

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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| <p>1. Who is narrating the story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ the man from the East</li> <li>Ⓑ Simon Wheeler</li> <li>Ⓒ Jim Smiley</li> <li>Ⓓ both the man from the East and Simon Wheeler</li> </ul> <p>2. What literary element does Twain use as a key figurative technique in the story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ personification</li> <li>Ⓑ symbolism</li> <li>Ⓒ hyperbole</li> <li>Ⓓ metaphor</li> </ul> <p>3. Why do you think the friend of the man from the East asks him to look up Simon Wheeler when he gets to the mining camp?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ He is playing a joke on him.</li> <li>Ⓑ Wheeler owes him money.</li> <li>Ⓒ He thinks his friend will like him.</li> <li>Ⓓ His friend needs a job, and Wheeler can help him.</li> </ul> | <p>4. What causes Simon Wheeler to tell the story about Jim Smiley instead of Leonidas W. Smiley?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ The man from the East asked him to.</li> <li>Ⓑ He loves to tell stories.</li> <li>Ⓒ He is old and confused.</li> <li>Ⓓ He is hard of hearing.</li> </ul> <p>5. Read this sentence: <i>Simon Wheeler backed me into a corner and blockaded me there with his chair, and then sat down and reeled off the <b>monotonous</b> narrative which follows this paragraph.</i> What is the meaning of <b>monotonous</b>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ boring and repetitive</li> <li>Ⓑ exciting and interesting</li> <li>Ⓒ gloomy and depressing</li> <li>Ⓓ funny and surprising</li> </ul> <p>6. Aside from gambling, what does Jim Smiley really enjoy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ reverends</li> <li>Ⓑ animals</li> <li>Ⓒ telling stories</li> <li>Ⓓ helping people</li> </ul> |
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*Quick Check continued on following page*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which of the following events happens first in the story?

- Ⓐ Jim Smiley makes a bet on whether Parson Walker's wife will survive.
- Ⓑ Andrew Jackson, Jim Smiley's dog, loses a fight and dies.
- Ⓒ Jim Smiley makes a bet on his jumping frog, Daniel Webster.
- Ⓓ Simon Wheeler meets the narrator and begins to tell the story of Jim Smiley.

8. Read this sentence: *Jumping on a dead level was his strong suit, you understand; and when it come to that, Smiley would **ante up** money on him as long as he had a red.* What is the meaning of **ante up**?

- Ⓐ win money from a bet
- Ⓑ lose money from a bet
- Ⓒ put up money as part of a bet
- Ⓓ cheat to win a bet

9. What evidence is there that the narrator does not enjoy Simon Wheeler's story?

- Ⓐ He doesn't stick around to hear the story about the cow.
- Ⓑ He falls asleep during the story.
- Ⓒ He keeps interrupting Wheeler.
- Ⓓ He tells Wheeler that he is not interested.

10. Why wasn't Daniel Webster able to jump?

- Ⓐ He was sick.
- Ⓑ He was asleep.
- Ⓒ He hurt his back legs.
- Ⓓ He was full of quail shot.

11. **Extended Response:** Compare Jim Smiley to the man who outwitted him in the bet on the jumping frog. Use details from the text to support your answer.

12. **Extended Response:** Describe how Simon Wheeler presents Jim Smiley in both his good and bad qualities. Then, explain your opinion of Smiley's character. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. Ⓓ *Character Point of View*
2. Ⓒ *Story Elements*
3. Ⓐ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
4. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
5. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
6. Ⓑ *Analyze Character*
7. Ⓓ *Sequence Events*
8. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
9. Ⓐ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
10. Ⓓ *Cause and Effect*
11. Answers will vary but will draw details from the story to compare Jim Smiley to the man he bet on Daniel Webster with. For example: *Jim and the other man both like to gamble and rely on the other person's gullibility and naivety to win their way. They both use distraction and their wits and are clever deceivers. However, Jim is a part of his town and seems to still get along with his peers, while the other man is a stranger. Also, Jim never personally harms his opponents' animals, while the stranger is willing to fill Jim's frog with buckshot.*
12. Answers will vary. Example: *Wheeler certainly admires and seems to value Smiley and his devious ways. While Smiley likes to bet, he doesn't cheat people. The animals that he cultivates are probably of no use to anyone else until Smiley finds a use for them. The animals seem to have an uncanny way of coming through in the end. They are the underdogs. Smiley's luck mostly comes from the fact that he knows that people will underestimate these animals.* Answers will conclude with the student's own opinion of Smiley. Students may agree with Wheeler's interpretation of Smiley as clever and admirable, or may disagree and view Smiley as dishonest.