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This is a story about a Texas gal who rode huge catfish just for the fun of it. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.



## Sluefoot Sue

“I can ride anything that moves!” Sluefoot Sue would say. And she could. There wasn’t a wild horse that she couldn’t break. She even rode wild fish. Her favorite was the catfish. In those days, the catfish in Texas were as big as whales, and Sue would hop onto one as it swam by her. “Yippee!” she would yell, as the catfish splashed through the waves with Sue on its back.

Sluefoot Sue was quite a woman with her dark curly hair and sparkling black eyes. Some said she was the prettiest woman they had ever seen. Lots of men wanted to marry her, but Sue didn’t want to settle down. She had a mind of her own.

One day, Sluefoot Sue was showing off as usual. She was riding a gigantic fish, and a big crowd was watching. “Hang on, Sue!” they shouted loudly. “Ride that critter!” Soon, all that noise brought Pecos Bill to the river.

Pecos Bill was probably the most famous cowboy in the West. He was tall, strong, and handsome, and many women wanted to marry him. When Bill saw Sue, it was love at first sight. He called her his “pretty little coyote.” At night, he would stand under her window and howl songs that he had learned from living with the coyotes.

Soon, Bill had won Sue over, and they decided to get married. Bill made one mistake, however. “Don’t ever try to ride Widow Maker,” he warned Sue. Widow Maker was Bill’s horse and the most dangerous horse in the West. Nobody but Bill could ride Widow Maker, although many had tried. Bill didn’t want Sue to get hurt. Of course, Sue made up her mind then and there that she *would* ride Bill’s horse.

Bill and Sue had the biggest wedding Texas had ever seen. All the cowboys were there, and some say a few coyotes showed up to howl for Sue and Bill. Right after the wedding, Sue jumped up on Widow Maker. She was still wearing her wedding dress with its big, fluffy bustle. The horse gave a mighty buck and up Sue flew. She didn’t stop until she hooked her dress on the tip of the moon.

It took Bill four nights and three days to get Sue down with his rattlesnake lasso. Luckily, she landed on her bustle when she came down, and although she bounced a few times, she was not hurt.

Pecos Bill had learned his lesson, though. “Do whatever you want from now on, Sue,” he said quietly. Sluefoot Sue smiled and answered, “I think I’ll keep my feet on the ground for a while!”



# Understanding the Story

It is important to understand what you read. You just read a story about Sluefoot Sue. Did you read the story carefully?

Here are some questions about the story. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. Sue was very good at

- (A) riding Widow Maker
- (B) breaking wild horses
- (C) swimming with whales
- (D) listening to Bill

Factual

2. Which sentence is not true?

- (A) Sluefoot Sue liked having her own way.
- (B) Sluefoot Sue was brave and daring.
- (C) Sluefoot Sue couldn't make up her own mind.
- (D) Sluefoot Sue liked to show off.

Inference

3. Which of the following sentences gave you a clue that this story is probably not true?

- (A) There wasn't a wild horse she couldn't break.
- (B) Pecos Bill was probably the most famous cowboy in the West.
- (C) Bill and Sue had the biggest wedding Texas had ever seen.
- (D) She didn't stop until she hooked her dress on the tip of the moon.

Critical Reasoning

4. When Sue and Bill met, Bill

- (A) howled like coyotes
- (B) rode his horse
- (C) rode off on a huge catfish
- (D) fell in love right away

Inference

5. Bill made a mistake when he

- (A) got married
- (B) got Sue off the moon
- (C) told Sue what to do
- (D) fell in love

Inference

6. Bill didn't want Sue to ride Widow Maker because he

- (A) didn't want to share his horse
- (B) didn't want Sue to get hurt
- (C) knew Sue was not a good rider
- (D) knew Sue had a mind of her own

Inference

7. Why do you think it was lucky that Sue landed on her bustle?

- (A) It softened her fall.
- (B) She wanted to break it.
- (C) It kept her floating in the ocean.
- (D) It stopped her from dropping into a hole.

Critical Reasoning

8. What do you think Sue learned from riding Widow Maker?

- (A) Some things are too dangerous to try.
- (B) She shouldn't have worn her wedding dress for the ride.
- (C) Riding horses is fun.
- (D) Never listen to Bill.

Inference

SAMPLE



# Summing Up



This story is about an unusual woman. She had an unusual and funny wedding, too! In the chart below, tell how Sue was unusual in the box on the left. In the box on the right, tell how her wedding was unusual. Go back to the story for ideas if you need to.



Unusual Sue

Sue's Funny Wedding

SAMPLE



# Write About It

**Letters** are a good way to talk to friends faraway. In a letter, you can tell news about yourself. You can share anything special you have seen or done. Imagine that you have just been to the wedding of Sluefoot Sue and Pecos Bill. Think about all the strange and interesting things that happened. Then finish the letter below to a friend of yours.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I just got back from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . Sue looked so pretty

\_\_\_\_\_ . Of course, Bill was

Everything went well until \_\_\_\_\_

Luckily, Sue's dress \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . Even so,

it took Bill \_\_\_\_\_

I bet that Sue \_\_\_\_\_

Your friend,

\_\_\_\_\_