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William Sydney Porter (1862-1910), who wrote under the pseudonym of O. Henry, was born in North Carolina. His only formal education was to attend his Aunt Lina ' s school until the age of fifteen, where he developed his lifelong love of books. By 1881 he was a licensed pharmacist. However, within a year, on the recommendation of a medical colleague of his Father ' s, Porter moved to La Salle County in Texas for two years herding sheep. During this time, Webster ' s Unabridged Dictionary was his constant companion, and Porter gained a knowledge of ranch life that he later incorporated into many of his short stories. He then moved to Austin for three years, and during this time the first recorded use of his pseudonym appeared, allegedly derived from his habit of calling " Oh, Henry " to a family cat. In 1887, Porter married Athol Estes. He worked as a draftsman, then as a bank teller for the First National Bank.

1. Why did the author write the passage? (a) because it is a tragic story of a gifted writer (b) to outline the career of a famous American (c) because of his fame as America ' s favorite short story writer (d) to outline the influences on O. Henry ' s writing

2. According to the passage, Porter ' s Father was (a) responsible for his move to La Salle County in Texas (b) the person who gave him a life-long love of books (c) a medical doctor (d) a licensed pharmacist

3. The word " allegedly " in line 9 is closest in meaning to (a) supposedly (b) reportedly (c)

wrongly (d) mistakenly

4. Which of the following is true, according to the passage? (a) both of Porter ' s wives died before he died (b) Porter left school at 15 to become a pharmacist (c) Porter wrote a column for the Houston Daily Post called " Rolling Stone " (d) the first recorded use of his pseudonym was in Austin

5. The word " venture " in line 12 is closest in meaning to (a) challenging experiment (b) bold initiative (c) speculative action (d) sorry experience

6. The word " subsequent in line 14 is closest in meaning to (a) resulting (b) police (c) alleged (d) official

7. Porter lost all of the following when he went to prison EXCEPT his (a) home (b) wife (c) job (d) books

8. According to the author, how many stories did Porter write while in prison for three years? (a) more than 300 (b) 35 (c) at least 12 (d) over 20

9. The author implies which of the following is true? (a) Porter would probably have written less stories if he had not been in prison for three years (b) Porter was in poor health throughout his life (c) O. Henry is as popular in many other countries as he is in America (d) Porter ' s wife might have lived longer if he had not left her in Austin when he fled.

10. Where in the passage does the author mention a habit of Porter that was to become very useful for him later? (a) lines 6-10 (b) lines 11-15 (c) lines 16-20 (d) lines 21-25

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