

Learning about Pecos Bill

Comprehension

Do you think Bill's mother and father act like real parents? Explain your answer.

Bill thinks he is a coyote. Explain one thing he does that proves that he believes this.

Put the events from Pecos Bill's life in the correct time order.

Similes and Metaphors

Similes and metaphors are two methods to compare similar elements in unlike things. Similes usually use the words "like" or "as," whereas metaphors make more direct comparisons. In the following sentences, find the similes and metaphors and tell what effect the comparison creates in each:

"From then on, the horse was as gentle as a soft winding thatch of Jimson Weed.

"Then, toward noon one day, he spied something over in Oklahoma that looked like a tall whirling tower of black bees. 'It's just a cyclone,' Pecos Bill told his horse."

"Just as he and Widow-Maker came close enough to the cyclone to feel its hot breath, a knife of lightning streaked down into the ground."

"Everyone saw Bill grab hold of the cyclone's shoulders and haul them back. They saw him wrap his legs around the cyclone's belly and squeeze so hard the cyclone started to pant."

Hyperbole

Find examples of hyperbole in the tale. Explain how they affect the story.

Interpreting Character

What important qualities or traits does Bill have? What qualities do you think a hero should have? Do you think Bill is a hero? Explain your answers.

Setting

List three details that helped you picture the prairie during the Terrible Drought.