

Written Comprehension Test

Name _____

Doc A Outside the Rattlesnake Saloon

Like my father, I'd been to West Point, and I was good at soldiering. But soldiering didn't allow too much for expansion of the soul. So after five years in the Indian Wars, I turned in my commission and rode away to see how far I could expand it. To keep from starving to death while I was expanding it, I shot buffalo for the railroad, and rode beside the driver on Wells Fargo coaches with an eight-gauge shotgun, and scouted now and then for the Army. [...] Now, with thirty dollars' worth of gold in my pocket, on a dark bay gelding named Sugar that I'd won playing poker in Esmeralda, I came on into Trinidad in the middle afternoon on a summer day with the sun warm on my back.

It wasn't much of a town then. Two streets north and south. Three streets crossing east and west. Twelve blocks in all. It was one of those towns that existed mostly for people passing through. Cowboys who brought cattle to the railhead from the East Colorado grasslands. Soldiers on the way to Fort Carson. Hide hunters, teamsters¹, and miners occasionally, coming down to resupply. A few people trying to farm. People like me, moving from place to place because they didn't know what else to do.

As I passed the Rattlesnake Saloon on my left, the swinging doors burst open and a big man in a buckskin shirt came through them faster, surely, than he would have wished, stumbled across the boardwalk, trying to catch his balance, and fell

forward into the street. There was blood on one side of his face. Sugar shied a little, and I pulled him up. The man in the street had gotten himself onto all fours when the saloon doors opened more gently and a tall man came out wearing a black suit. The suit's coat was pushed back on the right side to expose a big, bone-handled Colt. I could see the badge pinned to his white shirt. Very dignified and deliberate, he stepped off the boardwalk into the street and stopped maybe six feet from the man in the buckskin shirt, and waited. Behind him, five or six other men pushed out of the saloon and stood on the boardwalk. He didn't seem to see them, but I noticed that he had turned slightly, so that he could look at the man in the street and the men on the boardwalk.

The man in the street was on his feet now. He was a big man, fat but strong-looking, with a black beard and long hair. His buckskin shirt looked as if he'd worn it since the buck was killed. On his belt, he wore a bowie knife and a big Army Colt in a flap holster. He smelled like a man who skinned buffalo. Some of the street dust had caked onto the blood on the left side of his face. He faced the man in the black suit.

"Goddamn you, Cole," he said. "You got no business hitting me with that gun."

"Time for you to come on with me, Bear," Cole said. "Until you cool down."

Robert B. PARKER, *Appaloosa*, 2005

1. conducteurs d'attelage

Doc B The Arts of the West



Thomas Hart BENTON,
The Arts of the West, 1932

Compréhension de l'écrit

Doc A

1. Select the correct sentence. Justify with a quote.
 - a. The narrator is a buffalo rancher.
 - b. The narrator is a gold-digger.
 - c. The narrator is a gambler.
 - d. After being a soldier, the narrator built railways.

A2

Avant de choisir l'une des propositions, ne vous laissez pas induire en erreur par le vocabulaire présent dans le texte. Citez le passage précis qui justifie votre réponse et indiquez le numéro de la ligne.

2. Identify the narrator's means of transportation to Trinidad.
3. Choose the best adjective to describe Trinidad. Justify with a quote.
HUGE – SQUARED – OVERPOPULATED – PLEASANT – MONUMENTAL
4. Say in your own words what frightened Sugar.

B1

Reformulez de manière personnelle, sans citer le texte, lorsqu'il est indiqué « *in your own words* ».

5. Focus on Cole and Bear. Compare and contrast:
 - a. their physical appearance,
 - b. the Wild West figure they represent,
 - c. their purpose.

B2

Doc B

7. Which aspect of the cowboy culture is illustrated in each scene?

Docs A et B

B2

9. Compare and contrast the representation of the Wild West in both documents.