

Name _____

Date _____

Grade 4 Reading

Theme 2 Selection 3

“Boss of the Plains”

Read the selection, “Boss of the Plains”. Then, answer the following questions.

1. In the selection, Boss of the Plains, the word “sunbonnets” means

- a) something you eat
- b) a type of hat
- c) a game
- d) pinkish skin due to damage from the sun

2. Why did everyone in the American West wear a hat?

- a) It was the style back then.
- b) It showed the importance of the person wearing the hat.
- c) The hat protected them from the weather.
- d) Hats were fun to wear.

3. Which of the following is a generalization about the success of any invention??

- a) There is nothing left to invent.
- b) Hats are too expensive to buy.
- c) People will buy anything, no matter what.
- d) An invention will be successful if there is a need for the item and it is useful.

4. Think about the selection. Choose the best answer to complete the sequence chart.

John went to Pike’s Peak to mine gold.

?

John invented the Boss of the Plains.

- a) John became ill and decided to move out west.
- b) John made hats as a boy in Orange, NJ.
- c) John started a new life in St. Joseph, Missouri.
- d) John moved to Philadelphia to make hats.

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5. The genre of this selection is

- a) biography
- b) autobiography
- c) realistic fiction
- d) poetry

6. John Stetson was an inventor. What does the word “inventor” mean?

- a) someone who invents
- b) a sign of inventing
- c) in an inventing way
- d) the act of inventing

7. Read the following sentence, “Even though the Boss of the Plains cost a cowboy a whole month’s wages, it was worth it.” What does the word “wages” mean?

- a) a person who rides a horse
- b) payment for doing work
- c) something to wear on your head
- d) 4 weeks

8. Which statement best summarizes this selection?

- a) This is a true story about the man who invented the most popular hat in the West.
- b) John Stetson was a hat maker.
- c) John Stetson grew up in Orange, NJ.
- d) John Stetson followed his childhood dreams and moved out west.

9. Which event happened right after John mailed the sample hats to stores in the West?

- a) He became ill and moved out West.
- b) He invented a felt tent for the gold miners.
- c) He waited for two weeks and nothing happened.
- d) Orders began pouring in all at once.

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Open-ended Response

In your own words summarize the reasons why John's hat, the Boss of the Plains, was a success. Use at least 3 examples from the selection to support your answer.

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Grade 4 Reading
Theme 2 Selection 3 “The Boss of the Plains”
Answer Key and Eligible Content

Item Number	Answer	Descriptor	Assessment Anchor
1	b	Context clues	R4.A.2.1.2
2	c	Cause/effect	R4.B.1.1
3	d	Generalizations	R4.A.2.6.1
4	d	Sequence (using graphics)	R4.B.3.3.3
5	a	Genre	R4.A.2.6
6	a	Affixes (-er, -or, -ist)	R4.A.2.2.1
7	b	Context clues	R4.A.2.1.2
8	a	Summarize	R4.A.2.5.1
9	c	Sequence	R4.B.3.3.1
Open-ended		Summarize	R4.A.2.5.1

Open-ended Rubric

3 points

demonstrates complete knowledge of how to write a summary, in student’s own words, about why the Boss of the Plains was a success, using at least 3 examples from the selection.

2 points

demonstrates partial knowledge of how to write a summary, in student’s own words, about why the Boss of the Plains was a success, using 2 examples from the selection.

1 point

demonstrates incomplete knowledge of how to write a summary, in student’s own words about why the Boss of the Plains was a success, using 1 example from the selection.

0 points

has given a response that provides insufficient material for scoring or is inaccurate in all respects.