



Woodsong Novel Study

By Annie Kelley

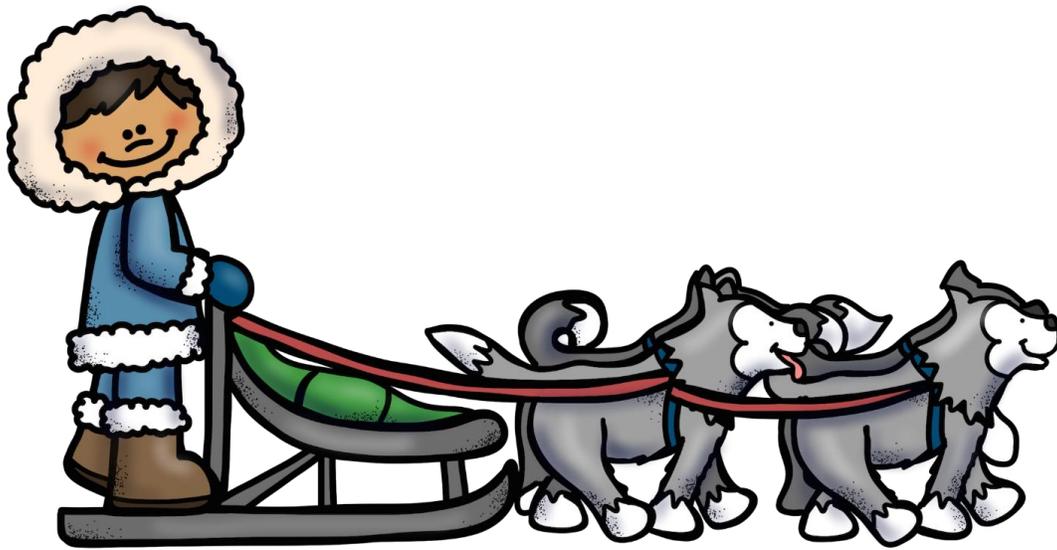
2017 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Written by Gary Paulson



Woodsong

By: Gary Paulsen



Name _____

! Running !

Pre-Reading

- 1.) Make a list of things you know about dog sledding.
- 2.) What is the Iditarod and what do you know about it?



Chapter 1

- 1.) When Paulsen was running dogs he thought of the Navajo prayer, Beauty above me, beauty below me, beauty before me. Why do you think he thought of this prayer? Explain.
- 2.) What does Paulsen mean when he says, "I began to understand that they (wolves) are not wrong or right-they just are." Explain.

Chapter 2

1.) How did Paulsen come to running dogs? Explain the difficulties Paulson encountered when he was first given the dogs.

2.) Paulsen describes Storm as an honest dog. What does he mean by this? Explain.



Chapter 3

1.) What made Paulsen decide to stop trapping?

2.) In the first few chapters Paulsen tells about lessons he's learned from the dogs. Tell of a time when you learned something from a pet or animal.

Chapter 4

1.) Describe the different “songs” of the dogs.

2.) Paulsen learned a lesson in fear from Scarhead. Tell of a time when you were fearful.

3.) What do you think Paulsen meant when he said, “I learned then... that when it is all boiled down I am nothing more and nothing less than any other animal in the wood.” Explain.



Chapter 5

1.) Paulsen describes many scenes of Hawk attacking both other animals and humans. Use the space below to draw a picture of one of those scenes. Use color and details to enhance your drawing.

Chapter 6

1.) Paulsen tells about three mysteries he encounters while mushing. Describe each of the mysteries.

Chapter 7

1.) What lesson do Gookie and the other dogs teach Paulsen?

2.) Paulsen and Storm had quite a unique friendship that involved Storm carrying a stick. Describe the friendship and the importance of the stick.



Chapter 8

1.) How would you feel if you were a musher and you and your dog team got stuck in a snow storm?

2.) Tell of a time when weather affected your life.



The Race

Day 1

1.) How would you feel if you lead 27 dog sled teams nearly fifty miles in the wrong direction?



Day 2

1.) Pretend you are one of Paulson's dogs. Describe day two on the train from the dogs perspective.

Day 3/4

1.) Describe what happened to Paulsen when he tied his arm to his sled.

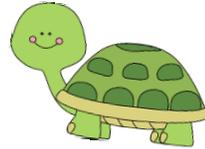
Day 5

1.) Paulsen describes the landscape at Rhone Lake. On the back of this page illustrate a picture of the scene.

Day 5 Illustration of Rhone Lake



Day 6



1.) Encountering animals in dog sledding is a common thing. Tell of a time when you unexpectedly encountered an animal.

Day 7

1.) Explain the sequence of events that lead to Wilson running on three legs, while sucking on his 4th paws' bootie.

Day 8/9

1.) Paulsen ended up feeding his food to his dogs and had to make due with any food supplied at the checkpoints-which included eating sticks of butter. Tell of a time when you had to try a food you didn't want to. Did you like it? Do you still eat it today?



Day 10/11

1.) Describe how Paulsen is feeling during days 10 & 11. Does the wind and pain seem worth continuing the race?

Day 12/13

1.) What does Paulsen mean when he says, "I simply stand on the back or push up the hills and do not care about winning or losing- only the dance"?

Day 14/15

1.) Throughout the race Paulsen stays at the homes of many strangers-and seems to do so with much concern. If you were in Paulson's position would you stay at their homes? Why or why not? Explain.

Day 16/17

1.) Finishing the Iditarod was a huge accomplishment for Paulsen.
What is a big accomplishment you have achieved in your life?
Explain why it was so important to you.





Woodsong Vocabulary



Chapter 1:

ignorance pg. 1
environment pg. 1
paradox pg. 1
innocence pg. 2
tandem pg. 2

Chapter 2:

enormous pg. 9
poverty pg. 9
brindle pg. 14
primitive pg. 14
falter pg. 20

Chapter 3:

brittle pg. 21
kennel pg. 22
alleviate pg. 22
aggressive pg. 23
gully pg. 26

Chapter 4:

terrain pg. 34
moguls pg. 34
petrified pg. 34
agitation pg. 35
coherent pg. 40

Chapter 5:

forlorn pg. 44
speckled pg. 46

Chapter 6:

sustain pg. 50
eerie pg. 51
intricate pg. 54
melancholy pg. 58
defiance pg. 61

Chapter 7:

regimen pg. 65
persistence pg. 65
momentum pg. 66
disengage pg. 72
emit pg. 76

Chapter 8:

ointment pg. 80
duration pg. 80
delirium pg. 81
competence pg. 83

Day 1 & 2:

asphalt pg. 89
phony pg. 90
endurance pg. 94
pandemonium pg. 95

Day 3 & 4:

futile pg. 100
gorge pg. 101
careen pg. 101
ravine pg. 102

Days 5 & 6:

mandatory pg. 103
expanse pg. 105
indignant pg. 106
befuddled pg. 106

Days 7-10

steeped pg. 110
thaw pg. 111
stultifying pg. 113
amiably pg. 116

Days 11-17

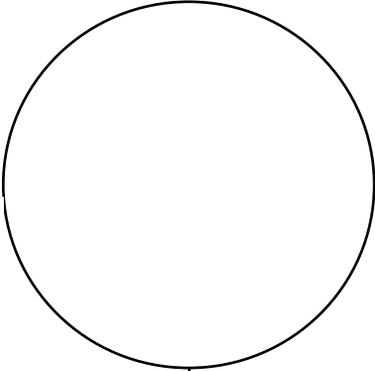
altered pg. 122
ptarmigan pg. 125
amputated pg. 127
abates pg. 128
canter pg. 128

Woodsong Vocabulary

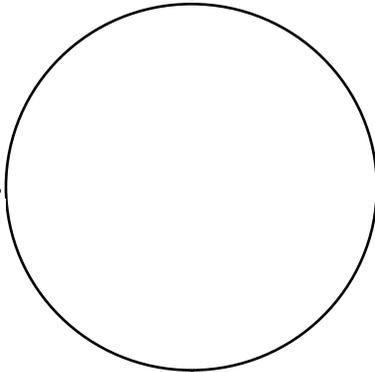


Name _____

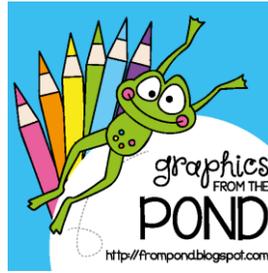
Definition:	Connection (simile, synonym, experience, antonym):
Part of Speech:	
Sentence from Text:	Picture or Symbol:



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