

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Yesterday & Today” Quiz

Directions: Read the “Yesterday & Today” article in the January 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. For how many years was *The Original Amateur Hour* on the air?

- (A) 15
- (B) 25
- (C) 10
- (D) 35

2. Who chose the winning act each week on *The Original Amateur Hour*?

- (A) Major Edward Bowes
- (B) Frank Sinatra
- (C) a panel of judges
- (D) the TV audience

3. What kind of acts appeared on this long-running talent competition?

- (A) dancing
- (B) singing
- (C) comedy
- (D) all of the above

4. What year did the first season of *American Idol* hit the airwaves?

- (A) 2001
- (B) 2002
- (C) 2003
- (D) 2004

5. What was the original reaction to *American Idol*?

- (A) Not enough people auditioned for it.
- (B) Its TV ratings were low.
- (C) Critics gave it poor reviews.
- (D) People auditioned and watched it in record numbers.

6. According to the article, what is an advantage of shows like *American Idol*?

- (A) They give anyone the opportunity to become a star.
- (B) They are more fun to watch than other shows.
- (C) TV companies don't have to pay professional performers.
- (D) They motivate people to take voice lessons.

7. Which of the following statements is a fact?

- (A) *The Original Amateur Hour* was a better show than *American Idol*.
- (B) People around the world are lucky that Simon Fuller created shows like *American Idol*.
- (C) Some major stars have gotten their starts on amateur talent shows.
- (D) Ruben Studdard is more talented than Taylor Hicks.

8. You can conclude that . . .

- (A) *American Idol* will be on the air as long as *The Original Amateur Hour*.
- (B) people love to dream of stardom.
- (C) TV audiences recognize talent more than professional judges do.
- (D) David Cook will star in a movie.

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support each answer with information and details from the article!

9. Do you think people who audition for *American Idol* are more interested in fame or money? Why?

10. What do you think has made these talent competitions so popular throughout the years?