

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

### Topeka Tess

No doubt you have heard tales of Pecos Bill and Paul Bunyan. The feats of Topeka Tess are not so famous, not yet. Even so, there are people who brag about her out on the Great Plains of these great United States.

Tess was born in farm country. In fact, her birthday fell right in the middle of the biggest harvest of all times.

Tess came into this world like all babies, crying. However, her crying was different. It was more like talking. "Please, oh please, Mama," she bawled. "Let me help Papa in the fields!" When her ma said she couldn't because she was too little, Topeka Tess let out a shout that could be heard from Kansas to Ohio.

When Tess turned two, she was harvesting her family's fields all by herself. At ten, she mowed every field in Kansas.

By the age of fifteen, Tess was ready for her biggest challenge ever. One afternoon, Tess's father got a call from a neighbor. Trouble was brewing. A giant swarm of locusts was heading their way, gobbling up crops as they flew.

Tess set to work weaving a net. Then she waited for the swarm. When it arrived, she trapped every last locust in her net. Better yet, she used the wing power of those bugs to help her mow the fields. Is it any wonder Topeka Tess is the hero of America's heartland?

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Answer the questions below.

**1** When Tess was born, what was the first thing she did?

- A** let out a shout that could be heard for miles
- B** harvested her family's fields all by herself
- C** cried until her mother picked her up
- D** begged to help her father in the fields

**2** What did Tess have to do before she could catch the locusts?

- F** weave a net to trap them
- G** harvest her family's fields
- H** mow every field in Kansas
- J** use the locusts to mow the fields

**3** What would a field of corn look like after the locusts passed by?

- A** The corn would be stacked into piles.
- B** The field would be covered with a net.
- C** The corn would be waving in the wind.
- D** No corn would be left in the field.

**4** What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- F** Tess saved the crops by trapping the locusts.
- G** Tess was amazing at weaving nets.
- H** Tess could mow a field using locusts.
- J** Tess was faster than anyone on Earth.

**5** What three important events took place in the selection and when did they occur? Use sequence words in your answer.

**First, Topeka Tess mowed the family's fields. Then she mowed every field in Kansas. Lastly, she saved all the fields from the locusts.**