

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____ Score: ____/22

“After Twenty Years” by O. Henry

1. A. Do you think Bob should have counted on Jimmy to meet him after 20 years? Explain.

1. B. Think about a friend you haven't seen in a while. Would you count on him or her to keep a promise from a long time ago? Why or why not?

2. Why did the “best chums” part, or go their separate ways?

3. How does the police officer know that the man on the street has made a lot of money?

4. What happens on the night of the meeting? Summarize.

5. In your opinion, is the policeman a realistic and believable character? Why or why not?

6. When do you think Jimmy realizes that he has to make a difficult choice and turn in Bob?

7. If you were Jimmy Wells, what would you have done?

8. A. Did you enjoy the surprise ending? Why or why not?

8. B. How would you have ended the story?

9. A. What statement do you think the story makes about loyalty and friendship?

9. B. How does this story connect to Freak the Mighty? Explain.

READING CHECK

1. Why is the policeman walking down the street?

- A. He is searching for a criminal. C. It is his regular job to patrol the street.
B. He is on his way home.

2. Which of the following best describes the man waiting in the doorway?

- A. friendly and cooperative B. shy and nervous C. angry and rude

3. Why is the man waiting in the doorway?

- A. He is waiting for the restaurant to open. C. He is waiting to see a friend.
B. He wants to talk to a police officer.

4. Where does Jimmy live?

- A. Jimmy lives in New York. B. Jimmy lives in the West. C. The story doesn't say.

5. How does Bob realize that the man he is talking to at the end of the story is not Jimmy Wells?

- A. He is shorter than he remembers. B. His nose is different. C. He has a different voice.

VOCABULARY CHECK

1. Bob calls his Jimmy his best chum. What does *chum* mean?

- A. supervisor B. friend or pal C. older person

2. Bob says Jimmy was the "*staunchest old chap in the world*". What does this description mean?

- A. Jimmy was really old. C. Jimmy did not like to spend a lot of money.
B. Jimmy was a very loyal friend.

3. Bob is waiting for his friend to turn up. What does *turn up* mean?

- A. arrive or appear B. turn around C. walk faster

4. Bob says, "A man gets in a groove in New York." What does *gets in a groove* mean?

- A. gets rich B. gets in trouble C. gets in a routine

5. The story says that the man from the West had "egotism enlarged by success." What does this phrase mean?

- A. All of his worry about money gave him health problems.
B. He thought he was very important and was not modest about his success.
C. He was very nervous about getting caught.