

A **legend** is a folktale about an extraordinary₂ person who is a **hero**.

- ▶ The character may be a real or an imaginary person.
- ▶ The plot refers to the main events of a story.

Plots of legends	Example – Pecos Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an introduction that describes the character with exaggerated₃ or make-believe details 	<p>Pecos Bill was a Western hero. He was, in fact, the most famous man in the country. Bill invented roping. Bill used to rope everything around. He'd lassoed the eagles in the sky.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of a challenge the hero faces • how the hero uses his talent to overcome a challenge 	<p>One day, Pecos Bill made a bet. He said he could ride a cyclone. He lassoed it over Kansas. It was a stubborn cyclone, and it gave Pecos Bill a fight. But nothin' was too much for Pecos Bill to handle. He grabbed that cyclone, pushed it to the ground, and jumped on its back.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reason why the hero is a legend 	<p>Finally, that cyclone decided it wasn't getting this cowboy off its back. It gave up and just turned into rain. That's why Pecos Bill was the finest roper in the West.</p>

CFU

Which would be an exaggerated detail that might be an introduction to a legend? Explain.

- A A person who studies lions.** **B A person who can wrestle with a lion.**

Which would be a challenge that a hero faces? Explain.

- A The hero must sew 1000 hats overnight.**
B The hero must wear her hat for the parade on Sunday.

Which would be an example of how a hero can overcome a challenge? Explain.

- A The hero reaches for the clouds in the sky and squeezes them to get water for people in the town.**
B The hero gets water from the faucet to water her plants.

Which may be a reason why a hero is a legend? Explain.

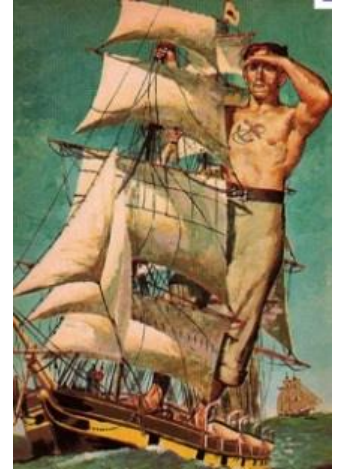
- A Because of her, the children in the neighborhood learned to save water.**
B Because of her, the town never had another drought.

In your own words, explain the plot of a legend.

1. Read the question and what you need to find. (underline)
2. Read the legend to find the answer. (underline)
3. Determine the answer. (box it)

A.B. Stormalong

¹A.B. Stormalong stood thirty feet tall! ²He worked as a sailor. ³His captain was glad to have such a giant man. ⁴Old Stormalong's size and strength helped him while sailing at sea. ⁵He was so tall, he didn't have to climb to set the sails. ⁶Old Stormy would just reach up high and do it. ⁷One time, the crew couldn't get the ship moving. ⁸Old Stormy jumped overboard to take a look. ⁹He saw a huge octopus tentacle underneath the water. ¹⁰Stormy started wrestlin' the octopus! ¹¹No man could fight such a thing! ¹²Suddenly, Old Stormy climbed back on board. ¹³He wasn't even hurt! ¹⁴He said, "That old octopus had one hundred arms! ¹⁵I fixed him, though. ¹⁶I tied every one of those arms in a double knot!" ¹⁸Everyone cheered.



1 Which sentence(s) have an exaggeration?

Sentence(s) _____ have an exaggeration.

2 What challenge did A.B. Stormalong face?

- A He had to get the boat moving with no wind.
- B He had to free the boat from an octopus.
- C He had to untie the boat that was anchored to the sea floor.

3 How did A.B. Stormalong overcome his challenge?

- A He used his strength to tie the octopus' arms in knots.
- B He used his height to set the sails.
- C He blew wind in its sails.

4 Why is A.B. Stormalong a legend?

- A Stormalong sailed across many seas.
- B Stormalong was a great sailor because of his size and strength.
- C Stormalong jumped overboard into the water.

Skill Closure

1. Read the question carefully and what you need to find. (underline)
2. Read the legend to find the answer. (underline)
3. Determine the answer. (box it)

John Henry

¹The night John Henry was born, the whole earth shook. ²He was a big baby, weighing in at 44 pounds (20 kg)! ³John Henry grew up big and strong. ⁴John got a job with the railroad in the year 1870 when steam drills had just been invented. ⁵These drills, powered by steam, could do the work men had done before. ⁶One day, a salesman came to town selling the steam drill. ⁷John Henry's friends said he could do a faster, better job than any steam drill. ⁸They decided to hold a contest: John Henry against the steam drill. ⁹John Henry drilled by using his hammer to pound a spike for seven hours straight! ¹⁰He drilled a hole 14-feet (4.3 m). ¹¹The steam drill only drilled 10-feet (3 m). ¹²John Henry won! ¹³Man had beat a machine for the first time in history! ¹⁴He was a great hero, but he had worked too hard to win. ¹⁵The next day he died from being too tired.



- 1 Which sentence(s) have an exaggeration?

Sentence(s) _____ have an exaggeration.

Speaking

Concept Closure

Why is John Henry a legend?

Summary Closure

What did you learn today about determining the plots of legends?

Word Bank

story
exaggeration
challenge
overcome

1. Read the question carefully and what you need to find. (underline)
2. Read the legend to find the answer. (underline)
3. Determine the answer. (box it)

John Henry

¹The night John Henry was born, the whole earth shook. ²He was a big baby, weighing in at 44 pounds (20 kg)! ³John Henry grew up big and strong. ⁴John got a job with the railroad in the year 1870 when steam drills had just been invented. ⁵These drills, powered by steam, could do the work men had done before. ⁶One day, a salesman came to town selling the steam drill. ⁷John Henry's friends said he could do a faster, better job than any steam drill. ⁸They decided to hold a contest: John Henry against the steam drill. ⁹John Henry drilled by using his hammer to pound a spike for seven hours straight! ¹⁰He drilled a hole 14-feet (4.3 m). ¹¹The steam drill only drilled 10-feet (3 m). ¹²John Henry won! ¹³Man had beat a machine for the first time in history! ¹⁴He was a great hero, but he had worked too hard to win. ¹⁵The next day he died from being too tired.



- 1 What challenge did John Henry face?
 - A He had to drill a hole nine feet deep.
 - B He had to drill a hole through a mountain.
 - C He had to drill faster than the steam drill.
- 2 How did John Henry overcome his challenge?
 - A He used his strength and speed to drill faster than the steam drill.
 - B He used the powerful steam drill to drill a hole 14-ft (4.3 m) deep.
 - C He used his size to scare the salesman away.



Listening

Listen carefully to the legend. Raise your hand when you hear an exaggeration. Write down the sentence number.

1 Which sentence(s) has an exaggeration?

Sentence(s) _____ has an exaggeration.

2 Who is the hero of the story? Explain. (oral)

A Old Man Mazuma **B** Finn MacCool

3 What challenge did Finn MacCool face?

A He almost drowned in the grand canyon.

B He was dying of thirst in the desert.

C He was asked to bring water to the desert.

4 How did Finn MacCool overcome his challenge?

A He used his powers to make it rain.

B He used his engineering skills to dig a ditch.

C He built a pipe to bring water from the ocean.





Reading

Read the text. Complete using the correct words. Read it one more time.

Joe

St. Patrick

rid

snakes

dirt

died

St. Patrick of Erie

¹The Erie Canal was built by Irish people who had come to America.

²After the canal was built; they had a big problem. ³The water was filled with

_____! ⁴A clever Irishman by the name of _____ had an idea. ⁵Joe

knew there were no snakes in Ireland. ⁶_____, an Irish religious

leader, had gotten _____ of them years ago. ⁷Joe determined that the

snakes must be afraid of Irish _____.

⁸In those days, most Irishmen carried some dirt from their home country with them for good luck. ⁹So, Joe gathered all the

Irishmen's dirt. ¹⁰Then, he threw the dirt into the water, and all the snakes _____.

¹¹Joe became known as the St. Patrick of Erie.

1 Which sentence(s) have an exaggeration?

Sentence(s) _____ have an exaggeration.

2 What challenge did Joe face?

- A Joe had to help dig the Erie Canal.
- B Joe wanted to get rid of the snakes in the Erie Canal.
- C Joe had to sail back to Ireland to get Irish dirt.

3 How did Joe overcome his challenge?

- A He went to see St. Patrick to find how to kill the snakes.
- B He threw dirt from Ireland in the canal.
- C He went back to Ireland where there were no snakes.

4 How did Joe become the legend St. Patrick of Erie?

- A Joe was the first to sail from Ireland by way of the Erie Canal.
- B Joe and St. Patrick became best friends.
- C Joe got rid of all the snakes in the Erie Canal.





Writing

Read the legend. Answer the question.

Tony Beaver

¹Tony was the most famous logger₁ in the South. ²With one swing, Tony could cut down two trees—one on the back swing and one on the down swing! ³When he got bored with that, he went to pulling the trees out by the roots. ⁴Before long, Tony was growing up extra big, so Ma made him go out to be on his own. ⁵Tony set out, taking his big strides that went from one mountaintop to the next. ⁶He came to Turtle Cove when Big Bill Simpson was holding a wood-chopping contest. ⁷Big Bill was promising his lumbering business to anyone who could out-chop him. ⁸Tony entered the contest to try to out-chop Big Bill. ⁹On the ready signal, Tony brought his ax down so hard that it just broke off the big hickory tree as if it were a matchstick. ¹⁰With one chop, Tony was given Big Bill's lumbering business.



- 1 Which sentence(s) have an exaggeration?

Sentence(s) _____ have an exaggeration.

- 2 What challenge did Tony Beaver face?

- 3 How did Tony overcome his challenge?

- 4 Why is Tony Beaver a legend?
