head with a metal pipe. "My life was changed after that." Hank looked around slowly as if he'd just woken from a dream. "I put everything into this old book," he said. "Read it if you like, sir, I don't feel very well." When he left for his room, I picked up the book. I began to read the Yankee's story:

I blacked out when the metal pipe hit my head. When I came to, I was under an oak tree. A horse stood next to me. Its rider was dressed up in shiny armor like a knight from

a picture book. *The circus must be in town* I thought.

The circus-man backed up a hundred yards and pulled out his sword. As he came racing back at me, I climbed the tree. He told me he'd put away his sword if I came with him.

I thought we were going to his circus, but he brought me inside a castle! He left me with a young man named Clarence. Clarence talked and talked. He happened to say what day and year it was.

At first I wondered why Clarence would lie to me. "I must have heard you wrong, sir," I said. "What year did you say this is?"

"528," answered Clarence. He told me I was in a place called Camelot. The circus man, Sir Kay, was going to show me off to the court.

I couldn't believe it! The hit on the head had sent me back in time hundreds of years. I knew that if this really were 528, an eclipse would happen in two days. If the eclipse came, I would believe Clarence.

Clarence took me into a room. It looked like a hundred knights sat around a round table. An old man stood and told a story. "Merlin puts me to sleep with his stories," whispered Clarence. "He should stick to magic!"

Merlin told how, years before, Arthur needed a sword. Merlin brought him to a lake. An arm came out of the water and handed Arthur a sword. "Which do you like better, the

sword or its scabbard?" Merlin asked.

"The sword," said Arthur.

"The scabbard is better. You are safe while the sword is covered," said Merlin. "When you pull the sword from the scabbard, take care."

Next, Sir Kay stood and told a story about me. He said I came from a country where people had magic clothes that kept them safe from being hurt. "He killed my knights and knocked me over with a stone as big as a cow," lied Sir Kay.

I remembered things happening differently, but his next words *really* surprised me. In two days, I would be burned in front of the court!

"He won't burn if he's wearing magic clothes," Merlin said. They pulled off my clothes and locked me away. I closed my eyes. I wished I was home in bed - that I was still boss over hundreds of men. If only the factory whistle would call me out of this bad dream! But the only sound I heard was Clarence's voice. "I can't help you," he said. "I'm afraid of Merlin's magic."

Suddenly I thought of a way the eclipse could help me. "My magic is stronger than *Merlin's!*" I lied. "Tell the King I'll kill the sun if they burn me!"



# A TRIP BACK IN TIME

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Hank Morgan was a man from Connecticut who was visiting
  - a. Camelot.
  - b. England.
  - c. King Arthur.
  - d. a gun factory.
2. The man who is reading Hank Morgan's story, met him at
  - a. the circus.
  - b. Windsor Castle.
  - c. Warwick Castle.
  - d. King Arthur's court.
3. When an angry worker hit Hank Morgan over the head with a metal pipe, Hank
  - a. came to.
  - b. blacked out.
  - c. went wild.
  - d. broke the worker's nose.
4. After Hank Morgan was hit over the head, he found himself
  - a. in a gun factory.
  - b. in King Arthur's court.
  - c. in Camelot.
  - d. in Connecticut.
5. First Hank found himself sitting under an oak tree. Then a knight raced at him with his sword. Next,
  - a. the knight took him to King Arthur's castle.
  - b. Hank ran to the lake.
  - c. Sir Kay took him to the circus.
  - d. Hank climbed a tree.
6. Hank Morgan could not believe that the hit on the head sent him back in time
  - a. many, many days.
  - b. many weeks.
  - c. 528 minutes.
  - d. hundreds of years.
7. Clarence took Hank to Arthur's castle where they found
  - a. Merlin telling a story to the knights at the Round Table.
  - b. Merlin making magic.
  - c. a hundred knights fighting with swords.
  - d. King Arthur showing off.
8. Hank Morgan's magic
  - a. is nothing more than him knowing what's going to happen.
  - b. is much stronger than anyone's.
  - c. can set fire to the sun.
  - d. can send him back home.
9. Another name for this story could be
  - a. "Dreaming."
  - b. "Hank Morgan's Story."
  - c. "Merlin Makes Magic."
  - d. "An Eclipse of the Sun."
10. This story is mainly about
  - a. King Arthur's many knights.
  - b. Hank Morgan's magic clothes.
  - c. how Hank Morgan's life changed after he was hit on the head.
  - d. what life was like back in the year 528.

**Preview Answer:**

b. a metal pipe.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

This page may be reproduced for classroom use.