

Generalization Chart

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(page 224)

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Details: Streets were bustling. Streets were crowded with people bound for the frontier. Travelers were talking about going west to find gold.

Generalization: St. Joseph, Missouri, was a busy, exciting place.

Question: What was the reaction to the hat samples John sent out west? (pages 233–234)

Details: The first two weeks were quiet, then orders began pouring in. People sent cash in the mail to try to get a hat faster. Out west, cowboys tossed away their old hats.

Generalization: Almost all the cowboys wanted to own a Boss of the Plains.

Question: What does the story show about the process of inventing something?

Details: John worked in his family's hat shop for many years. John knew how to make felt. John kept making different styles of hats to sell.

Generalization: Inventing something takes perseverance, knowledge, and experience.

Question: Look at the reasons why the Boss of the Plains became successful. What things are needed for an invention to be a success?

Details: A hat was needed for protection from the weather. According to John, felt was thick, warm, and stronger than a piece of cloth. You can smell it across a room, but you can't wear it out.

Generalization: An item will almost always be successful if there is a need for the item and it's durable.