

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is John Henry best known for?
 - Ⓐ singing songs while building a railroad after the Civil War
 - Ⓑ beating a steam-powered machine with his own strength
 - Ⓒ growing up as a slave
 - Ⓓ growing really fast when he was a boy
2. Why did John Henry agree to race against the digging machine?
 - Ⓐ He wanted to save the workers' jobs.
 - Ⓑ He wanted to win the machine as a prize.
 - Ⓒ He liked to show off.
 - Ⓓ He wanted to be paid more.
3. If a boss is going to **fire** a person, he or she is going to _____.
 - Ⓐ light a match
 - Ⓑ pay them more money
 - Ⓒ give them a job
 - Ⓓ end their job
4. Which sentence shows that this story is a fantasy?
 - Ⓐ John Henry was born into a slave family.
 - Ⓑ He grew so fast that sometimes the pants he put on in the morning were too short by nightfall.
 - Ⓒ John Henry lived before there were cars or airplanes.
 - Ⓓ Then one day, a little man in a fancy suit arrived at the work camp.
5. When did John Henry go to work for the railroad?
 - Ⓐ after the little man came to the work camp
 - Ⓑ before he became the biggest and strongest man around
 - Ⓒ after the tracks ran into Big Bend Mountain
 - Ⓓ after the Civil War ended

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6. When writing a tall tale, the author's purpose is _____.
 - Ⓐ to inform
 - Ⓑ to entertain
 - Ⓒ to persuade
 - Ⓓ to explain a process
7. A **steel driver's** job is to _____.
 - Ⓐ hammer drill bits into rock to break the rock up
 - Ⓑ drive a machine made of steel
 - Ⓒ find steel inside of rocks
 - Ⓓ none of the above
8. Why did the other railroad workers like John Henry?
 - Ⓐ He worked harder and faster than any three workers.
 - Ⓑ He had a booming voice and enjoyed singing.
 - Ⓒ He helped save their jobs.
 - Ⓓ All of the above
9. Which of the following is an opinion?
 - Ⓐ John Henry should not have raced against the machine.
 - Ⓑ John Henry was born a slave.
 - Ⓒ John Henry became a steel driver.
 - Ⓓ John Henry went to work for the railroad.
10. Why could the little man's machine have been a solution to the boss's problem?
 - Ⓐ The boss wanted to fire all the railroad workers.
 - Ⓑ The boss wanted to have a contest.
 - Ⓒ The boss wanted the tunnel finished even faster.
 - Ⓓ All of the above
11. **Extended Response:** How would the story have been different if John Henry had not died at the end?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

The Legend of John Henry

Main Comprehension Skill: Problem and Solution

1. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
2. Ⓐ *Problem and Solution*
3. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
4. Ⓑ *Identify Genre*
5. Ⓓ *Sequence Events*
6. Ⓑ *Author's purpose*
7. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
8. Ⓓ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
9. Ⓐ *Fact or Opinion*
10. Ⓒ *Problem and Solution*
11. Answers will vary but should include ideas about other great adventures John Henry may have had or other problems he would have encountered.