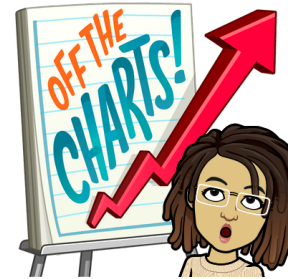


D. M.

History Based Writing

Mrs. McCowan

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The Forgotten Hero

Should machines replace work that men usually do? John Henry faced this problem. When Henry was born, he was forced into slavery until he was freed after the Civil War. Eventually, Henry, who was 6 feet tall and weighed 200 pounds, found a job at a railroad company. His job was to pound metal spikes into stone to create a hole for explosives. After Henry had been working for a few years, a prideful salesman bragged that his drill could work faster than the workers, although many people would lose their jobs if the company used it. Henry knew he needed to prove that man is better than a machine.

Following the Civil War, Henry worked at a railroad station. Since the trains could not go over the rough mountains, they were forced to break a path through them. This was hard work. Normally, the adept workers could only go about 3 feet a day, but with Henry the workers could easily go 10 to 20 feet! When a salesman boasted that his drill was faster than the workers, Henry challenged him to a race. Trying to not let the steam engine win, Henry hammered himself to death, although he saved the workers jobs.

Knowing that many people would lose their jobs to the drill, Henry sacrificed his life to ensure the workers could keep their jobs. Without their jobs, many people would starve, since they had no income. When he was hammering, Henry, who was

determined to win the race, rashly pounded too hard. This later killed him.

Unsurprisingly, The drill couldn't beat Henry.

Hoping to help the workers keep their jobs, Henry, who thought he could win, knew he needed to challenge the drill. Although the main character dies, this story is a superb example to show that people should always help even if there are consequences. Surprisingly, Henry was also an extremely efficient worker. During a work day, Henry could do seven times as much as the other workers normally could do. Sadly, Henry is rarely remembered.