

EASY
轻松学英语
English

美国教育界权威人士精心设计
原版引进

· 面向非英语国家读者 ·

传奇英雄

LARGER THAN LIFE

FOLK HEROES OF THE UNITED STATES

[美] 彭妮·卡梅伦 著



中央编译出版社



PRENTICE HALL REGENTS

(京权)图字:01-97-0398

Copyright © 1994 by Prentice Hall Regents

All rights reserved. For sale in Mainland China only.

本书由中央编译出版社和 Prentice Hall 出版公司合作出版。

未经许可,本书的任何部分不得以任何方式复制。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

传奇英雄 = **Larger Than Life**: 英文/卡梅伦著;陈一梅注释,
- 北京:中央编译出版社,2000.3

ISBN 7-80109-241-4

I. 传…

II. ①卡… ②陈…

III. 英语-语言读物,文学

IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1998)第 12152 号

传 奇 英 雄

出版发行:中央编译出版社

地 址:北京西单西斜街 36 号(100032)

电 话:66171396(发行部) 66117130(编辑部)

E m a i l: cctp @ public.east.cn.net

经 销:全国新华书店

照 排:北京京鲁排印部

印 刷:世界知识印刷厂

开 本:850×1168 毫米 1/32

印 张:5.75

版 次:2000 年 3 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷

定 价:10.00 元

本书封面贴有 Prentice Hall 防伪标签,无标签者不得销售

CONTENTS

1. John Henry	1
John Henry and the Steam Drill	3
2. George Washington	20
George Washington and the Cherry Tree	22
3. Johnny Appleseed	35
Johnny Appleseed, A Gentle Man	37
4. Paul Bunyan	51
Paul Bunyan and the Winter of the Blue Snow	53
5. John Luther "Casey" Jones	71
Casey Jones and Engine Number 638	73
6. David Crockett	90
Davy Crockett and the Coonskin	93

2 *LARGER THAN LIFE : FOLK HEROES OF THE UNITED STATES*

7. Calamity Jane	121
How Calamity Jane Got Her Name	123
Calamity Jane's Bet	128
 8. Annie Oakley	 143
Annie Oakley, Little Sure Shot	146
 9. Pocahontas	 158
Pocahontas and Captain John Smith	161
 Suggested Answers	 176

JOHN HENRY

We don't know who the real John Henry was, but we do know his story. After the Civil War, people wanted to move easily across the United States. They needed trains in order to travel, and the trains needed tunnels through the mountains. John Henry was one of the men who built tunnels for the trains.

Look very carefully at the picture on the next page. A long time ago, in 1870, people wanted to build a tunnel through a mountain. This was the way they used to put dynamite into the rock to blow it up.

The man holding the bar was called a shaker. The man with the hammer was the steel-driving man. Together they dug a hole in the rock for the explosives. Later, other people put dynamite into the hole and blew up the rock. When you are reading the story, think about the hard work these people were doing.



JOHN HENRY AND THE STEAM DRILL

BEFORE THE STORY

Talk to your classmates. Be ready to tell your teacher what other people in your group said.

1. Look at the picture on page 2. Then answer these questions.

a. What are the people doing?

b. Describe the man with the hammer.

c. How heavy do you think the hammer is? Underline the answer.

(1 pound = 0.45 kg)

2 pounds 12 pounds 40 pounds 60 pounds

d. Is it dangerous for the man holding the drill in place? Why?

e. How do you think the steel driver and the shaker who holds the drill feel about their jobs?

2. What do these words mean?

hole dynamite gunpowder explosive dust

tunnel steel driver shaker drill hammer

4 *LARGER THAN LIFE : FOLK HEROES OF THE UNITED STATES*

3. This story is about a race between a man and a machine.

Do you think the man will win? Why? Write down your group's prediction about whether John Henry or the machine will win.

4. Show your teacher what these words and phrases mean:

tired sick pray hiss crackle bury
worried ahead cheer rush nervous

5. **Now read the story once, or listen while your teacher reads. Don't worry if you don't understand all the words when you first read a story. Just try to get the main idea.**

JOHN HENRY AND THE STEAM DRILL

This story happened a long time ago, in 1870. 1
John Henry was a very strong man. He was tall and powerful. 5

John Henry was a steel driver. In fact, he was the best steel driver in America. 5

It was John Henry's job to drive a steel drill into rock. He had another man to help him. That man was called a shaker. It was his job to turn the drill in the rock and shake it a little. That made the rock dust fall out of the hole. Then the steel-driving man would hit the drill again. 10

So John Henry hit the steel drill. Then the shaker turned the drill. Then John Henry hit the drill again. And the shaker turned it again. And John Henry hit it ...

When the hole was deep enough, other men put gunpowder into the hole in the rock. Then they blew it up, 15
and the rock broke into hundreds of little pieces.

That's the way they built the tunnels for the railroads. It was hard, dangerous work, and the most important person was the steel driver. If he drove a lot of

holes in a short time, the work was quick. But if he was 20
slow, everyone had to wait, because there were no holes
for the gunpowder.

Most people worked slowly, but John Henry never
did. Perhaps he never got tired. He worked from
morning to night, swinging his hammer.² The other men 25
stopped, but John Henry went on and on.

Most men used a six-pound hammer, but John Henry
used a hammer that weighed twelve pounds. He swung it
from his shoulder. The hammer came down fast and hard,
and it drove the drill into the rock. 30

In the year 1870, John Henry was working on the
Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.³ The railroad workers
were making a tunnel through the Big Bend Mountain in
West Virginia.⁴

The rock was hard and the work took a long time. 35
Sometimes the men sang as they worked. Their big
hammers rose and fell. They sang, and they hit the steel
drill in time with their song.⁵

And so they worked for more than two years. It was not
easy to make that tunnel! The men were tired. Only John 40
Henry worked as hard as ever.

One day a stranger came to see the captain of the
steel-driving gang.

"I have something to show you," the stranger said. "I
have a machine that drives steel." 45

John Henry's captain laughed. "I have the best steel-driving man in the United States right here," he said. "I have John Henry. He never stops working."

"My machine doesn't eat," the stranger pointed out. "It never gets tired and it never gets sick." 50

"Neither does John Henry," the captain said. "He's never sick, and he just works on and on without getting tired. Anything your machine can do, John Henry can do better."

"I don't believe you," the stranger said. 55

"All right," John Henry's captain said. "We'll have a race, John Henry against the steam drill. If your machine wins, I buy it. If John Henry wins, you pay him \$100, and you give me the steam drill. But I warn you, you'll lose."

"Oh, I don't think so," the stranger said. 60

How do you think John Henry will feel about the race?

Do you think the other people who work in the tunnel are nervous?

What will happen to them if the machine wins?

People came from miles around to see the race.

John Henry was getting ready for the race. He chose a twenty-pound hammer. Then he talked with his shaker. "I'll swing very hard," he said. "Pray I don't hit you.⁶ If I do, you'll die, and they'll bury you in the ground." 65

The shaker smiled at John Henry! "You're the best steel-driving man in the world," he said. "I'm safe with

you. I'm not afraid. Go out and beat the machine, John Henry! Show them all that people are better than machines."

70

"I'll beat that machine," John Henry said, "or I'll die with my hammer in my hand."

A crowd gathered. Everyone looked at the machine. It seemed very big. Men were putting fuel in the firebox. When the water got hot, it made steam and drove the engine.

75

At last, everything was ready. The crowd was quiet. Some of the people in the crowd were nervous.

"What will happen to us if the machine works faster than John Henry?" one man asked his friend. "Will the railroad company buy machines? Will there be any jobs for us?"

80

All the steel drivers were worried. They looked at John Henry, and they saw how strong he looked. They felt better. "Good luck!" they called out.

85

One man said to another, "John Henry isn't just strong, he's got courage."

"You mean that he's brave?" the other man asked.

"Courage is being brave, but it's also being able to go on when things are difficult. John Henry's like that. He won't give up."

90

John Henry smiled, and waited. Everyone was very quiet. Then the captain of the steel-driving gang fired a

gun into the air, and the race started.

The machine hissed and crackled, and it hit the steel into the rock. John Henry swung his hammer hard, and he sang as he swung. He worked hard, but so did the steam drill. It never paused, but just went on and on. 95

John Henry said to his shaker, "How am I doing?" 100

The shaker looked worried. "The machine is ahead of you!" he said.

John Henry worked harder. He was catching up.

The machine just went on and on. All the men looked at it. They worried about their jobs. The machine was not getting tired, but even John Henry had to rest sometime... 105

There was a roar and a whoosh! and the machine was quiet.

The men cheered. "It's broken!" the shaker said. 110

"Good!" John Henry said. "Now I can get ahead!" He raised his hammer again.

The man who owned the machine hurried to fix it.⁹ John Henry kept on hammering. The machine was quiet. The men felt happy, listening to John Henry's hammer hitting the drill. It was a familiar sound, and it made them feel comfortable. 115

The machine started up again.

The hours passed. John Henry wasn't singing anymore. The people in the crowd watched anxiously. All anyone heard was the hiss and thud of the machine, and the crash 120

10 *LARGER THAN LIFE : FOLK HEROES OF THE UNITED STATES*

of John Henry's hammer.

The race was nearly over. "Keep going!" the shaker said. "Just keep going. The race will be over at half past two."

125

John Henry nodded. He had no breath left to speak. His hammer rose and fell, rose and fell... At last it was half past two. The race was over.

The captain measured all the drill holes. He checked to see how deep they were, and he added them all up.

130

"John Henry, You drove fourteen feet!" the captain said. "The machine only drove nine! You win, John Henry! You win!"

Everyone cheered and yelled, and rushed to John Henry. But the big man was falling. His friends helped him to lie down on the ground. He was very heavy, and it was difficult to lower him gently.

135

The machine hissed and stopped. Now the whole world was very quiet. Everyone gathered around John Henry, and they listened as he spoke. "I'm dying," he said softly. "I broke myself with hammering."¹⁰

140

The people were silent. Then John Henry, the best steel-driving man in the world, died. But his story lives on, and when we think of John Henry, we think of strength and courage.¹¹

145

VOCABULARY

hole[həʊl]	n. 洞, 孔
dynamite['daɪnəmaɪt]	n. 炸药
gunpowder['gʌn,paʊdə]	n. 火药
explosive[ɪks'pləʊsɪv]	n. 爆炸物
dust[dʌst]	n. 灰尘; 尘土
tunnel['tʌnl]	n. 隧道
steel driver	打锤工
shaker['ʃeɪkə]	n. 执钎工
drill[driːl]	n. 锥; 钻
hammer['hæmə]	n. 锤子
tired['taɪəd]	adj. 疲劳的
sick[sɪk]	adj. 有病的
pray[preɪ]	v. 祈祷
hiss[hɪs]	v. 发出嘶嘶声
crackle['krækəl]	v. 发出噼啪声
bury['beri]	v. 埋葬
worried['wʌrɪd]	adj. 担心的
ahead[ə'hed]	adv & adj. 在先的, 领先的
cheer[tʃiə]	v. 欢呼; 喝彩
rush[rʌʃ]	v. 急促行进; 急促行事
nervous['nɜːvəs]	adj. 紧张的; 不安的

NOTES

1. It was John Henry's job to drive a steel drill into rock. 约翰·亨利的工作就是把钢钎打进岩石中。(It 为形式主语, 代替真实主语“to drive...”。这是英语中较常见的语法现象, 比如: It is no use crying there. 在那里哭是没有用的。Is it necessary for us to drive him home? 我们有必要把他送回家吗?)
2. He worked from morning to night, swinging his hammer. 他从早到晚地干着他的活儿, 抡大锤。(swinging his hammer 为现在分词短语, 作状语, 表示伴随或说明。如: They sat under the tree, talking and laughing. 他们坐在树下谈着、笑着。)
3. the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad 切萨匹克至俄亥俄的铁路。
4. the Big Bend Mountain in West Virginia 西弗吉尼亚的大本山脉
5. They sang, and they hit the steel drill in time with their song. 他们边打锤边随着打锤的节拍唱歌。(hit...in time with... 击……附合着……的拍子)
6. Pray I don't hit you. 上帝保佑我别用锤打着你。(后面的“If I do”的“do”, 指“hit you”, 意为“如果我打着你”。第 23 行的“John Henry never did”中的“did”指“worked slowly”, 意为: “约翰从不慢慢地干”。)
7. “I'll beat that machine,” John Henry said, “or I'll die with my hammer in my hand.” “我一定要击败那部机器”, 约翰·亨利说, “不然我就拿着大锤死去。”(beat sb. 打败某人; or, 不然的话; with... in

my hand 介词短语表示一种状态。)

8. **"Courage is being brave, ... He won't give up."** “勇气固然需要勇敢,但它还需要在困难时刻坚持不懈。约翰·亨利正是这样的人。他是不会放弃的。”(**being brave** 为动名词短语作表语;**being able to go on when things are difficult** 也是如此。**"be able to go on"**意为“能够继续下去”。**give up** 意为“放弃”。)

9. **The man who owned the machine hurried to fix it.** 机器的主人急忙去修理机器。(fix 意为“修理”。)

10. **"I'm dying," he said softly. "I broke myself with hammering."** “我要死了”,他轻声地说,“我打锤把自己累死了。”(**break** 意为“损坏;弄垮。”其过去式为 **broke**。**with** 短语表方式或原因。**with hammer** 意为“用锤子”; **with hammering** 意为“由于打锤(过度)”, **hammering** 指打锤这一行为。)

11. **when we think of John Henry, we think of strength and courage.** 每当我们想到约翰·亨利,便会使我们想到勇气和力量。(think of 想起;想到)

AFTER THE STORY

A. Work with a classmate, and answer this question.

Who won the race? Underline the correct answer.

John Henry the steam drill the captain

B. Read the story again.

Look at the picture. Work with a classmate, and try to