

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

The True Story of the Subway Superman

It's easy to feel anonymous when you live in New York City. With more than 19 million residents, people often get lost in the crowd. But every so often, someone does something of such magnitude that the entire world takes notice.

On January 2, 2007, Wesley Autrey was standing in a subway station with his two daughters. As they waited for their train to arrive, a young man next to them suddenly had a seizure. Autrey watched as the man stumbled off the subway platform and onto the grimy subway tracks. In the distance, Autrey could see the lights of a subway train hurtling toward the man. He knew that this would definitely be a lethal situation if he didn't do something.

While a crowd of bystanders looked on, Autrey jumped off the platform. He tried to lift the man back onto the platform, but there was not enough time: The train was moving too quickly. Thinking fast, Autrey made the astute decision to move the man between the tracks. As the train approached, Autrey dropped to the ground and protected the young man with his body. He continued to hold the man down as the subway rushed over them, a mere inch or so above his head. If it weren't for Autrey's bravery, the young man would have certainly been a casualty.

The story of Autrey's daring rescue instantly became worldwide news. Newspapers called him "The Subway Superman" and "The Hero of Harlem." Gifts and cards streamed in from around the globe, paying homage to him for his brave act. The unknown construction worker was suddenly a downright celebrity. He appeared on several television shows, including The Ellen DeGeneres Show and The Late Show with David Letterman. Donald Trump gave him \$10,000, his daughters received college scholarships, and he was a guest of honor at President Bush's 2007 State of the Union Address.

Why did Autrey's story attract so much attention? For one thing, his rescue came at a time when there wasn't a lot of positive news on TV. People saw Autrey's story as a beam of light in a dark time. But perhaps most of all, Autrey's brave act showed the world that we all have the power to be heroes.

1. Why, most likely, did Autrey move the young man to between the tracks?

- (A) The train conductor told Autrey to move the young man.
- (B) The high-voltage third rail wasn't activated.
- (C) Both the young man and Autrey would have been crushed otherwise.
- (D) The train was moving on a different set of tracks.

2. What does Autrey do for a living?

- (A) He works for the subway.
- (B) He is a construction worker.
- (C) He is a teacher.
- (D) He is a doctor.

3. The author's tone in the third paragraph could best be described as

- (A) Hopeless
- (B) Romantic
- (C) Comedic
- (D) Suspenseful

4. How is the last paragraph organized?

- (A) Order of importance
- (B) Chronological order
- (C) Question and answer
- (D) Cause and effect

5. Read this sentence from the passage:

"People saw Autrey's story as a beam of light in a dark time." The author means that Autrey's story

- (A) Gave people hope
- (B) Seemed unimportant
- (C) Did not seem to be true
- (D) Was humorous

5E Pick the Winner

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. By changing his voice, the celebrity caller tried to remain (**anonymous OR astute**).
2. _____
3. Only experienced electricians should work with electrical wires; it's easy to get a (**deceased OR lethal**) shock if you don't know what you're doing.
4. _____
5. I found the museum fascinating, but my brother thought the paintings were too (**legitimate OR stodgy**).
6. _____
7. The king stood before his subjects to (**hurtle OR admonish**) them for their lack of loyalty.
8. _____
9. I delivered a speech paying (**casualty OR homage**) to my mother at her 40th birthday party.
10. _____

5F Draw the Relationships

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1	admonish	clean	forewarn	witness
	bystander	unimportance	grimy	magnitude
.....				
2	recognized	downright	deceased	anonymous
	alive	completely	hurtle	move with great speed