The Man from Snowy River

A Poem by Banjo Paterson

There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around

That the colt from old Regret had got away,

And had joined the wild bush horses - he was worth a thousand pound,

So all the cracks had gathered to the fray.

All the tried and noted riders from the stations near and far

Had mustered at the homestead overnight,

For the bushmen love hard riding where the wild bush horses are,

And the stock-horse snuffs the battle with delight.

There was Harrison, who made his pile when Pardon won the cup,

The old man with his hair as white as snow;

But few could ride beside him when his blood was fairly up-

He would go wherever horse and man could go.

And Clancy of the Overflow came down to lend a hand,

No better horseman ever held the reins;

For never horse could throw him while the saddle girths would stand,

He learnt to ride while droving on the plains.

And one was there, a stripling on a small and weedy beast,

He was something like a racehorse undersized,

With a touch of Timor pony - three parts thoroughbred at least -

And such as are by mountain horsemen prized.

He was hard and tough and wiry - just the sort that won't say die -

There was courage in his quick impatient tread;

And he bore the badge of gameness in his bright and fiery eye,

And the proud and lofty carriage of his head.

But so slight and weedy, one would doubt his power to stay,

And the old man said, "That horse will never do

For a long and tiring gallop-lad, you'd better stop away,

Those hills are far too rough for such as you."

So he waited sad and wistful - only Clancy stood his friend -

"I think we ought to let him come," he said;

"I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at the end,

For both his horse and he are mountain bred."

"He hails from Snowy River, up by Kosciusko's side,

Where the hills are twice as steep and twice as rough,

Where a horse's hoofs strike firelight from the flint stones every stride,

The man that holds his own is good enough.

And the Snowy River riders on the mountains make their home,

Where the river runs those giant hills between;

I have seen full many horsemen since I first commenced to roam,

But nowhere yet such horsemen have I seen."

So he went - they found the horses by the big mimosa clump -

They raced away towards the mountain's brow,

And the old man gave his orders, "Boys, go at them from the jump,

No use to try for fancy riding now.

And, Clancy, you must wheel them, try and wheel them to the right.

Ride boldly, lad, and never fear the spills,

For never yet was rider that could keep the mob in sight,

If once they gain the shelter of those hills."

Snowy River

B, C, D, A

B, C, B, A

D, A, C, A

C, D

|  | **Question** | **Evidence** |
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| 1 | What does the phrase ‘ the word had passed around’ mean?   1. News of the event at the station past around 2. **A rumour was spread around** 3. The movement of the station passed around 4. The colt from the station had escaped | It is news and not a rumour |
| 2 | What did the colt do?   1. Went to the wild bush 2. Went to the wild 3. **Went with wild horses** 4. Escaped from the wild bush |  |
| 3 | Why is it bad that the horse escaped?   1. It is a rare horse 2. It is a talented horse 3. It is a workhorse 4. **It is valuable** | ‘ he was worth a thousand pound,” |
| 4 | Who had come to help find the horse?   1. **The best riders** 2. The old rides 3. The Old Regret’s riders 4. The best wild bush riders | ‘Tried’ means experienced  ‘Noted’ means good or worth noting |
| 5 | What word best replaces ‘mustered’ line 6?   1. Mustard 2. **Gathered** 3. Signalled 4. Slept over |  |
| 6 | What does the phrase ‘who made his pile’ mean?   1. It is slang that means made a mess 2. It is slang that means gathered his things 3. **It is slang that means earned money** 4. It is slang that means made his clothes |  |
| 7 | What does it mean that ‘few could ride beside him’ mean about Harrison?   1. He gets angry easily at others 2. **He is too difficult to keep up with** 3. He is lonely and likes riding alone 4. He rides at unusual times | From the context we can work out that he is one of the best so obviously he leaves others behind literally and in terms of talent |
| 8 | What do we learn about Clancy?   1. **He is able to stay on his horse no matter what** 2. He is a cart driver of the plains 3. He is old and has white hair 4. He lost to Harrison during the cup |  |
| 9 | What does the word stripling tell us about the rider?   1. They are tall and lanky 2. They are dressed in dazzling clothes 3. They are brave looking 4. **They are weak looking** | ‘lingl is a diminutive suffix |
| 10 | What do we learn about the stripling’s weedy horse?   1. **They are determined and never give up** 2. They are not afraid of death 3. They ride dangerously 4. They will do something even if everyone else is afraid | ‘There was courage in his quick impatient tread;’ |
| 11 | Which one of these statements are true?   1. Only nearby riders had come to find the colt 2. It took a few days for all the riders to arrive 3. **The stripling’s horse is admired by mountain horsemen** 4. The stripling had a bright and fiery eye |  |
| 12 | Who warned the stripling not to ride?   1. **Harrison** 2. Clancy 3. Regret 4. Konsciukso | It says they were old  It says ‘the’ old rider |
| 13 | Why does Clancy recommend that the stripling comes with them?   1. He feels sympathy for him 2. He thinks that he has some value 3. **He claims he is trained on similar and more difficult terrain** 4. He doesn’t know what he could bring to the team | ‘"He hails from Snowy River, up by Kosciusko's side,  Where the hills are twice as steep and twice as rough,’ |
| 14 | What was not an order from the old man?   1. Get at them immediately 2. Stop them going to the hills 3. Be confident 4. **Be loud** |  |