### Question: What was St. Joseph, Missouri, like in 1859? (page 224)

**Details:** Streets were bustling. (1 point) Streets were crowded with people bound for the frontier. (1) Travelers were talking about going west to find gold. (1)

**Generalization:** St. Joseph, Missouri, was a busy, exciting place. (1)

### 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. (1) People sent cash in the mail to try to get a hat faster. (1) Out west, cowboys tossed away their old hats. (1)

**Generalization:** Almost all the cowboys wanted to own a Boss of the Plains. (1)

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

**Details:** John worked in his family’s hat shop for many years. (1) John knew how to make felt. (1) John kept making different styles of hats to sell. (1)

**Generalization:** Inventing something takes perseverance, knowledge, and experience. (1)

### 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. (1) According to John, felt was thick, warm, and stronger than a piece of cloth. (1) You can smell it across a room, but you can’t wear it out. (1)

**Generalization:** An item will almost always be successful if there is a need for the item and it’s durable. (1)