

Name: _____

“The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” - Response questions

Directions: Answer each question to the best of your abilities. Use complete sentences, and use evidence from the text. You may use additional paper if needed.

1. Mark Twain creates a framing device – he uses a first person narrator to introduce Simon Wheeler, who in turn tells a tall tale. What are the differences between these two characters?
2. Read aloud the first paragraph of Simon Wheeler’s dialogue. Identify examples of dialect and define them using context clues. What does this use of dialect contribute to the story?
3. Why are people so surprised when Smiley’s horse wins a race?
4. What is Jim Smiley’s dog’s strategy for winning dogfights? What eventually happens to him?
5. What happens to Jim Smiley’s frog, Dan’l Webster while Jim is out looking for a frog for the stranger? How does this affect the race?
6. Does the defeat of Dan’l Webster and Andrew Jackson destroy Jim Smiley’s desire to bet? What proof do you have?
7. Identify at least three examples of exaggeration in this story