“Black Cowboy, Wild Horses” by Julius Lester

Open-Book Test

Short Answer Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. In folk literature, a flower that speaks to children is an example of what characteristic? Define the characteristic.

2. A grandmother tells her grandchildren a folk tale about a boy whose nose gets longer each time he tells a lie. What two characteristics of folk literature does this story have? Define the characteristics.

3. You read a story about a mouse and a lion that ends with the following: “One good turn deserves another.” What kind of folk literature is the story? Explain.

4. Eventually, folk tales were collected and written down. How might this have affected the stories? Think about what happened to them as they were told orally.

5. In the first paragraph of “Black Cowboy, Wild Horses,” how does the author use personification? Give an example from the text.

6. In “Black Cowboy, Wild Horses,” the author writes, “Bob could make the horses think he was one of them—because he was.” What characteristic of folk literature is Lester using? Explain.

8. In order to take over the herd, Bob and Warrior must defeat the stallion who is the leader. Why does Bob choose the moment he does to attack? Use details from the story to explain.

9. At the end of “Black Cowboy, Wild Horses,” what are Bob and Warrior longing for?

Essay

Write an extended response to the question of your choice or to the question or questions your teacher assigns you.

10. Describe Bob Lemmons's character in “Black Cowboy, Wild Horses.” Base your answer on the things he does and on his abilities. Use specific details from the story to support your answer. Use the chart to help organize your points

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<th>Things Bob Lemmons Does</th>
<th>Bob Lemmons's Abilities</th>
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11. Julius Lester combined fact and fiction to write the legend “Black Cowboy, Wild Horses.” In an essay, explain how Lester's story brings history to life. Consider the way in which Lester describes the setting and characters in the story. Use detailed examples to support your ideas.

12. A universal theme is a message about life that can be understood by people of most cultures. What universal theme does “Black Cowboy, Wild Horses” suggest to you? Use details from the story to respond in a brief essay.
13. **Thinking About the Big Question: How much do our communities shape us?**
Reread the last paragraph of "Black Cowboy, Wild Horses." Do you think Bob's community shapes his decision not to ride away onto the plains? In a brief essay, explain your opinion and tell whether you think Bob made the right choice. Use details about Bob from the selection.

**Oral Response**

14. Go back to question 5, 7, or 9 or to the question your teacher assigns to you. Take a few minutes to expand your answer and prepare an oral response. Find additional details in "Black Cowboy, Wild Horses" that support your points. If necessary, make notes to guide your response.