

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

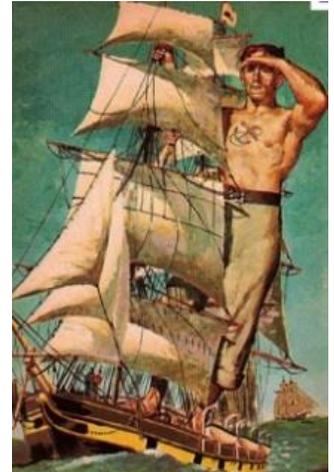
- A Because of her, the children in the neighborhood learned to save water.**  
**B Because of her, the town never had another drought.**

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

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

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

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## Word Bank

story  
exaggeration  
challenge  
overcome

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

### John Henry

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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

<sup>1</sup>The Erie Canal was built by Irish people who had come to America.

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

\_\_\_\_\_! <sup>4</sup>A clever Irishman by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ had an idea. <sup>5</sup>Joe knew there were no snakes in Ireland. <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ , an Irish religious

leader, had gotten \_\_\_\_\_ of them years ago. <sup>7</sup>Joe determined that the snakes must be afraid of Irish \_\_\_\_\_ . <sup>8</sup>In those days, most Irishmen carried

some dirt from their home country with them for good luck. <sup>9</sup>So, Joe gathered all the Irishmen's dirt. <sup>10</sup>Then, he threw the dirt into the water, and all the snakes \_\_\_\_\_ .

<sup>11</sup>Joe became known as the St. Patrick of Erie.

Read the legend. Answer the question.

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. Write answers to the questions.

### Tony Beaver

<sup>1</sup>Tony was the most famous logger<sub>1</sub> in the South. <sup>2</sup>With one swing, Tony could cut down two trees—one on the back swing and one on the down swing! <sup>3</sup>When he got bored with that, he went to pulling the trees out by the roots. <sup>4</sup>Before long, Tony was growing up extra big, so Ma made him go out to be on his own. <sup>5</sup>Tony set out, taking his big strides that went from one mountaintop to the next. <sup>6</sup>He came to Turtle Cove when Big Bill Simpson was holding a wood-chopping contest. <sup>7</sup>Big Bill was promising his lumbering business to anyone who could out-chop him. <sup>8</sup>Tony entered the contest to try to out-chop Big Bill. <sup>9</sup>On 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. <sup>10</sup>With 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?

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- 3 How did Tony overcome his challenge?

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- 4 Why is Tony Beaver a legend?

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