

ИНОСТРАННЫЕ ЯЗЫКИ

ПРОЕКТ «ПОЗНАНИЕ И ТВОРЧЕСТВО»

РОССИЙСКИЕ ОТКРЫТЫЕ ЗАОЧНЫЕ КОНКУРСЫ-ОЛИМПИАДЫ 2008/2009 УЧЕБНЫЙ ГОД ЗАДАНИЯ ВТОРОГО ТУРА

НОМИНАЦИЯ «My Bookshelf» КОНКУРС ДЛЯ УЧАЩИХСЯ 5-8 КЛАССОВ



Dear friends,

We are happy to offer you a new task to think about. Each nation has a folk hero. There are some of them in the American literature too. We think you like one of them because of his great deed. The task is not a piece of cake, but it makes it more funny, doesn't it? We wish you good luck and wait for your letters.

N.B. If some task seems to be too difficult, leave it and try to do your best with the others. You are welcome with all your attempts.

Task 1. Read the Tall Tale "John Henry". The text you can find after the tasks (10 points).

Task 2. Find equivalents of the following Russian words and word combinations in the text. (13points):

- 1). Молотобоец
- 2). Клин
- 3). Протягивать
- 4). Сверло, бур
- 5). Быть вовлеченным в ...
- 6). Чрезвычайный
- 7). Пар
- 8). Инспектор
- 9). Отклонять (просьбу, жалобу и т.д.)
- 10). Соревнование, гонка
- 11). Ободрять, приветствовать громкими возгласами
- 12). Соревнование
- 13). Убеждать

Task 3. Name the character. (4 points)

- 1). Who was the first to predict Henry's death?
- 2). Who advertised a new way of drilling?
- 3). Who offered the contest?
- 4). Who asked to bring a warm drink of water?

Task 4. Find a proverb which can depict:

- a). John Henry
- b). Polly Ann
- c). the salesman

Explain your choice. (6 points)

Task 5.

A. What do you know about degrees of comparison of adjectives? Find some general information. Find some examples in the text (except for those in the part B). (10 points)

B. Write the right form of the adjective. (6 points)

- 1). Henry was _____ (самым сильным) baby.
- 2). He was _____ (самым высоким) man.
- 3). The company's owner said the mountain was _____ (больше) than the last one.
- 4). John was _____ (самым быстрым) man involved in the project.

5). That July was _____ (самым влажным) month ever in West Virginia.

6). It could drill holes _____ (быстрее и дальше) than twelve men working together.

Task 6. Match the verbs in the left column with the phrase in the right one to get a complete set phrase. The Hint: under the table you can find the translation of the phrases. (10 points)

1. to do...	a) ... the best of it
2. to give...	b) ...at home
3. to give ...	c) ...the wind of
4. to give...	d) ...good
5. to look...	e) ...a person close
6. to take...	f) ...one's worst
7. to make...	g) ...home
8. to run...	h) ...for granted
9. to give...	i) ...down a peg or two
10. to take...	j) ...one's hand in

1. из кожи лезть
2. набить руку в чем-либо
3. иметь преимущество
4. победить
5. попасть в цель
6. заглянуть в душу
7. сбить спесь
8. считать само собой разумеющимся
9. сдерживать слово
10. быть опасным соперником

Task 7. Make the longest sentence using one phrase from the task 6 and as many words from the task 2 as you can. (14 points)

Task 8. You are the reporter of The New York Times. You have seen the deed of John Henry with your own eyes. Now you should write the article for your newspaper. (20 points)

Task 9. Now we are waiting for your own task. Don't also forget about your opinion. (5 points).

John Henry and His Hammer.

People still talk about the night John Henry was born. It was dark and cloudy. Then, lightning lit up the night sky. John Henry's birth was a big event. His parents showed him to everyone they met. John Henry was the most powerful looking baby people had ever seen. He had thick arms, wide shoulders and strong muscles. John Henry started growing when he was one day old. He continued growing until he was the strongest man who ever lived.

John Henry grew up in a world that did not let children stay children for long. One day, he was sitting on his father's knee. The boy picked up a small piece of steel and a workman's tool, a hammer. He looked at the two objects, then said, "A hammer will be the death of me."

Before John Henry was six years old, he was carrying stones for workers building a nearby railroad. By the age of ten, he worked from early in the morning until night. Often he would stop and listen to the sound of a train far away. He told his family, 'I am going to be a steel driver some day.' Steel drivers helped create pathways for the railroad lines. These laborers had a job of cutting holes in rock. They did this by hitting thick steel drills or spikes.

By the time John Henry was a young man, he was one of the best steel drivers in the country. He could work for hours without missing a beat. People said he worked so fast that his hammer moved like lightning.

John Henry was almost two meters tall. He weighed more than ninety kilograms. He had a beautiful deep voice and played an instrument called a banjo. John Henry married another steel driver, a woman named

Polly Ann. They had a son. John Henry went to work as a steel driver for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, or C & O. The company asked him to lead workers on a project to extend the railroad into the Allegheny Mountains. The workers made good progress on the project until they started working near Big Bend Mountain in West Virginia. The company's owner said the mountain was too big to build the railroad around it. So the workers were told they had to force their drills through it. This meant creating a tunnel more than one and one half kilometers long. The project required about 1,000 laborers and lasted three years. Pay was low and the work was difficult. The workers had to breathe thick black smoke and dust. Hundreds of men became sick, many died.

John Henry was the strongest and fastest man involved in the project. He used a hammer that weighed more than six kilograms. Some people say he was able to cut a path of three to six meters a day.

That July was the hottest month ever in West Virginia. Many workers became tired and weak in the heat. John Henry was concerned his friends might lose their jobs, so he picked up their hammers and began doing their work. One week, he did his own work and that of several other steel drivers. He worked day and night, rarely stopping to eat. The men thanked John Henry for his help. He just smiled and said, "A man ain't nothing but a man. He has just got to do his best." The extreme heat continued for weeks.

One day, a salesman came to the work area with a new drilling machine powered by steam. He said, "It could drill holes faster than twelve men working together." The railroad company planned to buy the machine if it worked as well as the salesman said. The supervisor of the workers

dismissed the salesman's claims. He said, " I have the best steel driver in the country, his name is John Henry, and he can beat more than twenty men working together." The salesman disputed the statements. He said, " The company could have the machine without cost if John Henry was faster." The supervisor called to John Henry. He said, "This man does not believe that you can drill faster, how about a race?"

John Henry looked at the machine and saw images of the future. He saw machines taking the place of America's best laborers. He saw himself and his friends unemployed and standing by a road, asking for food. He saw men losing their families and their rights as human beings. John Henry told the supervisor he would never let the machine take his job. His friends all cheered. However, John Henry's wife, Polly Ann, was not happy. "Competing against the machine will be the death of you," she said, "You have a wife and a child. If anything happens to you, we will not ever smile again." John Henry lifted his son into the air. He told his wife, " A man ain't nothing but a man, but a man always has to do his best. Tomorrow, I will take my hammer and drive that steel faster than any machine."

On the day of the big event, many people came to Big Bend Mountain to watch. John Henry and the salesman stood side by side. Even early in the day, the sun was burning, hot.

The competition began. John Henry kissed his hammer and started working. At first, the steam power drill worked two times faster than he did. Then, he started working with a hammer in each hand, he worked

faster and faster. In the mountain, the heat and dust were so thick that most men would have had trouble breathing. The crowd shouted as clouds of dust came from inside the mountain. The salesman was afraid as he heard what sounded like the mountain breaking. However, it was only the sound of John Henry at work.

Polly Ann and her son cheered when the machine was pulled from the tunnel. It had broken down. Polly Ann urged John Henry to come out. But he kept working faster and faster. He dug deep into the darkness, hitting the steel so hard that his body began to fail him, he began weak and his heart burst. John Henry failed to the ground. There was a terrible silence. Polly Ann did not move because she knew what happened. John Henry's blood spilled over the ground, but he still held one of the hammers. "I beat them", he said. His wife cried out, "Don't go! John Henry!" "Bring me a cool drink of water", he said.

Then, he took his last breath. Friends carried his body from the mountain. They buried him near the house where he was born. Crowds went here after they heard about John Henry's death. Soon, the steam drill and other machines replaced the steel drivers. Many laborers left their families, looking for work. They took the only jobs they could find. As they worked, some sang about John Henry.

"John Henry told his captain, man ain't nothing but a man, and before I let the steel drill beat me down, I'm gonna die with this hammer in my hand, Lord, Lord, I'm gonna die with this hammer in my hand. John Henry..."