

Mother Jones: True to the Spirit of Her Cause

The autobiography by Mary Harris Jones is riddled with factual inaccurate. Jones even fudges her date of ⁶¹

birth, she falsely lists May 1, International Workers' ⁶² Day, and ages herself by nearly a decade. These untruths—whether deliberate exaggerations or slips of the memory—ultimately matters very ⁶³

little, for the autobiography isn't about the life of ⁶⁴

Mary Harris Jones. Jones became famous for her work. ⁶⁵

When Mary Harris Jones got involved in labor politics in the 1860s, it was rare for a woman to attend, let alone address, union meetings. Jones, however, became one of the movement's most powerful and controversial advocates. ⁶⁶ She traveled the United States, from the coal mines of Appalachia to the railroad yards of the West, rallying workers to join unions and fight for better working conditions. Specifically, Jones helped organize efforts to ensure that employers complied with laws governing workday hours and child labor.

The moniker “Mother Jones” was conferred on Jones by members of the American Railway Union. She herself, ⁶⁷ adopted the name and, subsequently, a corresponding public persona. Her audiences came to expect “Mother Jones.” 68 By 1900, the white-haired, calico-frocked

61. A. NO CHANGE
B. factually inaccuracies.
C. factual inaccuracies.
D. factually inaccurate.
62. F. NO CHANGE
G. birth: she falsely lists
H. birth; falsely listing
J. birth, falsely listing:
63. A. NO CHANGE
B. has mattered
C. had mattered
D. matter
64. F. NO CHANGE
G. little. For
H. little; for
J. little,
65. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the best transition into the rest of the essay?
A. NO CHANGE
B. Born in Cork, Ireland, in 1837, Jones immigrated to the United States in the mid-1800s.
C. Rather, it's the story of her public persona, the radical labor activist “Mother Jones.”
D. Instead, this essay will show you why Jones's role in history is so important.
66. F. NO CHANGE
G. movement's most powerful and controversial advocates'.
H. movement's most powerful and controversial advocates.
J. movements most powerful and controversial advocates.
67. A. NO CHANGE
B. She, herself,
C. She, herself
D. She herself
68. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:
To meet their expectations, Jones crafted her speech, dress, and mannerisms based on cultural notions of motherhood.
Should the writer make this addition here?
F. Yes, because it highlights the contrast between Jones's personal style and her audiences'.
G. Yes, because it adds details about what types of changes Jones made to create her public persona.
H. No, because it detracts from the focus of the paragraph by introducing unrelated details.
J. No, because it doesn't indicate the effect Jones's public persona had on audiences.

figure was no longer known as Mary Harris Jones,⁶⁹
the media, union leaders and workers, and even U.S.
presidents referred to her as Mother Jones.

Embracing the very role used to confine
women to the domestic sphere, Jones subversively
redefined the boundaries of home and family.

“My address is like my shoes,” she said. “It travels with
me wherever I go.” She was the matriarch who staunchly
⁷⁰

protected workers. 71

And protect them she did: When workers
⁷²
went on strike, Jones secured food donations and
temporary living arrangements. Where companies
prevented the formation of unions, she fought for
workers’ right to organize. Instead of these tireless
⁷³

efforts on there behalf, workers trusted Mother Jones
⁷⁴
and, by extension, the labor unions she represented.

69. A. NO CHANGE
B. Jones, in fact,
C. Jones in fact
D. Jones;

70. If the writer were to delete the underlined portion, the
paragraph would primarily lose a quotation that:

- F. questions the distinction between Mary Harris
Jones and her public persona, Mother Jones.
G. reinforces the essay’s characterization of Mother
Jones as a happy-go-lucky vagabond.
H. reiterates the point that Jones enjoyed the travel
opportunities her work provided.
J. provides support for the claim that Jones redefined
the boundaries of home.

71. In the preceding sentence, the writer is considering
replacing “workers” with “her family of workers.”
Should the writer make this revision?

- A. Yes, because it completes the metaphor comparing
Jones to the head of a family.
B. Yes, because it makes clear that Jones cared most
about workers who were family relatives.
C. No, because it unnecessarily repeats information
established earlier in the essay.
D. No, because it introduces an unrelated comparison
between workers and family.

72. F. NO CHANGE
G. protections, to name a few, included:
H. she defined protection as:
J. she did this by:

73. A. NO CHANGE
B. Because of
C. Without
D. Despite

74. F. NO CHANGE
G. they’re behalves,
H. their behalf,
J. their behalve’s,

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage
as a whole.

75. Suppose the writer’s goal had been to summarize
women’s contributions to early-twentieth-century labor
law reform. Would this essay accomplish that goal?

- A. Yes, because it shows that Mother Jones was a
well-known and respected labor agitator.
B. Yes, because it introduces a prominent figure in
labor history.
C. No, because it focuses more specifically on labor
law reform in the nineteenth century.
D. No, because it focuses more specifically on one
figure in the labor movement.