

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

# Leaving Her Mark

*A True Story, Retold by Liana Mahoney*

Wherever she goes, Molly leaves her mark. Without saying a word, she speaks to people with her kind eyes. Even when she walks away, she leaves an impression. Molly's mark is a smile, stamped into the ground by the horseshoe at the bottom of her artificial leg.

Molly, a pony, was rescued after she was abandoned during Hurricane Katrina in



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amazing intelligence and that she wanted to live.

Several veterinarians operated on Molly and amputated her infected leg. An artificial leg called a prosthesis (pros-THÉE-sis) was made for her. Molly's prosthesis was a hollow cast with a pole at the bottom for balance. Doctors gave Molly a special horseshoe at the bottom of her prosthesis. This horseshoe had a stamp of a smiley face in it!

After the operation, Molly walked around on all four legs as if nothing had ever happened to her! Now, with every step she takes, she stamps a smile in the dirt. But she leaves her mark in other ways too.

Kaye Harris took Molly to the prosthesis center. There were children there who, like Molly, had artificial limbs. They were amazed to see a pony with a prosthetic leg. Molly made them smile and gave them hope. Soon, Molly began to visit schools, nursing homes, army bases, and hospitals. A book was even written about Molly!

Molly has become a symbol of hope for people of all ages. Her story leaves a smile on people's faces, just as clearly as her horseshoe leaves a smile in the sand.

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1. Explain why Molly has an artificial leg.

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3. What is unique about the horseshoe at the bottom of Molly's artificial leg?

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4. What did Molly do after she got her artificial limb?

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| <b>a.</b> She ran a race.               | <b>b.</b> She visited schools and hospitals. |
| <b>c.</b> She moved into a petting zoo. | <b>d.</b> She gave rides to young children.  |

5. Explain why this story is titled, "Leaving Her Mark."

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Whenever Molly walks, her horseshoe leaves a mark of a smiley face in the sand. Because it is different from most horseshoes, it is Molly's unique mark that inspires people.