

THE NOTORIOUS JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS COUNTY

Selection Test B/C**Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.
(6 points each)

1. Wheeler’s claim that Smiley would bet “on anything that turned up you ever see” is best supported by Smiley’s bet on
 - A. all the horse races in town
 - B. his bull-pup Dan’l Webster
 - C. chickens fighting in the barnyard
 - D. the Parson’s wife not getting well

2. How does Smiley’s mare make him “uncommon lucky”?
 - A. Her head start enables her to win every race.
 - B. he excited mare wins in spite of her illnesses.
 - C. Jim knows to bet on the other, faster horses.
 - D. The dust the mare kicks up hides the true winner.

3. How does the dialect of the following excerpt describe the bull-pup?
“his underjaw’d begin to stick out like the fo’castle of a steamboat and his teeth would uncover and shine like the furnaces”
 - A. eager to win the fight and money
 - B. terrified of the opponent dog
 - C. unsure of what is happening to him
 - D. untrustworthy to place bets on

4. Which description of Dan’l Webster uses the tall tale technique of understatement?
 - A. A frog needs only an education to do anything.
 - B. He can turn several somersaults in the air.
 - C. Dan’l does not jump at all during the contest.
 - D. The frog holds a double handful of lead shot.

5. The narrator’s attempt to leave when Wheeler is out of the room suggests that he
 - A. wishes to avoid hurting Wheeler’s feelings
 - B. is disappointed that Jim is not Leonidas
 - C. believes that Wheeler will never stop talking
 - D. has an important appointment elsewhere

SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

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| <p>6. A <u>garrulous</u> person is</p> <p>A. barely sociable
 B. extremely talkative
 C. truly deceitful
 D. highly imaginative</p> <p>7. To <u>conjecture</u> means to</p> <p>A. meet
 B. guess
 C. assume
 D. exaggerate</p> <p>8. What does <u>dilapidated</u> mean?</p> <p>A. in a state of disrepair
 B. lacking any luxuries
 C. in an old-fashioned style
 D. unused by anyone</p> | <p>9. What does <u>cavorting</u> mean?</p> <p>A. running too quickly to see
 B. prancing in a playful manner
 C. speaking in a cheerful voice
 D. laughing loudly to draw attention</p> <p>10. An <u>enterprising</u> person has</p> <p>A. manners and social standing
 B. stories and creativity
 C. good luck and money
 D. imagination and initiative</p> |
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Written Response

Short Response Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. Write a sentence or two on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points each)

11. Describe the trick that the narrator's friend "from the East" seems to have played on him.
12. How does Smiley's inability to resist a bet help the stranger to cheat him in the contest?

Extended Response Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. How does this story support the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover"? Use details from the story to support your response.
14. **Challenge** Do you agree or disagree with the narrator that Wheeler thinks Smiley is a genius? Use details from the stories to support your opinion.