

## Balto and Togo Character Study

**Developed by:** Katie Kunze

**Discipline / Subject:** Language arts/social studies

**Topic:** Balto, Togo, and the serum run

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Resources / References / Materials/ Teacher Needs:**

~*The Cruellest Miles* by: Gay and Laney Salisbury (Background knowledge)

~Alaska map showing the serum run route

~Computer/tablet

~Balto exhibit on-line <https://www.cmnh.org/balto>

**Lesson Summary:** Students will utilize a variety of resources to understand the events of the serum run of 1925.

**Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)**

1. RI.4.6- Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.
2. RI.4.9- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to describe the events of the serum run.
2. Students will be able to utilize technology to present their ideas.

**Assessment:**

Final project/presentation representing the story of the serum run.

**Procedural Activities**

1. Using the online Balto exhibit from the Cleveland Natural History Museum, introduce the story of the serum run.
2. Explain to the students that there are a variety of books that describe the events as well and that they don't all tell the story the same way.
3. Ask the students to consider the events of the 1925 serum run through these variety of sources. Use the following questions to guide the discussion:
  - Who was involved in the run and why did they choose to participate?
  - What was the cause of the run and why was it so important?
  - Why is Balto more recognized than Togo for their accomplishments?
  - How did the serum run affect the sport of dog sledding to this day?
4. Using these questions, have students research Balto, Togo, and the events of the serum run.
5. Upon completing the research, students will complete a presentation using PowerPoint or Google Slides.
6. Presentations will be shared with the class, showcasing the information learned about Balto, Togo, and the serum run.

**Materials Students Need:**

- ~Balto and Togo books
- ~Computer/tablet
- ~Notebook/pencil (to record information from the sources)
- ~Poster board (if not using technology for presentation)

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

- ~Computer/tablet to develop final presentation
- ~PowerPoint to create presentation

**Other Information:**

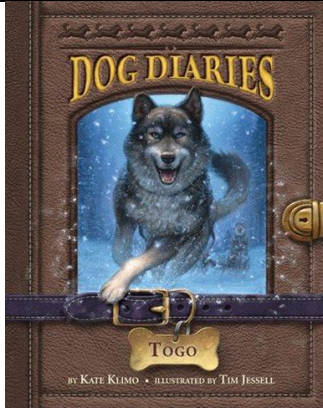
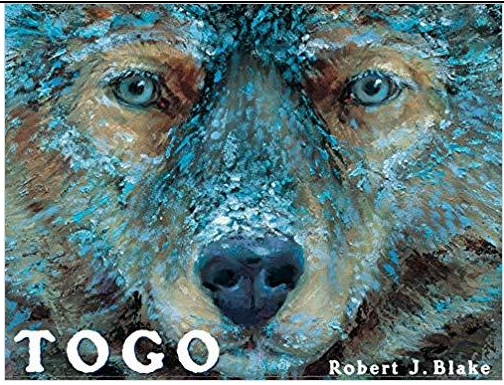
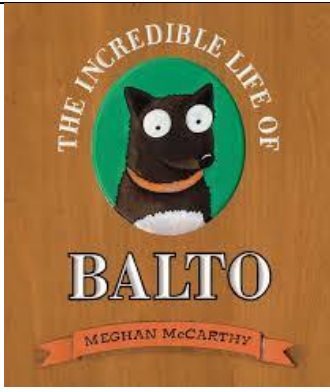
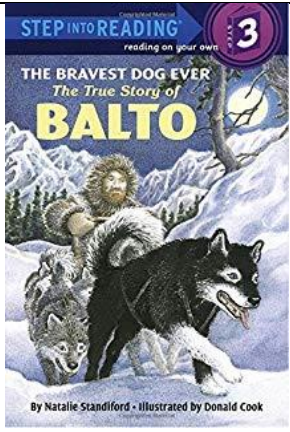
- ~The animated film *Balto* can also be used as a tool with this plan.


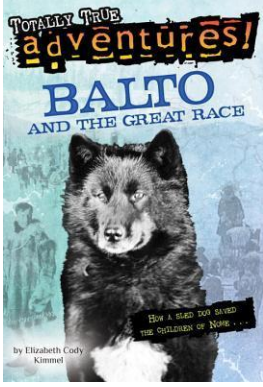
**Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:**

- ~Final project can be done as a poster or diorama if technology is not available.
- ~Final project can also be done as speech or other form of verbal presentation.

**Additional Information**

Cover	Title	Author	ISBN
	<p><i>The Cruellest Miles</i></p>	<p>Gay Salisbury &amp; Laney Salisbury</p>	<p>0-393-32570-9</p>
	<p><i>The Great Serum Race</i></p>	<p>Debbie S. Miller</p>	<p>0-8027-7723-6</p>
	<p><i>Alaska's Dog Heroes</i></p>	<p>Shelley Gill</p>	<p>978-1-57061-947-2</p>
	<p><i>Togo The Sled Dog and Other Great Animal Stories of the North</i></p>	<p>Joe L. Wheeler</p>	<p>978-0-8163-2431-6</p>

	<p><i>Dog Diaries: Togo</i></p>	<p>Kate Klimo</p>	<p>978-0-385-37335-7</p>
	<p><i>Togo</i></p>	<p>Robert J. Blake</p>	<p>978-0-399-23381-4</p>
	<p><i>The Incredible Life of Balto</i></p>	<p>Meghan McCarthy</p>	<p>978-0-375-84460-7</p>
	<p><i>The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto</i></p>	<p>Natalie Standiford</p>	<p>0-394-89695-5</p>

	<p><i>Magic Tree House</i>  <b>#54: Balto of the Blue Dawn</b></p>	<p>Mary Pope Osborne</p>	<p>978-0-553-51085-0</p>
	<p><i>Balto and the Great Race</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth Cody Kimmel</p>	<p>978-0-679-89198-7</p>
	<p><i>Magic Tree House</i>  <b>Fact Tracker:</b>  <i>Dogsledding and Extreme Sports</i></p>	<p>Mary Pope Osborne</p>	<p>0385386443</p>