

My Wonder Horse/Mi Caballo Mago (page 557)

Active Reading SkillBuilder

Inferences about Character Change

An **inference** is a logical guess or conclusion based on facts. Readers infer by combining clues in the text with what they already know to reach a conclusion that goes beyond what the words say. Use the chart to record clues about the narrator's thoughts and feelings. Then make inferences from those clues. Pay special attention to how the narrator's thoughts and feelings change as the story develops.

What the Narrator Says	What I Know from Experience	What I Can Infer
<i>"I used to listen open-mouthed as my father and the ranch hands talked about the phantom horse."</i>	<i>People's mouths often drop open when they are surprised or impressed.</i>	<i>The narrator is impressed by the stories of the phantom horse.</i>

My Wonder Horse/Mi Caballo Mago (page 557)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Style**

Style refers to the special way in which a writer expresses ideas. It describes not the ideas themselves, but rather how they are presented. Every writer has a unique style. One of the distinctive elements of Ulibarri's style is his variety of sentence length. Choose two paragraphs from the story that have a style you find interesting. For each paragraph, list the variety of sentence lengths.

Paragraph 1, page _____**Examples of varying sentence length:**

Paragraph 2, page _____**Examples of varying sentence length:**

Follow Up: How does the variety of sentence length reflect the emotional content or the action in the passage?

My Wonder Horse/Mi Caballo Mago (page 557)**Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**

evoke
indignity

indomitable
lethargy

mandate
mystic

transcendent
ultimate

vigil
wane

A. Circle the word in each group that is a *synonym* for the capitalized word.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. Lethargy | immorality | idleness | discontentment |
| 2. Mystic | sad | valuable | wondrous |
| 3. Evoke | summon | amaze | remove |
| 4. Wane | roam | fade | falsify |
| 5. Mandate | order | conduct | demonstration |
| 6. Vigil | lookout | strength | sacrifice |
| 7. Ultimate | minimum | average | maximum |
| 8. Indignity | humiliation | anger | nobility |
| 9. Indomitable | guaranteed | necessary | unyielding |
| 10. Transcendent | wavering | supreme | shining |

B. On each blank line, write the word from the word list that the rhyme describes.

This is what a mother keeps while at a loved one's side
In case, in deepest night, there is some help she can provide.

_____ (1)

This is the state you're in when all your energy is spent,
And listlessness exists to an unusual extent.

_____ (2)

This is a noun that means the most, the maximum, and so
Beyond this point, it simply is impossible to go.

_____ (3)

Light will do this every evening, and there is no doubt
Your energy will do this as you start to tire out.

_____ (4)

This can describe those things that seem mysterious or grand
In ways that make us marvel and that we don't understand.

_____ (5)

C. Write a diary entry that the narrator of "My Wonder Horse" might have written either the night *before* the horse escaped or the night *after* the horse escaped. Use at least **four** of the Words to Know.

My Wonder Horse/Mi Caballo Mago (page 557)**Selection Quiz**

Recall the events in Ulibarrí's short story and then answer the questions.

1. According to the ranchers' stories, what happens when people try to catch the Wonder Horse?

2. When the boy dreams of capturing the horse, what does he imagine himself doing with it?

3. Why is the boy's horse able to overtake the Wonder Horse?

4. As the boy and the horses pass through the town, what happens to the Wonder Horse?

5. What does the boy see the next morning when he goes to the fenced pasture?

My Wonder Horse/Mi Caballo Mago (page 557)**Selection Test**

A. Read each descriptive passage below. In the box to the right of the quotation, note what the passage literally describes. In the box below it, make notes about how the writer's style contributes to the description. (10 points each)

<p>1. "A sharp neigh. A far-reaching challenge that soars on high, ripping the virginal fabric of the rosy clouds. Ears at the point. Eyes flashing. Tail waving active defiance. Hoofs glossy and destructive. Arrogant ruler of the countryside."</p>	<p>What does the passage literally describe?</p>
<p>How does the writer's style contribute to the description?</p>	
<p>2. "A frenzy of fury and rage. Whirlpools of light and fans of transparent snow. A rope that whistles and burns the saddletree. Smoking, fighting gloves. Eyes burning in their sockets. Mouth parched. Fevered forehead. The whole earth shakes and shudders. The long, white trench ends in a wide, white pool."</p>	<p>What does the passage literally describe?</p>
<p>How does the writer's style contribute to the description?</p>	

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (8 points each)

- _____ 1. **Most** of the stories about the Wonder Horse center on his
- speed.
 - beauty.
 - courage.
 - ability to avoid capture.
- _____ 2. The narrator's horse is able to catch the Wonder Horse because
- the narrator's horse is faster.
 - the narrator's horse has a head start.
 - the Wonder Horse has to break the trail.
 - the Wonder Horse has to protect his mares.

- _____ 3. The Wonder Horse is able to escape because the narrator underestimates the horse's
- speed.
 - determination.
 - ability to jump.
 - magical powers.
- _____ 4. At the end of the story, it is clear that the narrator feels
- guilt.
 - anger.
 - humiliation.
 - mixed emotions.

C. Words to Know. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. A person is **most** likely to feel lethargy after a
- huge meal.
 - sudden fright.
 - good night's sleep.
- _____ 2. During a vigil, one must remain
- kneeling.
 - calm.
 - awake.
- _____ 3. Which of the following could **best** be described as indomitable?
- a pillow
 - an angry bear
 - a chocolate cake
- _____ 4. Sunlight normally wanes
- at dawn.
 - at midday.
 - in the evening.
- _____ 5. A person who gives mandates in a courtroom is a
- judge.
 - defendant.
 - witness.

D. Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (14 points)

- The narrator says, "Every day he became for me more of an ideal, more of an idol, more of a mystery." Why do you think the narrator is so inspired by the Wonder Horse? What does this horse represent for him?
- How is the narrator changed by his experience with the Wonder Horse? Support your answer.

E. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (14 points)

Do you think it is right to capture a wild animal to keep as a pet? Why or why not?