**“The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”  
Reading Questions**

1. Why do you think Twain set the story in a mining town? What kind of people do you think mining towns normally attracted?
2. Why do you think Why do you think Wheeler is so interested in getting people to listen to his tall tales? Does he just like to hear himself talk, or does he think they can learn something from him? Explain.
3. Why is it significant that Smiley’s animals all seem to have no use or value until Smiley finds one? What conclusions can you draw from the fact that despite clear limitations, they almost always win?
4. What’s the deal with Smiley’s constant gambling? Is he an addict? If not, what satisfaction does it give him?
5. What elements of Realism do you see in Twain’s story? Connect the story to at least two characteristics of Realism and provide textual support for both.