Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions to model:

1. (RL4.6) From whose point of view is this story told?
2. Austin
3. Levi
4. Possum
5. Miss Amelia
6. (RL4.4) On page, 6, what does the underlined word “gaping” most likely mean?
7. A large hole
8. Staring
9. Screaming
10. A main enemy
11. (RL 4.2) What is the main idea of the highlighted paragraph?
12. Discovering where Old Man Grissard hid his bull.
13. Defending the reason he stole Miss Amelia’s underwear.
14. Explaining the reason they must continue with their plan to see how fast the bull can actually run.
15. Explaining why racing a bull is a smart thing to do.
16. (RL4.1) Why did the narrator refuse to back out of the challenge after seeing the big beast?
17. He didn’t want to get hurt.
18. He liked the challenge.
19. He didn’t want Willie and his cousins to think they were scared.
20. He did not want to disappoint Austin.

1. (RL 4.8) Which statement supports the claim that the narrator made later in this chapter.

*Claim: “I am, at this writing, in ‘a heap of trouble’!”*

1. ‘I know it was wrong of me, Austin, but I had borrowed Miss Amelia’s gold timepiece from her chest.
2. ‘But couldn’t we come back on Saturday when Willie and the others are here?’
3. Possum turned and came running back, pulling something green out of his shirt.

May 13, 1853.

Dear Austin,

I am happy to write that I have survived the attack of Old Man Grissard’s bull! I didn’t reckon on his temper turning so nasty all of a sudden (the bull, that is, not Old Man Grissard).

Austin, I got to admit I was afeared as the others were when I first laid eyes on that powerful beast! But as I am the leader of our club, I could not show it. The bull was standing in the pasture as calm as a turtle on a rock when Jupiter, Possum, and I sneaked up behind him.

“Be still, oh, mah heart!” Possum whispered as he stood *gaping* at the bull. This is Possum’s favorite expression, ever since he heard it last year from a song-and-dance man who was traveling out West and had stopped in Sudbury to shoe his horse.

“Be still, oh, mah heart.” Possum whispered again.

“You mean be still, oh, mah bull!” I said.

“He looks awfully big,” Possum croaked. “I don’t remember him looking so big or so mean.”

“How can you tell he’s mean,” I whispered back, “when all’s we can see is his rump?”

“It’s a mean-looking rump, is how,” Possum declared.

Jupiter nodded his head to agree. Jupiter never talks, you remember that, but Possum and I understand him just fine without words.

“I say we clear on out of here and forget the whole thing,” Possum whispered, taking a step backward.

“And let Willie Erlich and his cousins think we’re yeller on account of some old bull’s rump scared us off?” I cried, grabbing him by the shirt sleeve.

“All right, all right.” Possum sighed. “But couldn’t we come back on Saturday when Willie and the others are here?”

I shook my head. “We know how fast Willie and his cousins can run, and we know we can beat ‘em. But what we don’t know is how fast he can run,” I whispered, nodding toward the bull, whose rump hadn’t budged since we first set eyes on it.

“Besides, it’s all part of our training for the territories,” I told him.

“They’ve got bulls out in the territories?” Possum whispered.

“Buffalo bulls,” I reminded him. “All we’ve got to do today is get the bull to run and time him to see how fast he can go.” I added, pulling a timepiece from my pocket. (I know it was wrong of me, Austin, but I had borrowed Miss Amelia’s gold timepiece from her chest. You know the one-it used to be her pa’s. I had every intention of returning it and only meant to borrow it to clock the bull.)

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_/5 on my own

Questions on my own

1. (RL 4.2) What is the main idea of the highlighted paragraph?
2. Explain the cause of the bull charging.
3. Explain how the timepiece was lost.
4. Explain how Plug Ugly died.
5. Explain what caused Jupiter not to speak.
6. (RL 4.8) Which statement supports the claim that the narrator made later in this chapter.

*Claim: “I am, at this writing, in ‘a heap of trouble’!”*

1. ‘The bull was standing in the pasture as calm as a turtle on a rock…”
2. ‘It’s a mean-looking rump, is how,” Possum declared.
3. ‘…whose rump hadn’t budged wince we first set eyes on it.”
4. ‘…for I had just grabbed this folded red material from Miss Amelia’s trunk, thinking to use it as a flag.’
5. (RL 4.4) Why does the narrator most likely use the underlined phrase “you hightail it back” when giving instructions to Possum and Jupiter?
6. To tell them to walk slowly
7. To tell them to run fast
8. To help them stay out of Old Man Grissard’s path
9. To guide them to the hidden treasure.
10. (RL 4.6) Who is the narrator of this text?
11. Old Man Grissard
12. Miss Amelia
13. Possum
14. Levi
15. (RL 4.1) What is the narrator worried about at the end of the passage?
16. Plug Ugly would fall out of his shirt.
17. The bull would charge after him.
18. He would lose the timepiece he had taken from Miss Amelia
19. Willie would see Miss Amelia’s red underwear and make fun of him.

Section from page 8-13 for On My Own Questions #1-#5

We decided that Possum and Jupiter would sneak around to the other side of the pasture and wave the piece of red cloth that I had also borrowed from Miss Amelia’s chest.

“All you two have to do is wave the red flag,” I explained. “And wait for the bull to start charging. Once he does, you *hightail it back* to the fence and climb over.” Jupiter took the cloth that I had bunched up and tucked inside my shirt. As he opened it up, we all stared in astonishment. Jupiter’s eyes grew big and his mouth dropped open.

“Drawers!” Possum cried, as Jupiter held them up. “Ladies’ drawers!”

I couldn’t believe what I was seeing, for I had just grabbed this folded red material from Miss Amelia’s trunk, thinking to use it as a flag. How was I to guess that Miss Amelia should have such things in her possession? And they were red, mind you!

Jupiter handed the dreaded object to Possum.

“I ain’t waving no ladies’drawers,” Possum declared, handing them back to me.

“All right,” I said. “Forget the red flag. With your hair being so red, maybe that would be enough to attract him. All you have to do is make a ruckus in front of the bull to get his attention, and I’ll wait here and keep the time.”

They started for the other side of the pasture. Suddenly Possum turned and came running back, pulling something green out of his shirt.

“What is Plug Ugly doing here?” I groaned on seeing the frog in his hands.

“He hates for me to leave him behind,” Possum admitted. “But he also hates when I run too fast. Gets him all shook up and ruins his digestion. Couldn’t you hold him for me, Levi?”

I took Plug Ugly and dropped him into my shirt pocket.

I was waiting for the fellas to get to the other side of the pasture, and checking on the timepiece, when what does that durned frog do but jump out of my pocket! Not only that, but he jumps clear into the air and lands on the back of old Grissard’s bull!

I don’t think the bull felt Plug Ugly on him as much as he heard him. It was a real loud croak full of sass, as if to say he weren’t afraid of nothing nor nobody. Now, that bull didn’t take kindly to Plug Ugly’s sassy croaks, I can tell you that. He spun around and began snorting some mean, angry bull snorts. Between all the snorting and croaking I was hoping that I could slip away unnoticed, but it was just my luck that that old bull caught sight of the red drawers in my hand! He figured it was me giving him all that sass and begging him to come at me!

“Hey, now, bull,” I said, trying to calm him down. “It weren’t me that was croaking…” But before I could explain, I got on one of those hiccupping jags that I always get when I’m real nervous. Anyway, the bull heard all that hiccupping, let out one more loud, angry snort, and began to charge!