

9G Understanding What You Read

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

The Hatfields and the McCoys

In the late 1800s, a civil war, a nomadic pig, and a dangerous romance all contributed to the most famous feud in American history. The feud was between two families who lived near the Tug Fork River, which runs through West Virginia and Kentucky. Randolph "Ole Ran'l" McCoy raised his family on the Kentucky side of the Tug Fork, while William Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield's family lived on the West Virginia side. Before the Civil War, the families were friendly with one another. When Ole Ran'l's brother Harmon joined the Union army, however, the Hatfields quickly turned vindictive: They murdered Harmon when he returned from the army.

Then, in 1878, a pig wandered onto Floyd Hatfield's land in West Virginia. Floyd was the cousin of "Devil Anse" Hatfield. Floyd's neighbor, Ole Ran'l McCoy, claimed the hog belonged to him. The case went to court, where it was settled in favor of the Hatfields based on testimony from Bill Staton, a relative of both men. Staton's "betrayal" infuriated the McCoys, and he was soon murdered as well.

Not long after that, Ole Ran'l's daughter Roseanna became romantically involved with Johnse Hatfield, son of Devil Anse. When the McCoys found out, they took Johnse prisoner and led him to the local jail, where they planned to kill him. Distraught, Roseanna turned to Devil Anse, who formed an army of Hatfields. The Hatfields managed to impede the McCoys' momentum before Johnse could be killed.

After these three events, the already violent feud between the McCoys and the Hatfields truly erupted. Devil Anse's brother Ellison was flagrantly stabbed 26 times by three of Roseanna McCoy's younger brothers. On New Year's Eve in 1888, the Hatfields surrounded the McCoys' cabin and opened fire. All told, more than a dozen members of the two families were killed during their ongoing war.

The feud finally came to an end in 1891. Eighty years later, long after the wounds had healed, descendants of the two families played against each other on the game show "Family Feud." The winning family got to take home a prize that was not customary for most of the show's winners: a live pig.

1. One similarity between the Hatfield and McCoy families is that they both

- (A) Lived in West Virginia
- (B) Were descendants of Devil Anse Hatfield
- (C) Fought for the Confederate army
- (D) Lived near the Tug Fork River

2. Which of the following events occurred first?

- (A) Devil Anse's brother was stabbed.
- (B) Harmon McCoy joined the Union army.
- (C) Roseanna McCoy fell in love with Johnse Hatfield.
- (D) Ole Ran'l and Floyd fought over a pig.

3. This passage can best be described as

- (A) Autobiography
- (B) Historical nonfiction
- (C) Historical autobiography
- (D) Personal narrative

4. When did the New Year's Eve massacre occur?

- (A) 1878
- (B) 1881
- (C) 1888
- (D) 1891

5. Why did the winners of "Family Feud" receive a live pig?

- (A) A dispute over a pig played a principal role in the families' original feud.
- (B) "Family Feud" regularly gave away live animals.
- (C) The Hatfields and the McCoys became famous pig farmers.
- (D) Pigs are considered more valuable than cash in some parts of the country.



Name: _____

9E 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. My head was so **(congested OR customary)** when I had a cold that I felt as if it was filled with sand.

2. _____
3. Rosalie is going to be **(infuriated OR impeded)** when she learns that her boyfriend skipped her party to hang out with another girl.

4. _____
5. The **(nomadic OR vindictive)** herd of elk moved to a new location whenever their food supply ran out.

6. _____
7. The hockey player committed a(n) **(upright OR flagrant)** foul when he hit the other player in the stomach with his stick.

8. _____
9. I have no idea what Mr. Peters was **(droning OR trickling)** on about during class today; his voice is so dull it puts me to sleep.

10. _____

9F 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	infuriate	customary	agreement	upright
	anger	dishonest	unusual	feud
.....				
2	come before	impede	ensue	obstruct
	vindictive	drip	vengeful	trickle