

ENGLISH LITERATURE-GRADE 5

PAUL BUNYAN-NOTES

I. Vocabulary

1. harness-a set of straps and fittings by which a horse or other animal is fastened to a cart or plough.
2. lumberjack-a person who fells trees, cut them into logs and transports them to a sawmill.
3. thaw—become liquid or soft as a result of warming up.
4. announcement-a formal public statement about a fact or occurrence.
5. feature-the structure, or appearance of the face or its parts.
6. requirement-something wanted or needed.
7. unnatural-artificial
8. untamed-wild
9. haul-to cause to move by pulling or drawing
10. nuzzling-rubbing with nose

II. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. What is a tall tale?

A tall tale is a humorous story with characters who have superhuman abilities.

2. Why do you think the author of this story uses exaggerated details about Paul Bunyan's features and actions?

The author uses exaggerated details because exaggeration is a feature of the tall tale. It makes the story funnier.

3. Why did Paul stop crying when he heard the sound 'flop flop flop'?

Paul had been alone for thirty days and was very hungry. When he discovered that the sound he heard was made by fish swimming in his river of tears, he stopped crying and had a big fish dinner.

4. How did young Paul get along quite well alone in the Maine woods?

Paul hunted and fished for food. He cut down trees and made fires .He battled storms and overcame other obstacles in order to survive in the woods.

5. Why was Paul concerned when he heard a crying sound in the wind?

Paul thought the sound was coming from a baby crying for its mother and father. Paul knew that it couldn't survive for long outside during the snowstorm.

III. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. Why do you think the author of this tale gives such a detailed description of the number and type of trees in the forests of America at the time of Paul Bunyan?

The author gives such a detailed description to show that before Paul Bunyan came, no trees had been cut. The author wants us to believe that Paul invented logging and to understand how Paul Bunyan changed American forests.

2. Give some examples of how the tall tale "Paul Bunyan" uses exaggeration and humor to explain something real in nature.

The author gives an explanation for the sound of an echo. Shot Gunderson's words were frozen during winter and stored away until spring. When they thaw, everyone hears the words that had been frozen, echoing through the woods.

When Paul dragged the pickax behind him, he made a big ditch that is now called the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is too big to be formed by a pickax.

IV. Fill in the blanks.

1. When Paul Bunyan was two weeks old he weighed more than a hundred pounds.

2. When Paul was a baby his strangest feature was his big, black, curly beard.
3. When Paul woke up on his twenty-first birthday, he was surprised to see the snow which was blue in color.
4. Paul Bunyan's friend was an ox named Babe.
5. Paul Bunyan invented logging in America according to the tall tale "Paul Bunyan".
6. The Kansas cows froze to death by misunderstanding the popcorns as blizzard.
7. Paul's book keeper-Johnny Inkslinger
8. Paul's cook-Sourdough Sam
9. Paul's foreman-Shot Gunderson