

Pelé: The Greatest Footballer

On Friday, December 17, 1999, Pelé was named Top Athlete of the Century. He beat out athletes like Muhammad Ali and Carl Lewis for the top spot. But the legend began long before.

Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pelé began playing football at the age of five. (In the United States we say soccer—the rest of the world says football.) Pelé was part of a football family. His father played professionally until he was injured. This didn't discourage Pelé. His first job was shining shoes, but he always dreamed of playing football.

Pelé's debut was at the age of sixteen. Even though he was young, he played well and scored. At seventeen, he began his climb to fame with his performance in 1958 at his first World Cup. He played for the Brazilian team Santos against Sweden. Even after losing 5-2, a Swedish player remarked, "After the fifth goal I wanted to applaud him." They carried Pelé off the field in tears. Pelé is the only person to win three World Cups as a player. He scored twelve goals in fourteen World Cup matches.

In the late 1960s, Pelé and his team, Santos, went to Nigeria. There was a civil war going on, but a forty-eight-hour armistice was signed so both sides could go and watch Pelé play. He was a man who could change things.

When he retired in 1974, Pelé had made Santos the most famous football team in the world. He had scored a remarkable 1,281 goals in his career—an all-time world record. In international matches he scored an unbelievable one goal per game. He held every record in Brazil. It is easy to imagine him as one of the top athletes of any century.



Reading Comprehension

1. Predict what might have happened if Pelé had let his father's injury discourage him from playing football.
 - A. His father would have been angry with him.
 - B. Pelé would not have been famous.
 - C. He would have had his own shoe store.
2. What will the biographer most likely write about in the next paragraph?
 - A. what happened in the war in Nigeria
 - B. what Pelé does now that he is retired from football
 - C. more about Pelé's father
3. In paragraph four the word *armistice* might mean _____.
 - A. weapons used in war
 - B. a treaty signed to stop fighting
 - C. a four-hour football game
4. The author's main purpose in this biography is _____.
 - A. to get people excited about football
 - B. to entertain us with football highlights
 - C. to inform people about the great football player Pelé

From "The Twins"

In form and feature, face and limb,
I grew so like my brother,
That folks got taking me for him
And each for one another.
It puzzled all our kith and kin,
It reached an awful pitch;
For one of us was born a twin,
Yet not a soul knew which.

One day (to make the matter worse),
Before our names were fixed,
As we were being washed by nurse
We got completely mixed;
And thus, you see, by Fate's decree,
(or rather nurse's whim),
My brother John got christened me
And I got christened him.

This fatal likeness even dogg'd
My footsteps when at school,
And I was always getting flogg'd,
For John turned out a fool.
I put this question hopelessly
To everyone I knew—
What would you do, if you were me,
To prove that you were you?



Reading Comprehension

1. In stanza one the word *kith* most likely means _____.
A. folks
B. one another
C. brother
2. "John got christened me" because _____.
A. no one cared what the babies were named
B. the babies got switched
C. he liked the name John best
3. One twin's name is John. You can tell the other twin is _____.
A. also named John
B. named by the nurse
C. not named in the poem
4. The word *dogg'd* in the last stanza refers to _____.
A. being like a dog and following him everywhere
B. sweeping the path he walked to school
C. a disease
5. Predict what you would most likely do "to prove that you were you."
A. wear a name tag
B. wear different clothes
C. look for a physical difference

Is There a Northwest Passage?

In the year 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead an expedition. Its mission was to find a northwest passage—a water route—from what was then the United States to the Pacific Ocean.

Shortly before, representatives to France had arranged for the Louisiana Purchase. This was a huge parcel of land that included all or major portions of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana. The United States paid only fifteen million dollars to Napoleon and France for this land.

The original party of thirty-one people included Clark's slave, York. Lewis brought along his Newfoundland dog, Seaman. They left St. Louis, Missouri, which was then the western boundary of the United States, in May of 1804. They would not return to civilization until September of 1806. They began their journey up the Missouri River with one keelboat. It had a pointed bow, sails, a cabin, cargo compartments, and running boards where men walked and pushed with long poles. If the wind was blowing in the right direction, the sails were helpful. The party also used canoes and pirogues (hollowed-out logs).

In the winter of 1804, Toussaint Charbonneau and his wife, Sacagawea, were hired as interpreters. Members of the party spoke seven languages among themselves: Indian sign language, English, French, Hidatsa, Shoshone, Omaha, and Shawnee. In Montana, the party met up with Flathead Indians. One of the captains first spoke in English, and one of the men translated to French. Charbonneau then translated to Hidatsa, and Sacagawea translated to Shoshone. Finally, a ten-year-old boy translated to Flathead for the Indian chiefs.

Incredibly, when the expedition ended after almost two-and-a-half years, only one member had died. He died three months into the journey, probably from acute appendicitis. Lewis's dog, Seaman, survived. The expedition never found the northwest passage because one didn't exist.

Reading Comprehension

1. In paragraph one, the word *expedition* means _____.
 - A. a trip to explore
 - B. something that needs to be done quickly
 - C. a party
 - D. none of the above
2. Number these events in the order they took place.
 - ___ The expedition left St. Louis, Missouri.
 - ___ Captains Lewis and Clark were commissioned by Thomas Jefferson.
 - ___ Representatives of the United States arrange for the Louisiana Purchase.
 - ___ One member of the expedition died.
3. The Louisiana Purchase included these states:
 - A. Missouri, Florida, and Iowa
 - B. Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, and Missouri
 - C. North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and Idaho
 - D. none of the above
4. Which of the following best defines the word *parcel* in paragraph two?
 - A. an amount of land
 - B. a wrapped package
 - C. a piece of food
 - D. none of the above
5. Which of the following might best tell why President Jefferson and others were interested in finding a northwest passage?
 - A. They had never been to the Pacific Ocean.
 - B. They wanted to make trade by boat with foreign countries easier.
 - C. People wanted to be able to take long boat rides.
 - D. The United States wanted to be the first to find the passage.

Job Chart

In my house we have five children. I am the oldest; Justin is four years younger. Whitney, the only girl, is in fourth grade, and Isaac and Marcus are twins. They are in kindergarten. Mom says they are a whirlwind.

In my house we make our beds every day. We also have a job chart because Mom says things get messy and dirty really fast around here. This is what our job chart looks like. (We get Sundays off!)

	Jordan	Whitney	Justin	Isaac	Marcus
Monday	Vacuum living room and hall	Dust living room and family room	Wash dishes	Dry dishes	Take out garbage
Tuesday	Wash dishes	Clean children's bathroom	Vacuum family room	Sweep kitchen floor	Dry dishes
Wednesday	Take out garbage	Wash dishes	Dry dishes	Pick up family room	Clean bathroom mirror
Thursday	Wash dishes	Vacuum living room and hall	Sweep kitchen floor	Take out garbage	Dry dishes
Friday	Vacuum and dust family room	Take out garbage	Dust living room	Clean bathroom mirror	Sweep kitchen floor
Saturday	Clean children's bathroom	Wash dishes	Take out garbage	Dry dishes	Pick up family room

Reading Comprehension

- Which of the following statements is true based on the information given?
 - Everyone has one job to do each day.
 - Marcus and Isaac are good workers.
 - Whitney's jobs are easier because she is a girl.
- From the story you can tell that _____.
 - the narrator is a boy named Jordan
 - Whitney is nine years old
 - boys are messier than girls
- The main idea of this narrative is _____.
 - the house is messy and dirty
 - everyone helps to keep the house clean
 - Sundays the house is a disaster area
- A good title for this story would be _____.
 - "The Disaster on Hill Street"
 - "Cooperation at Home"
 - "How to Make a Job Chart"
- In paragraph one, another meaning for *whirlwind* would be _____.
 - delight
 - breeze
 - very messy
 - comfort