

# Common Core Aligned Comprehension Assessment

**John Henry**  
CCSS Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: / 9

**Directions:**

Use what you know about *John Henry* to answer each of the following questions.

1. What was the author's purpose in telling you John Henry's story?

- A He wanted to share facts about a real person's life.
- B He wanted to persuade you to like John Henry better than Pecos Bill.
- C He wanted to explain how to get through boulders and mountains.
- D He wanted to entertain you with a tall tale that also teaches a lesson.

2. What about John Henry's life best supports the theme of hard work and living life to the fullest?

- A The forest animals liked him.
- B He wanted to help and work, and never was afraid of a challenge.
- C He had two strong hammers.
- D He had a rainbow that would wrap around him as he worked.

3. Which words of John Henry's show us how he felt when he was told he couldn't do something?

- A Just watch me.
- B RINGGGGGG!
- C Whatever you say.
- D I got a rainbow.

4. In the first paragraph, the author writes that you may not know the "ins and outs" of John Henry's "comings and goings." What does that mean?

- A It means you may not know how he traveled to different places.
- B It means you might not know his name.
- C It means you may not know his story.
- D It means you may not know his friends.

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5. How is this story different than a drama/play? (RL.4.5)

- A They are not different. This is a play.
- B This story does not rhyme like most plays do.
- C This story has dialogue, but the words are not written as lines for each character.
- D This story has stage directions, just like a drama/play.

6. This story is told by a 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrator. How would it be different if it were told by John Henry? (RL.4.6)

- A We would know all the same information.
- B We would not know about what happened after he died.
- C We would not know what it was like when he was working.
- D We would not know about his challenges and his hard work.

7. If John Henry's story were made into a play or movie, what part would be the climax (the turning point in the story)? (RL.4.7)

- A When he was singing as he worked
- B When the rainbow wrapped around the mountain
- C When John Henry beat Ferret-Faced Freddy in a race
- D When John beat the steam drill and walked out in front of the cheering crowd

8. What is a theme found in John Henry's story that you may have also read in other stories? (RL.4.9)

- A Everybody dies; what matters is what you did when you lived.
- B Confidence and hard work go a long way.
- C Find your talents and use them.
- D All of the above.

9. What is one reason readers might enjoy tall tales like *John Henry*? (RL.4.10)

- A They teach you about the past.
- B They are entertaining and exaggerated, but usually have a good message.
- C They give you facts about a real person's life.
- D They have rhythm and rhyme.

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Common Core Assessment:  
One question for each Reading  
Informational OR Reading Literature  
standard (1-9)



Answer Key

