

Lesson Plans

Dogsong by Gary Paulsen

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Introduction

The **Dogsong** lesson plan contains a variety of teaching materials that cater to all learning styles. Inside you'll find 30 Daily Lessons, 20 Fun Activities, 180 Multiple Choice Questions, 60 Short Essay Questions, 20 Essay Questions, Quizzes/Homework Assignments, Tests, and more. The lessons and activities will help students gain an intimate understanding of the text; while the tests and quizzes will help you evaluate how well the students have grasped the material.

Target Grade: 7th-12th (Middle School and High School)

Length of Lesson Plan: Approximately 96 pages. Page count is estimated at 300 words per page. Length will vary depending on format viewed.

Completely Customizable!

Each lesson plan is downloadable in PDF and Word. The Word file is viewable with any PC or Mac and can be further adjusted if you want to mix questions around, add your own headers for things like "Name," "Period," and "Date." The Word file offers unlimited customizing options so that you can teach in the most efficient manner possible. Once you download the file, it is yours to keep and print for your classroom.

Lesson Plan Calendars

The Lesson Plan Calendars provide daily suggestions about what to teach. They include detailed descriptions of when to assign reading, homework, in-class work, fun activities, quizzes, tests and more. Use the entire lesson plan, or supplement it with your own curriculum ideas. Calendars cover one week, two week, four week and eight week units. Determine how long your **Dogsong** unit will be, then use one of the calendars provided to plan out your entire lesson.

Chapter Abstracts

Chapter abstracts are short descriptions of events that occur in each chapter. They highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of important characters. The Chapter Abstracts can be used to review what the students have read, or to prepare the students for what they will read. Hand the abstracts out in class as a study guide, or use them as a "key" for a class discussion. They are relatively brief, but can serve to be an excellent refresher of the text for either a student or teacher.

Character and Object Descriptions

Character and Object Descriptions provide descriptions of the significant characters and objects/places in the book. These can be printed out and used as an individual study guide for students, a "key" for leading a class discussion, a summary review prior to exams, or a refresher for an educator. The character and object descriptions are also used in some of the quizzes and tests in this lesson plan. The longest descriptions run about 200 words. They become shorter as the importance of the character or object declines.

Multiple Choice Questions

The 180 Multiple Choice Questions in this lesson plan will test a student's recall and understanding of the text. Use these questions for quizzes, homework assignments or tests. The questions are broken out into sections, so they focus on specific chapters or acts within a book or play. This allows you to test and review the book as you proceed through the unit. Typically, there are 5-15 questions per chapter, act or section.

Short Essay Questions

The 60 Short Essay Questions listed in this section require a one to two sentence answer. They ask students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the text by describing what they've read, rather than just recalling it. The short essay questions evaluate not only whether students have read the material, but also how well they understand and can apply it. They require more thought than a multiple choice question, but are shorter than the essay questions.

Essay Questions/Writing Assignments

These 20 Essay Questions/Writing Assignments can be used as essay questions on a test, or as stand-alone essay topics for a take-home or in-class writing assignment. Students should have a full understanding of the unit material in order to answer these questions. They often include multiple parts of the work and ask for a thorough analysis of the overall text. They nearly always require a substantial response. Essay responses are typically expected to be one (or more) page(s) and consist of multiple paragraphs, although it is possible to write answers more briefly. These essays are designed to challenge a student's understanding of the broad points in a work, interactions among the characters, and main points and themes of the text. But, they also cover many of the other issues specific to the work and to the world today.

Daily Lessons

This section of the lesson plan contains 30 Daily Lessons. Daily Lessons each have a specific objective and offer at least three (often more) ways to teach that objective. Lessons include classroom discussions, group and partner activities, in-class handouts, individual writing assignments, at least one homework assignment, class participation exercises and other ways to teach students about the text in a classroom setting. You can combine daily lessons or use the ideas within them to create your own unique curriculum. They vary greatly from day to day and offer an array of creative ideas that provide many options for an educator.

Fun Classroom Activities

Fun Classroom Activities differ from Daily Lessons because they make "fun" a priority. The 20 enjoyable, interactive classroom activities that are included will help students understand the text in fun and entertaining ways. Fun Classroom Activities include group projects, games, critical thinking activities, brainstorming sessions, writing poems, drawing or sketching, and countless other creative exercises. Many of the activities encourage students to interact with each other, be creative and think "outside of the box," and ultimately grasp key concepts from the text by "doing" rather than simply studying. Fun activities are a great way to keep students interested and engaged while still providing a deeper understanding of the work and its themes.

Quizzes/Homework Assignments

The Quizzes/Homework Assignments are worksheets that can be used in a variety of ways. They pull questions from the multiple choice and short essay sections, the character and object descriptions, and the chapter abstracts to create worksheets that can be used for pop quizzes, in-class assignments and homework. Periodic homework assignments and quizzes are a great way to encourage students to stay on top of their assigned reading. They can also help you determine which concepts and ideas your class grasps and which they need more guidance on. By pulling from the different sections of the lesson plan, quizzes and homework assignments offer a comprehensive review of the text in manageable increments that are less substantial than a full blown test.

Tests

Use the Test Summary page to determine which pre-made test is most relevant to your students' learning styles. This lesson plan provides both full unit tests and mid-unit tests. You can choose from several tests that include differing combinations of multiple choice questions, vocabulary questions, short answer questions, short essay questions, full essay questions, character and object matching, etc. Some of the tests are designed to be more difficult than others. Some have essay questions, while others are limited to short-response questions, like multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. If you don't find the combination of questions that best suits your class, you can also create your own test.

Create Your Own Quiz or Test

You have the option to Create Your Own Quiz or Test. If you want to integrate questions you've developed for your curriculum with the questions in this lesson plan, or you simply want to create a unique test or quiz from the questions this lesson plan offers, it's easy to do. Cut and paste the information from the Create Your Own Quiz or Test page into a Word document to get started. Scroll through the sections of the lesson plan that most interest you and cut and paste the exact questions you want to use into your new, personalized lesson plan.

Evaluation Forms

Use the Oral Reading Evaluation Form when students are reading aloud in class. Pass the forms out before you assign reading, so students will know what to expect. You can use the forms to provide general feedback on audibility, pronunciation, articulation, expression and rate of speech. You can use this form to grade students, or simply comment on their progress.

Use the Writing Evaluation Form when you're grading student essays. This will help you establish uniform criteria for grading essays even though students may be writing about different aspects of the material. By following this form you will be able to evaluate the thesis, organization, supporting arguments, paragraph transitions, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. of each student's essay.

Lesson Plan Calendar

Lesson plan calendars give you daily suggestions about what to teach. Determine how long your **Dogsong** unit will be, then use one of the following calendars to plan out your entire lesson. In some cases, you may want to assign some of the reading over the weekend preceding the unit. This will give students some context for the start of the unit.

Definitions:

- **Review Chapter Abstracts** - Chapter abstracts are synopses of each chapter that you can use to review the reading assignments with your students.
- **Daily Lessons** - There are 30 daily lessons detailed in this lesson plan. Select a new daily lesson each day.
- **Fun Activities** - There are 20 fun activities in this lesson plan. They serve as a way for students to interact with the material in an enjoyable, educational way.
- **Read Aloud in Class** - Ask students to take turns reading aloud from where they left off in their most recent reading assignment. Use the Oral Reading Evaluation Form in this lesson plan to evaluate their reading skills.
- **In-Class Handout** - An in-class handout can be one of the quizzes/homework assignments, vocabulary games, worksheets, or an essay/writing assignment. It's something the students can complete and turn in during class, or begin in-class and take home to finish as a homework assignment.

One Week Lesson Calendar

Before the Unit Begins

Homework: Read through **Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 of Dogsong**.

| Day 1 - Introduce Unit | Day 2 - Review Unit | Day 3 - Quiz | Day 4 - Review Unit | Day 5 - Final Test |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------|
| Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 1-8 1 Fun Activity from Fun Activities 1-10 Students Read Aloud in Class | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 7-16 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Read through Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 Quiz 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 17-23 1 In-Class Handout 1 Fun Activity from Fun Activities 2-10 Homework Assignment: Read through Part Three: Dogsong and assign an essay, due the week following the test | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Three: Dogsong 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 24-30 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Study for the test | Test |

Two Week Lesson Calendar

Before the Unit Begins

Homework: Read through **Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 of Dogsong**.

| Day 1 - Introduce Unit | Day 2 - Review Unit | Day 3 - Review Unit | Day 4 - Review Unit | Day 5 - Quiz |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 1-3 Students Read Aloud in Class | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 4-6 1 Activity from Fun Activities 1-5 | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 7-9 1 In-Class Handout | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 10-12 1 Activity from Fun Activities 6-10 Review for Quiz Homework Assignment: Read through Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 and study for quiz | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 Quiz Homework Assignment: Assign an Essay, due the week following the final test |
| Day 6 - Review Unit | Day 7 - Review Unit | Day 8 - Review Unit | Day 9 - Review Unit | Day 10 - Final Test |
| 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 13-16 1 Activity from Fun Activities 11-15 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 17-20 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 21-25 1 In-Class Handout 1 Activity from Fun Activities 16-20 Homework Assignment: Read through Part Three: Dogsong | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Three: Dogsong 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 26-30 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test | Test |

Four Week Lesson Calendar

Before the Unit Begins

Homework: Read through **Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 of Dogsong**.

| Day 1 - Introduce Unit | Day 2 - Review Unit | Day 3 - Review Unit | Day 4 - Review Unit | Day 5 - Quiz |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 Students Read Aloud in Class | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 1-2 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 3-4 1 Activity from Fun Activities 1-3 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework Daily Lesson 5 1 Activity from Fun Activities 4-6 In-Class Handout | Quiz 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 6-7 Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons |
| Day 6 - Review Unit | Day 7 - Review Unit | Day 8 - Review Unit | Day 9 - Review Unit | Day 10 - Mid Unit Test |
| Review Homework Daily Lesson 8 1 Activity from Fun Activities 7-8 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 9-10 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework Daily Lesson 11 1 Activity from Fun Activities 9-10 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 12-13 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Read through Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 and study for the test | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 Test Homework Assignment: Assign an Essay, due the week following the final test |

| Day 11 - Review Unit | Day 12 - Review Unit | Day 13 - Review Unit | Day 14 - Review Unit | Day 15 - Quiz |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Review Test 1 Daily Lesson from Daily Lessons 14-15 Students Read Aloud in Class | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 16-17 1 Activity from Fun Activities 12-13 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework Daily Lesson 18 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework 1 Daily Lesson from Daily Lessons 19-20 1 Activity from Fun Activities 13-14 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Quiz 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 21-22 Read Aloud in Class 1 Activity from Fun Activities 15-6 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons |
| Day 16 - Review Unit | Day 17 - Review Unit | Day 18 - Review Unit | Day 19 - Review Unit | Day 20 - Final Test |
| Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 23-24 1 Activity from Fun Activities 17-18 Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 25-26 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Read through Part Three: Dogsong and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Three: Dogsong Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 27-28 1 In-Class Handout 1 Activity from Fun Activities 19-20 | 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 29-30 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test | Test |

Eight Week Lesson Calendar

Before the Unit Begins

Homework: Read through **Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 of Dogsong**.

| Day 1 - Introduce Unit | Day 2 - Review Unit | Day 3 - Review Unit | Day 4 - Review Unit | Day 5 - Quiz |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 Students Read Aloud in Class | Daily Lesson 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lessons 2 Fun Activity 1 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 3 In-Class Handout | Quiz Fun Activity 2 Read Aloud in Class |
| Day 6 - Review Unit | Day 7 - Review Unit | Day 8 - Quiz | Day 9 - Review Unit | Day 10 - Review Unit |
| Daily Lesson 4 Fun Activity 3 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 5 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Quiz Review Homework Daily Lesson 6 Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 7 Fun Activity 4 1 In-Class Handout | Fun Activity 5 In-Class Handout |
| Day 11 - Review Unit | Day 12 - Quiz | Day 13 - Review Unit | Day 14 - Review Unit | Day 15 - Quiz |
| Daily Lesson 8 Students Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Study for quiz | Quiz Daily Lesson 9 Fun Activity 6 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 10 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 11 Fun Activity 7 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Quiz Read Aloud in Class Fun Activity 8 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson |

| Day 16 - Review Unit | Day 17 - Review Unit | Day 18 - Review Unit | Day 19 - Review Unit | Day 20 - Mid-Unit Test |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Daily Lesson 12 Fun Activity 9 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 13 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Read through Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 Review Homework Daily Lesson 14 1 In-Class Handout Fun Activity 10 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for test | Test on first half of Dogsong Homework Assignment: Assign an Essay, due on Day 38 |
| Day 21 - Review Unit | Day 22 - Review Unit | Day 23 - Review Unit | Day 24 - Review Unit | Day 25 - Quiz |
| Daily Lesson 15 Review the Test | Daily Lesson 16 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 17 Fun Activity 11 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Fun Activity 12 | Quiz Daily Lesson 18 Fun Activity 13 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson |

| Day 26 - Review Unit | Day 27 - Review Unit | Day 28 - Review Unit | Day 29 - Review Unit | Day 30 - Mid-Unit Test |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Review Homework Daily Lesson 19 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 20 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 2 Fun Activity 14 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 22 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Study for quiz | Quiz Fun Activity 15 |
| Day 31 - Review Unit | Day 32 - Review Unit | Day 33 - Review Unit | Day 34 - Review Unit | Day 35 - Quiz |
| Daily Lesson 23 Read Aloud in Class | Daily Lesson 24 Fun Activity 16 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 25 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 26 Fun Activity 17 | Quiz Read Aloud in Class Daily Lesson 27 Fun Activity 18 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson |
| Day 36 - Review Unit | Day 37 - Review Unit | Day 38 - Review Unit | Day 39 - Review Unit | Day 40 - Final Test |
| Review Homework Daily Lesson 28 Fun Activity 19 Homework Assignment: Read through Part Three: Dogsong and complete the Daily Lesson | Review Chapter Abstracts up to Part Three: Dogsong 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Finish Essay assignment | Collect Essay Assignments Daily Lesson 29 Fun Activity 20 Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson | Review Homework Daily Lesson 30 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test | Final Test |

Chapter Abstracts

Chapter abstracts are short descriptions of events that occur in each chapter. They highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of characters and objects. The Chapter Abstracts can be used to review what the students have read, or to prepare the students for what they will read. Hand the abstracts out in class as a study guide, or use them as a "key" for a class discussion. They are relatively brief, but can serve to be an excellent refresher of the text for either a student or teacher.

Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 Abstract

- * Reader is introduced to 14-year-old Russel Susskit, an Eskimo.

Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14 Abstract

- * Russel and his father live in a government village.
- * Russel is undergoing changes that he does not understand.

Part Three: Dogsong Abstract

- * Russel consults Oogruk, the local shaman.
- * Oogruk offers to teach Russel the Old Ways.

Abstract

- * Russel learns about the history of his village.
- * Russel goes into a trance and learns what he must do.

- * Russel takes his first trip with Oogruk's dogs. The dogs do not trust Russel.

- * Russel moves in with Oogruk.

- *
- *

- * Russel no longer attends school. Russel's father does not complain.

- * Russel hunts for food for Oogruk and himself.

- * Russel must go out into the country to hunt.

- * Oogruk will not go with Russel.

- * Russel goes out into the wilderness.
- * Russel begins to appreciate nature.

- * Russel moves north but begins to worry about the health of the dogs.
- * Russel begins to be frightened about being so far from home.
- * Russel kills four caribou.
- * Russel has a detailed and prophetic dream.
- * Russel meets his dream-self.
- * Russel meets and must engage in a battle with a woolly mammoth. Russel wins the fight.
- * Russel realizes the significance of his dream-self.
- * Russel watches the adult version of himself carefully.
- * Russel hears the man's song and knows that someday it will be his own.
- * Russel comes upon a starving family. He cannot save them.
- * Russel finds an unconscious pregnant woman in the snow. She is freezing to death.
- * Russel saves the woman, whose name is Nancy.
- * Nancy's baby does not survive.
- * Nancy joins Russel on his trek.
- * Part 3 is the tale of Russel's song.
- * The narrative has ended.
- * Russel finally finds his own song and celebrates by singing.
- * The song details Russel's long journey.
- * Russel pays homage to Oogruk.
- * Russel declares that he and the dogs are one unit.
- * Russel has become a self-reliant man.
- * Russel will continue to use the Old Ways.
- * Russel and Nancy will live in the coastal village and raise a family.
- * Russel's spirit will continue to grow and mature.

Character Descriptions

This section provides a short description of all the major characters in the book. This can be printed out as a study guide for students, used as a "key" for leading a class discussion, or you can jump to the quiz/homework section to find worksheets that incorporate these descriptions into a variety of question formats.

Characters

Russel Susskit - This character is an Eskimo boy who lives with his father in a small government village in the arctic North.

Mr. Susskit - This character is never mentioned by name. What is known about this character is that his wife abandoned him for a white trapper and that he is a heavy smoker.

Oogruk - This character is an elder in the government village.

Nancy - This character is another character who straddles the Old and New Ways. She is also the fulfillment of Russel's dream.

Object Descriptions

This section provides a short description of all the major objects in the book. This can be printed out as a study guide for students, used as a "key" for leading a class discussion, or you can jump to the quiz/homework section to find worksheets that incorporate these descriptions into a variety of question formats.

Objects

Mukluks - These are boots made of fur and animal hide.

Snowmachine - This is another name for a snowmobile.

Caribou - These are also known as reindeer.

Tundra - This is an area identified by its permanently frozen soil and its treeless appearance.

Shaman - This is a holy person, revered by indigenous tribes.

Parka - This is a heavy jacket with a hood.

Mammoth - This is an extinct animal which closely resembles an elephant.

Below World - This is another term for hell.

Hummock - This is a small, rounded hill.

Toboggan - This is a kind of sled.

Multiple Choice Questions

This section contains 180 multiple choice questions about Dogsong. Multiple choice questions test a student's recall and understanding of the text. Use these questions for chapter quizzes, homework assignments or tests. Jump to the quiz/homework section for the multiple choice worksheets.

Multiple Choice - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

1. What is Russel's last name?

- a) Ambrose.
- b) Susskit.
- c) Winslow.
- d) Winthrop.

2. What is Russel's ethnicity?

- a) Inuit.
- b) Finnish.
- c) Eskimo.
- d) Native American.

3. What is the name of the elder consulted by Russel?

- a) Grennick.
- b) Antonuck.
- c) Bibick.
- d) Oogruk.

4. The elder is what type of person?

- a) Shaman.
- b) Medicine Man.
- c) Sherpa.
- d) Witch doctor.

5. For Russel, _____ and the dream time come together.

- a) Waking life.
- b) Real time.
- c) Intuition.
- d) Fantasy.

6. Russel and his father spent the Winter months in which type of house?

- a) Commune.
- b) Lean-to.
- c) Igloo.
- d) Government.

7. Where do Russel and his father spend the Summer months?

- a) Government house.
- b) Igloo.

- c) Fish camp.
- d) Oil rigs.

8. Russel does not understand why his father loves ____.

- a) Fish.
- b) Jesus.
- c) His mother.
- d) Russel.

9. The elder is the only one in the village who owns ____.

- a) Dogs.
- b) Gloves.
- c) A sled.
- d) Showshoes.

10. What type of water creature is often part of the family meal?

- a) Whale.
- b) Shark.
- c) Walrus.
- d) Seal.

11. What type of large land creature is often part of the family meal?

- a) Deer.
- b) Polar Bear.
- c) Caribou.
- d) Moose.

12. Russel does not have a good relationship with which of the following?

- a) The tribe leader.
- b) His father.
- c) Jesus.
- d) His mother.

13. The elder's ____ are revered by his people.

- a) Songs.
- b) Rituals.
- c) Words.
- d) Actions.

14. What does Russel take to the elder?

- a) Goat's milk.
- b) Caribou heads.
- c) Furs.
- d) Beads.

15. What type of oil does the elder use in his lamp?

- a) Plant.
- b) Whale.

- c) Seal.
- d) Vegetable.

16. What does the elder warm in the pan?

- a) Eyes.
- b) Milk.
- c) Water.
- d) Marrow.

17. What type of animal skins line the elder's floor?

- a) Seal.
- b) Caribou.
- c) Moose.
- d) Bear.

18. How many wives has the elder had?

- a) 4.
- b) 1.
- c) 3.
- d) 2.

19. How old is Russel?

- a) 15.
- b) 12.
- c) 14.
- d) 13.

20. Oogruk says that _____ will help his memory.

- a) Stories.
- b) Whiskey.
- c) Stars.
- d) Warm meat.

21. What is the name of the man who could sing to the birds?

- a) Glinnick.
- b) Bartok.
- c) Ulgavik.
- d) Oogruk.

22. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

- a) Fire.
- b) Electricity.
- c) Guns.
- d) Outsiders.

23. Oogruk says that the new village had good things. Which was not one of the good things mentioned?

- a) Songs.
- b) Meat.

- c) Fish.
- d) Women.

24. Things began to change when the ____ arrived.

- a) Spirits.
- b) Elders.
- c) Women.
- d) Missionaries.

25. What was Russel's father's favorite flower?

- a) Roses.
- b) Daisies.
- c) Lilacs.
- d) Clematis.

26. What item did Russel own and used in place of dogs?

- a) Power shovel.
- b) Snowmachine.
- c) Snowshoes.
- d) Toboggan.

27. Russel's slippers were made from which material?

- a) Wool.
- b) Rubber.
- c) Felt.
- d) Plastic.

28. What is an ulu?

- a) Knife.
- b) Dog.
- c) Boot.
- d) Fishing pole.

29. What is supposedly contained in raw seal meat?

- a) Larvae.
- b) Eggs.
- c) Worms.
- d) Parasites.

30. It is said that a shaman can make ____ talk.

- a) Stars.
- b) Animals.
- c) Water.
- d) Stones.

31. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

- a) Smart.
- b) Wise.

- c) Prudent.
- d) Diligent.

32. What is a ptarmigan?

- a) Prayer book.
- b) Missionary.
- c) Shoe.
- d) Bird.

33. Russel wore pants made from the skin of which animal?

- a) Walrus.
- b) Seal.
- c) Caribou.
- d) Bear.

34. The dogs were a cross between wolves and ____.

- a) Saint Bernards.
- b) Samoyeds.
- c) German Shepards.
- d) Huskies.

35. Where did the dogs come from?

- a) Eastern Delta.
- b) Silver Valley.
- c) Mackenzie River.
- d) Northern Territories.

36. The dogs also had the blood of ancestors from which location?

- a) Silver Valley.
- b) Coppermine River Village.
- c) Amber Creek Village.
- d) Red Rock Falls.

37. Which adjective best describes the dogs?

- a) Mean.
- b) Feral.
- c) Submissive.
- d) Aloof.

38. What tool was used to kill whales?

- a) Gun.
- b) Harpoon.
- c) Knife.
- d) Spear.

39. How many of the shaman's wives died?

- a) 1.
- b) 2.

- c) 3.
- d) 0.

40. What was the best part of the animal to eat?

- a) Flank.
- b) Shoulder.
- c) Chop.
- d) Tenderloin.

41. Russel asks the old man if it is possible to get ____ back.

- a) Missionaries.
- b) Women.
- c) Spirits.
- d) Songs.

42. What animal was used to make Russel's underparka?

- a) Rabbit.
- b) Snake.
- c) Squirrel.
- d) Seal.

43. What animal was used to make Russel's outerparka?

- a) Moose.
- b) Bear.
- c) Seal.
- d) Deer.

44. What are mukluks?

- a) Boots.
- b) Dogs.
- c) Children.
- d) Small birds.

45. What material was used to make the hinges?

- a) Metal.
- b) Leather.
- c) Plastic.
- d) Plant fiber.

46. What is the name of the fastener used to hold the dogs together?

- a) Lash.
- b) Tether.
- c) Rope.
- d) Gangline.

47. How many dogs were used by Russel on the first outing?

- a) 5.
- b) 6.

- c) 8.
- d) 4.

48. According to the old man, what should one do after killing an animal?

- a) Thank it.
- b) Atone.
- c) Hide it.
- d) Pray.

49. What is a hummock?

- a) Hill.
- b) Parka.
- c) Sled.
- d) Rope bed.

50. Russel is surprised when the old man says he will go with Russel to do what?

- a) Swim.
- b) Hunt.
- c) Run the dogs.
- d) Fish.

51. What color is animal fat?

- a) White.
- b) Clear.
- c) Brown.
- d) Yellow.

52. What emotion did the dogs feel when they first met Russel?

- a) Excitement.
- b) Trepidation.
- c) Fear.
- d) Hatred.

53. Oogruk compares dogs to ____.

- a) The wind.
- b) Long lost ancestors.
- c) White people.
- d) Bears.

54. When Russel and Oogruk go hunting, they take ____ harpoons.

- a) 4.
- b) 3.
- c) 5.
- d) 2.

55. What other weapon is taken on the hunting trip?

- a) Lance.
- b) Spear.

- c) Gun.
- d) Knife.

56. Russel offers to give his ___ to the old man but Oogruk refuses.

- a) Hat.
- b) Parka.
- c) Boots.
- d) Gun.

57. What part of the village was of great interest to the villagers?

- a) Game room.
- b) Town hall.
- c) Church.
- d) Cafeteria.

58. Unlike other people in the village, Russel did not do which of the following?

- a) Go to school.
- b) Swim.
- c) Teach Sunday school.
- d) Hunt.

59. The area in which Russel lived often experienced long ____.

- a) Nights.
- b) Droughts.
- c) Seasons.
- d) Summers.

60. Russel had never eaten which part of the Caribou?

- a) Tenderloin.
- b) Flank.
- c) Eyes.
- d) Legs.

Multiple Choice - Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

1. Russel gets a feeling of ___ when he looks at the sky.

- a) Panic.
- b) Comfort.
- c) Warning.
- d) Relief.

2. What does Russel give to the weary dogs?

- a) Meat.
- b) Water.
- c) Kibble.
- d) Warm milk.

3. How far is Russel from home?

- a) 150 miles.
- b) 75 miles.
- c) 100 miles.
- d) 125 miles.

4. Which is not one of the animals Russel expects to find in the hills?

- a) Bobcats.
- b) Ptarmigan.
- c) Lemmings.
- d) Foxes.

5. What weapon does Russel carry on his person?

- a) Arrows.
- b) Lance.
- c) Knife.
- d) Gun.

6. What group of animals does Russel find?

- a) Caribou.
- b) Moose.
- c) Elk.
- d) Seals.

7. How many animals does Russel kill?

- a) 0.
- b) 4.
- c) 2.
- d) 3.

8. Russel and the dogs are heading in which direction?

- a) North.
- b) West.
- c) East.
- d) South.

9. Russel sees ____ children in his dream.

- a) 2.
- b) 3.
- c) 4.
- d) 6.

10. Which is not one of the words used to describe the mother?

- a) Dirty.
- b) Shiny.
- c) Beautiful.
- d) Fat.

11. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

- a) Joy.
- b) Fear.
- c) Pain.
- d) Relief.

12. Russel admires which item belonging to the man?

- a) Bow.
- b) Shoes.
- c) Sled.
- d) Parka.

13. The item is adorned with which of the following?

- a) Willow.
- b) Mahogany.
- c) Ebony.
- d) Ivory.

14. What color are the dogs' eyes?

- a) Yellow.
- b) Blue.
- c) Gray.
- d) Black.

15. Russel notices that the dogs are large. They come up to a man's ____.

- a) Chest.
- b) Waist.
- c) Shoulder.
- d) Hip.

16. What kind of strange prehistoric creature is encountered in the night?

- a) Stegosaurus.
- b) Pterodactyl.
- c) Saber-toothed tiger.
- d) Woolly mammoth.

17. The old man is really ____.

- a) Oogruk.
- b) Russel's father.
- c) Russel.
- d) Glinnick.

18. What does the older man do after the animal is killed?

- a) Pray.
- b) Dance.
- c) Cry.
- d) Sing.

19. What emotion is expressed by the man after the animal dies?

- a) Sorrow.
- b) Worry.
- c) Gratitude.
- d) Relief.

20. The next morning when Russel awakens, he notices that something is different about the _____.

- a) Wind.
- b) Dogs.
- c) Sled.
- d) Weather.

21. Russel runs the dogs for ___ hours before stopping to rest.

- a) 6.
- b) 7.
- c) 5.
- d) 8.

22. Russel finds something under his shoulder as he is trying to sleep. What does it appear to be?

- a) Rock.
- b) Sole of a shoe.
- c) Bowl.
- d) Knife handle.

23. What is it really?

- a) Bone.
- b) Lamp.
- c) Plate.
- d) Compass.

24. Who does Russel think about frequently during this time?

- a) His baby brother.
- b) His father.
- c) His mother.
- d) Oogruk.

25. Russel has another dream in which children play with which of the following?

- a) Puppies.
- b) Baby seals.
- c) Kittens.
- d) Jacks.

26. What word is often used to denote a sign of good health?

- a) Shiny.
- b) Fat.
- c) Pleasant.
- d) Round.

27. Russel gets the sense that this new village is ____.

- a) Transitional.
- b) Multi-cultural.
- c) Needy.
- d) Prosperous.

28. The great man in the village hides which emotion?

- a) Worry.
- b) Sadness.
- c) Happiness.
- d) Fear.

29. What is used as a light source inside the shelter?

- a) Oil lamp.
- b) Flashlight.
- c) Candles.
- d) Campfire.

30. Russel realizes that the man takes his strength from the ____.

- a) Dogs.
- b) Meat.
- c) People.
- d) Earth.

31. Russel and the dogs slept for ___ day(s).

- a) 1.
- b) 2.
- c) 4.
- d) 3.

32. After resting at the shelter, Russel runs the dogs for nearly ____ days straight.

- a) 5.
- b) 4.
- c) 2.
- d) 3.

33. Russel begins to suffer from which problem?

- a) Vertigo.
- b) Snow blindness.
- c) Ear aches.
- d) Dizziness.

34. Russel begins to imagine that he sees ___ on the dogs' feet.

- a) Light.
- b) Fire.
- c) Shadows.
- d) Claws.

35. Russel imagines that the opening on his hood is actually ____.

- a) A crystal ball.
- b) A mirror.
- c) A cave.
- d) Closing in.

36. Russel sees a family living in a village in what part of the territory?

- a) Valley.
- b) Mountain.
- c) Plains.
- d) Coast.

37. The family is suffering from which issue?

- a) Hypothermia.
- b) Starvation.
- c) Flu.
- d) Frostbite.

38. What item does Russel find abandoned?

- a) Tent.
- b) Snowmobile.
- c) Sled.
- d) Harpoon.

39. Russel finds a woman on the ground. Russel is concerned because the woman is ____.

- a) Injured.
- b) Hyperventilating.
- c) Bleeding.
- d) Pregnant.

40. What color are the woman's lips?

- a) Purple.
- b) White.
- c) Gray.
- d) Blue.

41. How many of the dogs die in the night?

- a) 0.
- b) 3.
- c) 2.
- d) 1.

42. The family has eaten all but which of the following?

- a) Fat.
- b) Skins.
- c) Mittens.
- d) Tent.

43. Which of the following animals attack the corpses of the woman and children?

- a) Leopards.
- b) Caribou.
- c) Wolves.
- d) Bear.

44. How many bones were left by the animals?

- a) 4.
- b) 3.
- c) 2.
- d) 1.

45. What is the name of the unconscious woman?

- a) Nadia.
- b) Nancy.
- c) Nika.
- d) Nellie.

46. How many days do Russel and the woman travel before they run out of food?

- a) 6.
- b) 7.
- c) 5.
- d) 8.

47. Russel tracks a _____ in the snow.

- a) Deer.
- b) Fox.
- c) Polar bear.
- d) Caribou.

48. Russel begins to have regrets about _____.

- a) Not being better prepared.
- b) Oogruk's death.
- c) Taking care of the woman.
- d) Leaving home.

49. What word is best used to describe the environment?

- a) Cumbersome.
- b) Encouraging.
- c) Forbidding.
- d) Challenging.

50. How many days do Russel and the woman stay in the shelter?

- a) 5.
- b) 3.
- c) 6.
- d) 4.

51. What did the woman sleep on while in the shelter?

- a) Bed.
- b) Floor.
- c) Skins.
- d) Pallet.

52. What weapon does Russel try to use to kill a bear?

- a) Spear.
- b) Knife.
- c) Gun.
- d) Lance.

53. Russel allowed the dogs to run north toward the mother of _____.

- a) Water.
- b) Hope.
- c) Wind.
- d) Ice.

54. Russel was also aware of the father of _____.

- a) Fear.
- b) Ice.
- c) Futility.
- d) Snow.

55. The mother has been known to send down the _____ death.

- a) Black.
- b) White.
- c) Impending.
- d) Welcome.

56. Russel begins to develop a closeness with _____.

- a) Wind.
- b) The dogs.
- c) Nancy.
- d) Fog.

57. The snowmobile tracks represent _____.

- a) New ways.
- b) Regrets.
- c) Growth.
- d) Possibilities.

58. The baby is born _____.

- a) Jaundiced.
- b) Weak.
- c) Dead.
- d) Late.

59. What does the mirror represent?

- a) Intuition.
- b) Confusion.
- c) Past.
- d) Duality.

60. In Russel's case death also represents ____.

- a) Grief.
- b) Sorrow.
- c) Rebirth.
- d) Wisdom.

Multiple Choice - Part Three: Dogsong

1. Russel and the dogs become ____.

- a) One.
- b) Friends.
- c) Independent.
- d) Enemies.

2. Which of the following does Russel discover?

- a) Song.
- b) Heart.
- c) Sled.
- d) Arrowhead.

3. The dogs come to respect Russel as much as they respect ____.

- a) Snow.
- b) Wind.
- c) Each other.
- d) Oogruk.

4. Russel fully embraces ____.

- a) The Old Ways.
- b) The New Ways.
- c) The journey.
- d) The weather.

5. Russel finds a/the ____.

- a) Dead woman's lean-to.
- b) East coast.
- c) Shaman's cabin.
- d) Village.

6. Russel has earned the right to have his own ____.

- a) Future.
- b) Sled.
- c) Song.

d) Lance.

7. Russel refers to Oogruk as _____.

- a) Grandfather.
- b) Magical.
- c) Frivolous.
- d) An old man.

8. What color was the tent of the starving family?

- a) Green.
- b) Yellow.
- c) Gray.
- d) Black.

9. What word best describes Nancy?

- a) Selfish.
- b) Immigrant.
- c) Runaway.
- d) Rude.

10. What is an anorak?

- a) Hood.
- b) Dog.
- c) Boots.
- d) Parka.

11. How did the church refer to Nancy?

- a) Hopeless.
- b) Sinner.
- c) Lost.
- d) Devil.

12. What animal is found in the dead family's tent?

- a) Dog.
- b) Bear.
- c) Wolf.
- d) Fox.

13. Where does Russel hit the dogs when they break loose?

- a) Rump.
- b) Nose.
- c) Head.
- d) Back.

14. The gangline is broken into how many pieces?

- a) 4.
- b) 1.
- c) 2.

d) 5.

15. What was the issue with the skins?

- a) Sparse.
- b) Rotten.
- c) Frozen.
- d) Too small.

16. How many deer carcasses does Russel find?

- a) 3.
- b) 4.
- c) 1.
- d) 2.

17. What part of the deer hangs off the sled?

- a) Head.
- b) Legs.
- c) Rear.
- d) Horns.

18. Russel is not concerned due to the lack of _____.

- a) Room.
- b) Predators.
- c) Trees.
- d) Hummocks.

19. What word is best used to describe the hairs on the skins?

- a) Flat.
- b) Long.
- c) Round.
- d) Hollow.

20. Russel emerges from his quest as _____

- a) A man.
- b) A coward.
- c) Legendary.
- d) Fearful.

21. Russel's song represents which of the following?

- a) Respect.
- b) Challenge.
- c) Remembrance.
- d) Willingness.

22. What is lacking in Part 3?

- a) Characterization.
- b) Narrative.
- c) Song lyrics.

d) Story telling.

23. Russel is relieved that he finally creates _____.

- a) An understanding.
- b) A past.
- c) A future.
- d) A song.

24. What word is used to describe seal meat?

- a) Sweet.
- b) Chewy.
- c) Bitter.
- d) Fragrant.

25. As the story goes on, the dogs become less _____.

- a) Motivated.
- b) Courageous.
- c) Defiant.
- d) Nervous.

26. According to Dogsong, what do the dogs carry?

- a) The future.
- b) The past.
- c) Me.
- d) Hope.

27. According to Dogsong, where do the dogs go?

- a) The mountains.
- b) Home.
- c) The sea.
- d) Onward.

28. What word describes the dogs' feelings toward Russel at the end of the story?

- a) Defiant.
- b) Distrustful.
- c) Angry.
- d) Loyal.

29. What do Russel and the dogs use for shelter while hunting?

- a) Tree.
- b) Lean-to.
- c) Ice.
- d) Cave.

30. What does Russel use as a bridge?

- a) Sled.
- b) Tree.
- c) Skins.

d) Ice.

31. Who is the first to sing the Dogsong?

- a) Russel.
- b) Nancy.
- c) Dream self.
- d) Oogruk.

32. The dogs go in the ____ line.

- a) Straight.
- b) Short.
- c) Long.
- d) Crooked.

33. Russel found it strange that there was no ____ with the snowmachine.

- a) Rider.
- b) Wheels.
- c) Skins.
- d) Map.

34. Where did the missionaries take Nancy?

- a) Government village.
- b) Tundra.
- c) Oogruk's hut.
- d) Convent.

35. Where was the baby left?

- a) Hospital.
- b) Hilltop.
- c) Tent.
- d) Woods.

36. What does Russel use to force the dogs to go on?

- a) Meat.
- b) Stick.
- c) Whip.
- d) Reprimand.

37. Russel sings of his ____.

- a) Father.
- b) Hunts.
- c) Mother.
- d) Thoughts.

38. What does Russel hope to find when he returns for the bear?

- a) Village.
- b) More animals.
- c) His mittens.

d) His lost dog.

39. In order to earn her keep, Nancy offers to ____ the skins.

- a) Mend.
- b) Sew.
- c) Tan.
- d) Soak.

40. On which coast does Russel hope to find a village?

- a) South.
- b) East.
- c) West.
- d) North.

41. What is the season at the end of the story?

- a) Spring.
- b) Summer.
- c) Fall.
- d) Winter.

42. Russel believed that the ____ might return if he learned to live by the old ways.

- a) Shaman.
- b) Songs.
- c) Rains.
- d) Caribou.

43. Which of the following does Russel's song honor most?

- a) Weather.
- b) Ancestors.
- c) Himself.
- d) Nancy.

44. Russel thanks the dogs for being able to stand on ____.

- a) His own two feet.
- b) The earth.
- c) His morals.
- d) The old ways.

45. The song says, "See my dogs in the ____."

- a) Steam.
- b) Light.
- c) Fog.
- d) Sun.

46. The presence of the polar bear is linked to the presence of the ____.

- a) Past.
- b) Dying family.
- c) Mammoth.

d) Wind.

47. What color was the air in the lean-to?

- a) Yellow.
- b) Blue.
- c) Black.
- d) White.

48. What kind of tree does Russel give to Nancy?

- a) Willow.
- b) Oak.
- c) Spruce.
- d) Pine.

49. What color are the pieces of the tree?

- a) Brown.
- b) Green.
- c) Blue.
- d) White.

50. At the end of the story, Russel finally understands ____.

- a) Nancy.
- b) Oogruk.
- c) Weather.
- d) Himself.

51. Russel had originally spoken to Oogruk because he did not believe in ____.

- a) His father.
- b) Ancestry.
- c) Himself.
- d) Jesus.

52. The dogs run because of ____.

- a) Need.
- b) Fear.
- c) Survival.
- d) Desire.

53. What is the shape of the dogs as they run?

- a) Zig zag.
- b) Curve.
- c) Straight line.
- d) Bow.

54. What does Russel use as a pathway to pull the dogs from the bear?

- a) Streambed.
- b) Paw prints.
- c) Ice patches.

d) Snowmobile tracks.

55. What does Russel smell at the end of the journey?

- a) Sea.
- b) Blossoms.
- c) Fire.
- d) Meat.

56. The dogs had to be taken around ___ bends before forgetting about the bear meat.

- a) 5.
- b) 2.
- c) 4.
- d) 3.

57. Russel considers telling Nancy about the ___ but changes his mind.

- a) Whip.
- b) Deer meat.
- c) Village.
- d) Lamp.

58. What term is used to describe Russel at the end of the story?

- a) Inuit.
- b) Man-boy.
- c) Hero.
- d) Survivor.

59. Russel has to leave the skins behind because ____.

- a) They are rotted.
- b) They are too large.
- c) There are too heavy.
- d) They are torn.

60. Russel uses ____ to find the coastal village.

- a) The dogs.
- b) A map.
- c) Instinct.
- d) Memories.

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

1. b.
2. c.
3. d.
4. a.
5. a.
6. d.
7. c.
8. b.
9. a.
10. d.
11. c.
12. c.
13. a.
14. b.
15. c.
16. a.
17. b.
18. c.
19. c.
20. d.
21. c.
22. c.
23. d.
24. d.
25. a.
26. b.
27. c.
28. a.
29. c.
30. d.
31. a.
32. d.
33. d.
34. d.
35. c.
36. b.
37. d.
38. b.
39. b.
40. d.
41. d.

Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

1. b.
2. a.
3. a.
4. a.
5. a.
6. a.
7. b.
8. a.
9. a.
10. a.
11. b.
12. c.
13. d.
14. a.
15. b.
16. d.
17. c.
18. d.
19. c.
20. b.
21. a.
22. a.
23. b.
24. d.
25. a.
26. b.
27. d.
28. b.
29. a.
30. d.
31. b.
32. c.
33. b.
34. a.
35. b.
36. d.
37. b.
38. b.
39. d.
40. d.

Part Three: Dogsong

1. a.
2. a.
3. d.
4. a.
5. d.
6. c.
7. a.
8. d.
9. c.
10. a.
11. b.
12. d.
13. b.
14. c.
15. c.
16. b.
17. b.
18. c.
19. d.
20. a.
21. c.
22. b.
23. d.
24. a.
25. d.
26. c.
27. c.
28. d.
29. c.
30. d.
31. c.
32. c.
33. a.
34. b.
35. b.
36. c.
37. b.
38. a.
39. b.
40. d.
41. a.
42. b.
43. b.

42. c.
43. d.
44. a.
45. b.
46. d.
47. a.
48. a.
49. a.
50. b.
51. d.
52. c.
53. c.
54. d.
55. a.
56. b.
57. a.
58. a.
59. a.
60. c.

41. d.
42. d.
43. c.
44. c.
45. b.
46. b.
47. c.
48. d.
49. c.
50. a.
51. c.
52. d.
53. c.
54. b.
55. b.
56. b.
57. a.
58. c.
59. d.
60. c.

44. b.
45. a.
46. c.
47. a.
48. a.
49. d.
50. b.
51. d.
52. d.
53. b.
54. a.
55. a.
56. b.
57. d.
58. b.
59. c.
60. c.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer each question with the appropriate short response.

Short Answer Questions - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

1. What is Russel's last name?
2. What is Russel's ethnicity?
3. What is the name of the elder consulted by Russel?
4. The elder is what type of person?
5. For Russel, _____ and the dream time come together.
6. Russel and his father spent the Winter months in which type of house?
7. Where do Russel and his father spend the Summer months?
8. Russel does not understand why his father loves _____.
9. The elder is the only one in the village who owns _____.

10. What type of water creature is often part of the family meal?

11. What type of large land creature is often part of the family meal?

12. Russel does not have a good relationship with which of the following?

13. The elder's ____ are revered by his people.

14. What does Russel take to the elder?

15. What type of oil does the elder use in his lamp?

16. What does the elder warm in the pan?

17. What type of animal skins line the elder's floor?

18. How many wives has the elder had?

19. How old is Russel?

20. Oogruk says that _____ will help his memory.

21. What is the name of the man who could sing to the birds?

22. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

23. Oogruk says that the new village had good things. Which was not one of the good things mentioned?

24. Things began to change when the _____ arrived.

25. What was Russel's father's favorite flower?

26. What item did Russel own and used in place of dogs?

27. Russel's slippers were made from which material?

28. What is an ulu?

29. What is supposedly contained in raw seal meat?

30. It is said that a shaman can make ____ talk.

31. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

32. What is a ptarmigan?

33. Russel wore pants made from the skin of which animal?

34. The dogs were a cross between wolves and ____.

35. Where did the dogs come from?

36. The dogs also had the blood of ancestors from which location?

37. Which adjective best describes the dogs?

38. What tool was used to kill whales?

39. How many of the shaman's wives died?

40. What was the best part of the animal to eat?

41. Russel asks the old man if it is possible to get ____ back.

42. What animal was used to make Russel's underparka?

43. What animal was used to make Russel's outerparka?

44. What are mukluks?

45. What material was used to make the hinges?

46. What is the name of the fastener used to hold the dogs together?

47. How many dogs were used by Russel on the first outing?

48. According to the old man, what should one do after killing an animal?

49. What is a hummock?

50. Russel is surprised when the old man says he will go with Russel to do what?

51. What color is animal fat?

52. What emotion did the dogs feel when they first met Russel?

53. Oogruk compares dogs to ____.

54. When Russel and Oogruk go hunting, they take ____ harpoons.

55. What other weapon is taken on the hunting trip?

56. Russel offers to give his ____ to the old man but Oogruk refuses.

57. What part of the village was of great interest to the villagers?

58. Unlike other people in the village, Russel did not do which of the following?

59. The area in which Russel lived often experienced long ____.

60. Russel had never eaten which part of the Caribou?

Short Answer Questions - Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

1. Russel gets a feeling of ___ when he looks at the sky.

2. What does Russel give to the weary dogs?

3. How far is Russel from home?

4. Which is not one of the animals Russel expects to find in the hills?

5. What weapon does Russel carry on his person?

6. What group of animals does Russel find?

7. How many animals does Russel kill?

8. Russel and the dogs are heading in which direction?

9. Russel sees ___ children in his dream.

10. Which is not one of the words used to describe the mother?

11. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

12. Russel admires which item belonging to the man?

13. The item is adorned with which of the following?

14. What color are the dogs' eyes?

15. Russel notices that the dogs are large. They come up to a man's ____.

16. What kind of strange prehistoric creature is encountered in the night?

17. The old man is really _____.

18. What does the older man do after the animal is killed?

19. What emotion is expressed by the man after the animal dies?

20. The next morning when Russel awakens, he notices that something is different about the _____.

21. Russel runs the dogs for ___ hours before stopping to rest.

22. Russel finds something under his shoulder as he is trying to sleep. What does it appear to be?

23. What is it really?

24. Who does Russel think about frequently during this time?

25. Russel has another dream in which children play with which of the following?

26. What word is often used to denote a sign of good health?

27. Russel gets the sense that this new village is _____.

28. The great man in the village hides which emotion?

29. What is used as a light source inside the shelter?

30. Russel realizes that the man takes his strength from the _____.

31. Russel and the dogs slept for ___ day(s).

32. After resting at the shelter, Russel runs the dogs for nearly _____ days straight.

33. Russel begins to suffer from which problem?

34. Russel begins to imagine that he sees ___ on the dogs' feet.

35. Russel imagines that the opening on his hood is actually ____.

36. Russel sees a family living in a village in what part of the territory?

37. The family is suffering from which issue?

38. What item does Russel find abandoned?

39. Russel finds a woman on the ground. Russel is concerned because the woman is _____.

40. What color are the woman's lips?

41. How many of the dogs die in the night?

42. The family has eaten all but which of the following?

43. Which of the following animals attack the corpses of the woman and children?

44. How many bones were left by the animals?

45. What is the name of the unconscious woman?

46. How many days do Russel and the woman travel before they run out of food?

47. Russel tracks a _____ in the snow.

48. Russel begins to have regrets about _____.

49. What word is best used to describe the environment?

50. How many days do Russel and the woman stay in the shelter?

51. What did the woman sleep on while in the shelter?

52. What weapon does Russel try to use to kill a bear?

53. Russel allowed the dogs to run north toward the mother of _____.

54. Russel was also aware of the father of _____.

55. The mother has been known to send down the _____ death.

56. Russel begins to develop a closeness with _____.

57. The snowmobile tracks represent _____.

58. The baby is born _____.

59. What does the mirror represent?

60. In Russel's case death also represents _____.

Short Answer Questions - Part Three: Dogsong

1. Russel and the dogs become _____.

2. Which of the following does Russel discover?

3. The dogs come to respect Russel as much as they respect _____.

4. Russel fully embraces _____.

5. Russel finds a/the _____.

6. Russel has earned the right to have his own _____.

7. Russel refers to Oogruk as _____.

8. What color was the tent of the starving family?

9. What word best describes Nancy?

10. What is an anorak?

11. How did the church refer to Nancy?

12. What animal is found in the dead family's tent?

13. Where does Russel hit the dogs when they break loose?

14. The gangline is broken into how many pieces?

15. What was the issue with the skins?

16. How many deer carcasses does Russel find?

17. What part of the deer hangs off the sled?

18. Russel is not concerned due to the lack of _____.

19. What word is best used to describe the hairs on the skins?

20. Russel emerges from his quest as _____

21. Russel's song represents which of the following?

22. What is lacking in Part 3?

23. Russel is relieved that he finally creates _____.

24. What word is used to describe seal meat?

25. As the story goes on, the dogs become less _____.

26. According to Dogsong, what do the dogs carry?

27. According to Dogsong, where do the dogs go?

28. What word describes the dogs' feelings toward Russel at the end of the story?

29. What do Russel and the dogs use for shelter while hunting?

30. What does Russel use as a bridge?

31. Who is the first to sing the Dogsong?

32. The dogs go in the ____ line.

33. Russel found it strange that there was no ____ with the snowmachine.

34. Where did the missionaries take Nancy?

35. Where was the baby left?

36. What does Russel use to force the dogs to go on?

37. Russel sings of his ____.

38. What does Russel hope to find when he returns for the bear?

39. In order to earn her keep, Nancy offers to ____ the skins.

40. On which coast does Russel hope to find a village?

41. What is the season at the end of the story?

42. Russel believed that the ___ might return if he learned to live by the old ways.

43. Which of the following does Russel's song honor most?

44. Russel thanks the dogs for being able to stand on ____.

45. The song says, "See my dogs in the ____."

46. The presence of the polar bear is linked to the presence of the ____.

47. What color was the air in the lean-to?

48. What kind of tree does Russel give to Nancy?

49. What color are the pieces of the tree?

50. At the end of the story, Russel finally understands ____.

51. Russel had originally spoken to Oogruk because he did not believe in ____.

52. The dogs run because of ____.

53. What is the shape of the dogs as they run?

54. What does Russel use as a pathway to pull the dogs from the bear?

55. What does Russel smell at the end of the journey?

56. The dogs had to be taken around ____ bends before forgetting about the bear meat.

57. Russel considers telling Nancy about the ____ but changes his mind.

58. What term is used to describe Russel at the end of the story?

59. Russel has to leave the skins behind because ____.

60. Russel uses ____ to find the coastal village.

Short Answer Key

Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

1. What is Russel's last name?

Susskit.

2. What is Russel's ethnicity?

Eskimo.

3. What is the name of the elder consulted by Russel?

Oogruk.

4. The elder is what type of person?

Shaman.

5. For Russel, _____ and the dream time come together.

Waking life.

6. Russel and his father spent the Winter months in which type of house?

Government.

7. Where do Russel and his father spend the Summer months?

Fish camp.

8. Russel does not understand why his father loves _____.

Jesus.

9. The elder is the only one in the village who owns _____.

Dogs.

10. What type of water creature is often part of the family meal?

Seal.

11. What type of large land creature is often part of the family meal?

Caribou.

12. Russel does not have a good relationship with which of the following?

Jesus.

13. The elder's ____ are revered by his people.

Songs.

14. What does Russel take to the elder?

Caribou heads.

15. What type of oil does the elder use in his lamp?

Seal.

16. What does the elder warm in the pan?

Eyes.

17. What type of animal skins line the elder's floor?

Caribou.

18. How many wives has the elder had?

3.

19. How old is Russel?

14.

20. Oogruk says that ____ will help his memory.

Warm meat.

21. What is the name of the man who could sing to the birds?

Ulgavik.

22. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

Guns.

23. Oogruk says that the new village had good things. Which was not one of the good things mentioned?

Women.

24. Things began to change when the ____ arrived.

Missionaries.

25. What was Russel's father's favorite flower?

Roses.

26. What item did Russel own and used in place of dogs?

Snowmachine.

27. Russel's slippers were made from which material?

Felt.

28. What is an ulu?

Knife.

29. What is supposedly contained in raw seal meat?

Worms.

30. It is said that a shaman can make ____ talk.

Stones.

31. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

Smart.

32. What is a ptarmigan?

Bird.

33. Russel wore pants made from the skin of which animal?

Bear.

34. The dogs were a cross between wolves and ____.

Huskies.

35. Where did the dogs come from?

Mackenzie River.

36. The dogs also had the blood of ancestors from which location?

Coppermine River Village.

37. Which adjective best describes the dogs?

Aloof.

38. What tool was used to kill whales?

Harpoon.

39. How many of the shaman's wives died?

2.

40. What was the best part of the animal to eat?

Tenderloin.

41. Russel asks the old man if it is possible to get ____ back.

Songs.

42. What animal was used to make Russel's underparka?

Squirrel.

43. What animal was used to make Russel's outerparka?

Deer.

44. What are mukluks?

Boots.

45. What material was used to make the hinges?

Leather.

46. What is the name of the fastener used to hold the dogs together?

Gangline.

47. How many dogs were used by Russel on the first outing?

5.

48. According to the old man, what should one do after killing an animal?

Thank it.

49. What is a hummock?

Hill.

50. Russel is surprised when the old man says he will go with Russel to do what?

Hunt.

51. What color is animal fat?

Yellow.

52. What emotion did the dogs feel when they first met Russel?

Fear.

53. Oogruk compares dogs to ____.

White people.

54. When Russel and Oogruk go hunting, they take ____ harpoons.

2.

55. What other weapon is taken on the hunting trip?

Lance.

56. Russel offers to give his ____ to the old man but Oogruk refuses.

Parka.

57. What part of the village was of great interest to the villagers?

Game room.

58. Unlike other people in the village, Russel did not do which of the following?

Go to school.

59. The area in which Russel lived often experienced long ____.

Nights.

60. Russel had never eaten which part of the Caribou?

Eyes.

Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

1. Russel gets a feeling of ___ when he looks at the sky.

Comfort.

2. What does Russel give to the weary dogs?

Meat.

3. How far is Russel from home?

150 miles.

4. Which is not one of the animals Russel expects to find in the hills?

Bobcats.

5. What weapon does Russel carry on his person?

Arrows.

6. What group of animals does Russel find?

Caribou.

7. How many animals does Russel kill?

4.

8. Russel and the dogs are heading in which direction?

North.

9. Russel sees ___ children in his dream.

2.

10. Which is not one of the words used to describe the mother?

Dirty.

11. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

Fear.

12. Russel admires which item belonging to the man?

Sled.

13. The item is adorned with which of the following?

Ivory.

14. What color are the dogs' eyes?

Yellow.

15. Russel notices that the dogs are large. They come up to a man's ____.

Waist.

16. What kind of strange prehistoric creature is encountered in the night?

Woolly mammoth.

17. The old man is really ____.

Russel.

18. What does the older man do after the animal is killed?

Sing.

19. What emotion is expressed by the man after the animal dies?

Gratitude.

20. The next morning when Russel awakens, he notices that something is different about the ____.

Dogs.

21. Russel runs the dogs for ___ hours before stopping to rest.

6.

22. Russel finds something under his shoulder as he is trying to sleep. What does it appear to be?

Rock.

23. What is it really?

Lamp.

24. Who does Russel think about frequently during this time?

Oogruk.

25. Russel has another dream in which children play with which of the following?

Puppies.

26. What word is often used to denote a sign of good health?

Fat.

27. Russel gets the sense that this new village is _____.

Prosperous.

28. The great man in the village hides which emotion?

Sadness.

29. What is used as a light source inside the shelter?

Oil lamp.

30. Russel realizes that the man takes his strength from the _____.

Earth.

31. Russel and the dogs slept for ___ day(s).

2.

32. After resting at the shelter, Russel runs the dogs for nearly _____ days straight.

2.

33. Russel begins to suffer from which problem?

Snow blindness.

34. Russel begins to imagine that he sees ___ on the dogs' feet.

Light.

35. Russel imagines that the opening on his hood is actually _____.

A mirror.

36. Russel sees a family living in a village in what part of the territory?

Coast.

37. The family is suffering from which issue?

Starvation.

38. What item does Russel find abandoned?

Snowmobile.

39. Russel finds a woman on the ground. Russel is concerned because the woman is _____.

Pregnant.

40. What color are the woman's lips?

Blue.

41. How many of the dogs die in the night?

1.

42. The family has eaten all but which of the following?

Tent.

43. Which of the following animals attack the corpses of the woman and children?

Wolves.

44. How many bones were left by the animals?

2.

45. What is the name of the unconscious woman?

Nancy.

46. How many days do Russel and the woman travel before they run out of food?

7.

47. Russel tracks a _____ in the snow.

Polar bear.

48. Russel begins to have regrets about _____.

Leaving home.

49. What word is best used to describe the environment?

Forbidding.

50. How many days do Russel and the woman stay in the shelter?

5.

51. What did the woman sleep on while in the shelter?

Skins.

52. What weapon does Russel try to use to kill a bear?

Lance.

53. Russel allowed the dogs to run north toward the mother of _____.

Wind.

54. Russel was also aware of the father of _____.

Ice.

55. The mother has been known to send down the _____ death.

White.

56. Russel begins to develop a closeness with _____.

The dogs.

57. The snowmobile tracks represent _____.

New ways.

58. The baby is born _____.

Dead.

59. What does the mirror represent?

Duality.

60. In Russel's case death also represents ____.

Rebirth.

Part Three: Dogsong

1. Russel and the dogs become ____.

One.

2. Which of the following does Russel discover?

Song.

3. The dogs come to respect Russel as much as they respect ____.

Oogruk.

4. Russel fully embraces ____.

The Old Ways.

5. Russel finds a/the ____.

Village.

6. Russel has earned the right to have his own ____.

Song.

7. Russel refers to Oogruk as ____.

Grandfather.

8. What color was the tent of the starving family?

Black.

9. What word best describes Nancy?

Runaway.

10. What is an anorak?

Hood.

11. How did the church refer to Nancy?

Sinner.

12. What animal is found in the dead family's tent?

Fox.

13. Where does Russel hit the dogs when they break loose?

Nose.

14. The gangline is broken into how many pieces?

2.

15. What was the issue with the skins?

Frozen.

16. How many deer carcasses does Russel find?

4.

17. What part of the deer hangs off the sled?

Legs.

18. Russel is not concerned due to the lack of _____.

Trees.

19. What word is best used to describe the hairs on the skins?

Hollow.

20. Russel emerges from his quest as _____

A man.

21. Russel's song represents which of the following?

Remembrance.

22. What is lacking in Part 3?

Narrative.

23. Russel is relieved that he finally creates _____.

A song.

24. What word is used to describe seal meat?

Sweet.

25. As the story goes on, the dogs become less _____.

Nervous.

26. According to Dogsong, what do the dogs carry?

Me.

27. According to Dogsong, where do the dogs go?

The sea.

28. What word describes the dogs' feelings toward Russel at the end of the story?

Loyal.

29. What do Russel and the dogs use for shelter while hunting?

Ice.

30. What does Russel use as a bridge?

Ice.

31. Who is the first to sing the Dogsong?

Dream self.

32. The dogs go in the _____ line.

Long.

33. Russel found it strange that there was no _____ with the snowmachine.

Rider.

34. Where did the missionaries take Nancy?

Tundra.

35. Where was the baby left?

Hilltop.

36. What does Russel use to force the dogs to go on?

Whip.

37. Russel sings of his ____.

Hunts.

38. What does Russel hope to find when he returns for the bear?

Village.

39. In order to earn her keep, Nancy offers to ____ the skins.

Sew.

40. On which coast does Russel hope to find a village?

North.

41. What is the season at the end of the story?

Spring.

42. Russel believed that the ____ might return if he learned to live by the old ways.

Songs.

43. Which of the following does Russel's song honor most?

Ancestors.

44. Russel thanks the dogs for being able to stand on ____.

The earth.

45. The song says, "See my dogs in the ____."

Steam.

46. The presence of the polar bear is linked to the presence of the ____.

Mammoth.

47. What color was the air in the lean-to?

Yellow.

48. What kind of tree does Russel give to Nancy?

Willow.

49. What color are the pieces of the tree?

White.

50. At the end of the story, Russel finally understands ____.

Oogruk.

51. Russel had originally spoken to Oogruk because he did not believe in ____.

Jesus.

52. The dogs run because of ____.

Desire.

53. What is the shape of the dogs as they run?

Curve.

54. What does Russel use as a pathway to pull the dogs from the bear?

Streambed.

55. What does Russel smell at the end of the journey?

Sea.

56. The dogs had to be taken around ____ bends before forgetting about the bear meat.

2.

57. Russel considers telling Nancy about the ____ but changes his mind.

Lamp.

58. What term is used to describe Russel at the end of the story?

Man-boy.

59. Russel has to leave the skins behind because ____.

There are too heavy.

60. Russel uses ____ to find the coastal village.

Instinct.

Short Essay Questions

The 60 short essay questions listed in this section require a one to two sentence answer. They ask students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the text. Students must describe what they've read, rather than just recall it.

Short Essay Question - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

1. What is the basis of the story?

2. Why does Russel go to Oogruk?

3. Who is Oogruk? What is unusual about the man?

4. What is a shaman?

5. What does Russel admire about Oogruk?

6. Where does Russel live and with whom?

7. What does Russel's father try to explain to the 14-year-old boy?

8. Who are the Outsiders? Why are they different from the Eskimos?

9. What is the warning Russel receives from his father about cooking meat?

10. What problem does Russel experience?

11. What advice does Russel's father give about Oogruk?

12. Russel's father recommends taking a gift to Oogruk. What is the gift? What is Russel's opinion of the gift?

13. What is Russel's impression of Oogruk's house?

14. Oogruk tells Russel about missing his wife, who ran off. What does Oogruk say? What is Russel's reaction?

15. Who is Ulgavik? What was special about the man?

16. Oogruk tells Russel about the founding of the village. Who founded the village? How did things change when the people arrived?

17. Russel begins to learn about songs. How does Oogruk explain finding one's own song?

18. Discuss Russel's trance. What does he see?

19. What happens when Russel wakes up from his nap? What does he do next?

20. What offer does Oogruk make to Russel? How does Russel's life change?

Short Essay Question - Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

21. What are Russel's first impressions when he leaves Oogruk's house?

22. What does Russel notice about the dogs? What does he do?

23. After a night of rest, Russel goes back out into the wilderness. What concerns does Russel have about the dogs?

24. What is Russel's solution to the problem with the dogs? What actions does Russel take?

25. Russel falls into a dream state. What does Russel see first?

26. Who is the man in the shelter? What does the man do when he leaves the shelter?

27. What does Russel notice about the man's dogs and sled?

28. Russel watches his dream-self leave on a hunt. What does Russel see? What is his reaction?

29. What is the animal encountered by Russel's dream-self? What happens when the man attacks the mammoth?

30. What is the purpose of the scene with the woolly mammoth? What does it represent?

31. What does the man do after killing the mammoth? What is Russel's reaction?

32. What does Russel discover when he wakes from his first dream? What is his next step?

33. What does Russel find in the shelter?

34. Russel's dream continues. What is the next thing he sees?

35. What is the man's state of mind at this point? What does the man do next?

36. Russel realizes something about the man - his future dream-self - and how he gets his strength. What does Russel realize?

37. Explain the man's dance during the celebration in the village.

38. What does Russel do when a violent storm sets in?

39. Russel finds a person lying in the snow. The person is unconscious. Who is the person and what has happened?

40. Who is the pregnant woman? What is her story? What happens with the baby?

Short Essay Question - Part Three: Dogsong

41. Where do Russel and Nancy take the dogs?

42. Why does Russel continue to go north instead of returning home?

43. Where does Russel go to find his new home?

44. What was the purpose of Russel's journey? What did it accomplish?

45. How does Russel find his song?

46. Why is the Dogsong important to Russel?

47. Why are the songs an important part of the Eskimo culture?

48. How does the Dogsong relate to Russel's conflict with the Old Ways?

49. What is the first verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

50. What is the second verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

51. What is the third verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

52. What is the fourth verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

53. What is the fifth verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

54. What is the sixth verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

55. What is the seventh verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

56. What is the overall meaning of the song?

57. How does the Dogsong relate to the dream-self Russel saw in the earlier part of the book?

58. What happens to Russel at the end of the journey? How has he changed?

59. What will happen to Russel and Nancy? Where will they live?

60. What can the reader garner from the foreshadowing of Russel's dream about his future?

Short Essay Answer Key

1. What is the basis of the story?

Dogsong is the story of a young Eskimo boy who learns the importance of tradition and honoring one's culture. Russel is young and confused about his place in the world and must learn to trust himself and find his way in the world as well as his culture.

2. Why does Russel go to Oogruk?

Russel has many questions about his life and that of his ancestors. Russel consults his father who instructs Russel to pray. This advice is not sufficient for Russel. Russel's father suggests that Russel go to Oogruk, a wise man in the village.

3. Who is Oogruk? What is unusual about the man?

Oogruk is the village shaman. Oogruk has lived a long full life. He is an unusual man because of his odd ways, hermit-like status, and abilities to predict the future.

4. What is a shaman?

A shaman is a type of mystic. A shaman combines the natural and supernatural worlds to guide and advise others. This is a rare gift. A shaman is known to use trances, self-hypnosis, and sometimes hallucinogenic drugs to take themselves into a state in which they can communicate with the other side.

5. What does Russel admire about Oogruk?

Russel admires the fact that Oogruk has unusual abilities even though Russel is somewhat intimidated and fearful about Oogruk's gifts. He also admires the fact that Oogruk is clearly his own man.

6. Where does Russel live and with whom?

Russel lives in a government village with his father. The family moves at the change of the seasons. Russel and his father spend the winter months in the government house in the village and they spend their summers in a fish-camp.

7. What does Russel's father try to explain to the 14-year-old boy?

When Russel goes to his father for advice, Russel's father tries to explain that Russel should rely on Jesus; that Jesus died for Russel's sins. Russel does not understand why his father loves Jesus. The pictures of Jesus are all cut from magazines sent to Russel's father by people Outside.

8. Who are the Outsiders? Why are they different from the Eskimos?

The Outsiders was originally the term given to missionaries that visited the government village. It came to be the term used for anyone outside the Eskimo culture. The Outsiders bring in new ideas and modern technology, which is not always trusted or appreciated by the Eskimos.

9. What is the warning Russel receives from his father about cooking meat?

Russel brings in chunks of seal and caribou meat in from the pantry and cooks it on the stove. Russel's father cautions him to cook the meat thoroughly. Russel's father informs him that raw meat contains bugs and other things that could make Russel sick.

10. What problem does Russel experience?

Russel is having feelings that he does not understand. His father admits to noticing that Russel is not quite himself lately. Russel asks his father what he can do to understand what he is going through. Russel's father usually turns to Jesus to help him sort things out.

11. What advice does Russel's father give about Oogruk?

Russel's father says that Oogruk's words can be difficult to understand but that Oogruk's songs are another matter. Oogruk's songs are legendary in the village and tell of the ancestry of the Eskimos and the Old Ways.

12. Russel's father recommends taking a gift to Oogruk. What is the gift? What is Russel's opinion of the gift?

Russel's father then suggests that Russel take two caribou heads to Oogruk because Oogruk "loves the eyes" (p. 11). Russel has never eaten caribou eyes and the thought is somewhat disgusting to him. Oogruk is appreciative of the gift and tells Russel to heat a pan on the stove as eyes are best eaten when warmed.

13. What is Russel's impression of Oogruk's house?

Russel arrives at Oogruk's house. Russel has been here before but has never been inside. On the way up to the house, Russel sees Oogruk's dogs outside. Russel can feel Oogruk's dogs watching him. Oogruk lives the old way - he has no electricity and uses a seal-oil lamp. There are caribou skins covering the floor. The skins give off a strong smell. The smell is not a bad smell but it is very fragrant.

14. Oogruk tells Russel about missing his wife, who ran off. What does Oogruk say? What is Russel's reaction?

Oogruk admits that he misses having a woman in his home. Oogruk's third wife left for a party and never came back. Oogruk's first two wives died. Russel is at a loss of what to say because he knows nothing about women. This does not bother him as he knows he is not ready to think about women yet. Russel is only fourteen years old.

15. Who is Ulgavik? What was special about the man?

Oogruk talks to Russel about a man named Ulgavik who could sing to the birds. This was a rare gift, to be able to communicate with the birds. Ulgavik was also an expert on sled dogs. Ulgavik's sled dogs became Ulgavik's eyes when the man grew old and lost his vision.

16. Oogruk tells Russel about the founding of the village. Who founded the village? How did things change when the people arrived?

Oogruk and a few other men founded the village where they live. Oogruk and the other men had had some trouble in their old village, but life improved when they began the new village. Here, there was good meat, good fish, and good songs. This changed when the missionary arrived, though. The missionary told the people that their songs and dances were evil and that if they continued to sing and dance in such a manner, they would all go to hell. Even though the people laughed at the missionary at first, they eventually stopped dancing and singing their songs.

17. Russel begins to learn about songs. How does Oogruk explain finding one's own song?

Oogruk explains to Russel that each person has his or her own song. Songs are not something that people just get out of thin air. Oogruk is sad that the new ways do not make room for songs. Russel tells Oogruk that he will become his own song. Oogruk knows that Russel must grow up and gain some wisdom before creating his own song.

18. Discuss Russel's trance. What does he see?

Oogruk tells Russel the story of how their people came to be. In the trance, Russel imagines sitting on a sled looking at a beautiful purple winter flower. Oogruk explains how the land used to look. The land to the north and east of the village was full of rolling hills, tundra grass and land blown free of snow. Ptarmigan and arctic hare were in abundance.

19. What happens when Russel wakes up from his nap? What does he do next?

When he awakens, Russel knows what he must do. Russel takes off his store-bought modern clothes and puts on a pair of deerskin pants, a squirrel underparka and a deerskin outerparka. He takes lances, bows and arrows down from the wall. Russel could hear Oogruk's thoughts, telling him to take whatever he needs - including the sled and the dogs. After pulling on a squirrelskin innerparka and a pair of sealskin mukluks, Russel steps out into the cold. There are only three hours of dark-daylight left and Russel knows that he must work quickly. Once outside, Russel checks the dog harnesses and bridles and prepares the sled.

20. What offer does Oogruk make to Russel? How does Russel's life change?

Oogruk offers to teach Russel the Old Ways. Russel goes to live with Oogruk. Everyone in the village knows that Russel is living with Oogruk now and learning the old ways. Russel does not go to school anymore and no one expects him to. They know that Russel is learning important things on his own. Russel's father does not complain.

21. What are Russel's first impressions when he leaves Oogruk's house?

Russel leaves Oogruk and heads out into the frozen wilderness. Russel sees the beauty around him in nature. The colors in the sky give Russel a feeling of wonder and comfort. However, Russel is still unsure of his journey.

22. What does Russel notice about the dogs? What does he do?

Noticing that the lead dog has begun to weave, Russel stops and lets the team rest. He gives each of them a piece of meat from a deer leg, but the dogs are so exhausted that they fall asleep immediately. The thought of being one hundred fifty miles from anywhere familiar begins to frighten him.

23. After a night of rest, Russel goes back out into the wilderness. What concerns does Russel have about the dogs?

The next morning, Russel wakes the dogs and they set out again. They travel north into unfamiliar territory. Russel can see that the dogs are losing weight and know that if they do not have meat soon they will all die.

24. What is Russel's solution to the problem with the dogs? What actions does Russel take?

Russel surveys the landscape and decides that there will be plenty of food to hunt for in the hills. Russel knows that there are rabbits, ptarmigan, foxes and lemmings nearby. Russel and the dogs happen on a herd of several hundred caribou.

Russel jumps off the sled and pulls arrows from his quiver. Altogether, Russel and the dogs kill four caribou.

25. Russel falls into a dream state. What does Russel see first?

Russel's dream begins with a vision of swirling fog through which he can see a shelter made of skins on a shore. An oil lamp burns inside the shelter. Russel sees two children in the shelter. Their round faces shine in the lamplight. A woman tends the lamp. She, too, is fat and "shiny beautiful" as she tends the lamp and gazes upon her children. The woman's face and her children's faces are slick with the fat from the meat they have eaten. In Russel's mind, this means good health.

26. Who is the man in the shelter? What does the man do when he leaves the shelter?

There is a man in the shelter as well but he stays toward the back and Russel cannot quite make out his face. The man rises and prepares to leave the shelter. Russel sees worry and fear in the woman's eyes and senses the man's fear. The man goes outside and finds his team of dogs harnessed and ready to leave.

27. What does Russel notice about the man's dogs and sled?

Russel admires the man's sled. It is fine-looking and well-made. The sled, made from fine bone and ivory, "shone yellow white and rich in the night light" (p. 94). Russel can tell that the dogs are not like Oogruk's dogs. These dogs are bigger than Oogruk's dogs and they stand level with the man's waist. The dogs all have yellow eyes. Russel can see that the dogs would just as soon eat the man as pull his sled, but he also senses that the large gray dogs are a loyal and fearless team.

28. Russel watches his dream-self leave on a hunt. What does Russel see? What is his reaction?

Russel watches as the man and his wolf-dogs track and find their prey. Russel senses the fear in the dogs and the man. Russel spies huge animal tracks in the snow but cannot identify them. Russel is curious and trepidatious.

29. What is the animal encountered by Russel's dream-self? What happens when the man attacks the mammoth?

Russel sees a great woolly mammoth emerge from the fog. Russel knows that this will be a fight to the death. The mammoth charges and the man spears the massive beast in the center of its chest. This angers the mammoth and the mammoth catches two dogs and sends them flying through the air. Suddenly, the mammoth stops in its tracks. The animal lumbers, then falls to the ground and dies.

30. What is the purpose of the scene with the woolly mammoth? What does it represent?

The scene with the woolly mammoth serves a purpose in that it shows the beginning of maturity for Russel. He is confronting his fears and is doing what he must to feed his family. Also, it represents the existence of Russel's past and breaking through barriers in order to move forward.

31. What does the man do after killing the mammoth? What is Russel's reaction?

Russel watches the man as the man begins to sing. The man sings out of elation and gratitude. Russel does not understand the words being sung, but Russel knows that the words are his own. The man sings the wind and a song of praise for the powerful animal which provides meat and fat for his family. Somehow Russel knows that the songs are his own and he feels happy inside for the first time in a long time.

32. What does Russel discover when he wakes from his first dream? What is his next step?

In chapter eight, Russel awakens from the first dream to find that the dogs had fought amongst themselves. Still, the damage is minimal and he repairs the gang line with ease. Russel then loads the caribou carcasses and skins onto the seat and he and Oogruk's dogs continue their journey north.

33. What does Russel find in the shelter?

While he is lying down in the shelter, Russel feels something under his shoulder. What first appears to be nothing more than a smooth and shiny black rock is actually a lamp someone carved and left there at the shelter spot. Russel cleans the lamp and fashions a candle wick out of moss, fat, and twigs. Russel thinks the old lamp was carved even before Oogruk's time. Russel thinks of Oogruk with affection.

34. Russel's dream continues. What is the next thing he sees?

Russel's dream continues and Russel sees a small tent village on a shore. The man and his wolf-dogs stand on a bluff overlooking the village. The village looks pleasant to Russel. There are racks of fat meat next to each tent and children play outside with fat, happy puppies. The small village seems prosperous.

35. What is the man's state of mind at this point? What does the man do next?

Russel senses that the man feels sad and misses his wife and children. The man hesitates to enter the village, but his wolf-dogs become excited at the thought of more food and they run wildly into the center of camp. The man recognizes the people in the village and knows them as his own, even though he is a stranger from a place far away. The people welcome the man and his wolf-dogs happily. They know that the man is a great hunter because of all the meat he brings with him. The people celebrate the man's arrival with feasting, dancing and singing. Russel, however, can still feel the sadness in the man's heart.

36. Russel realizes something about the man - his future dream-self - and how he gets his strength. What does Russel realize?

Russel watches the man and begins to realize that the man takes his strength from the ground and from all that the land provides from him. The man is part of the land, and the dogs are an extension of the man.

37. Explain the man's dance during the celebration in the village.

The man begins to dance, using the dance to tell the story of the woolly mammoth. As the man dances, Russel watches in amazement at the power and the anger the man conveys. The man begins to sing the mammoth's death song and his own song of triumph and gratitude. As the man re-enacts the kill, the village people in the council tent all watch in wonderment at the beauty of the mammoth's self sacrifice. When the man finishes singing and dancing his story, the people scream for joy.

38. What does Russel do when a violent storm sets in?

Russel knows that he cannot go on while the storm is raging. Russel and the dogs sleep through the storm. When they awaken, it is daylight once again. Russel and the dogs slept for two days. After tying weapons, skins and meat to the sled, Russel calls up the dogs and the trek northward continues. Russel runs the dogs for nearly two days straight. The land becomes flat and treeless. Russel contemplates heading in the direction of the sea but decides to allow the dogs to set the

course.

39. Russel finds a person lying in the snow. The person is unconscious. Who is the person and what has happened?

Russel notices that the dogs have stopped right next to a person lying unconscious on the ground. Russel takes the person into a shelter where he realizes that the unconscious person is a pregnant woman. The woman is suffering from hypothermia. Russel fears that the woman may be close to death. He rubs fat from the lamp on the woman's blue lips. Russel understands that when the woman revives, she will experience a great deal of pain. Returning from half-dead and freezing is always painful. Russel waits for the woman to come back.

40. Who is the pregnant woman? What is her story? What happens with the baby?

The pregnant woman's name is Nancy. Nancy tells Russel that she became pregnant out of wedlock. The missionaries in Nancy's village convinced her that being unmarried and pregnant is a sin, so Nancy chose to leave her village. She started out on the snowmobile but ran out of gas. Nancy tells Russel that she left the snowmobile and began walking because she did not want anyone to find her body. Although Nancy recovers, she goes into labor early and delivers a still-born baby.

41. Where do Russel and Nancy take the dogs?

Russel and Nancy continue north toward the sea. Spring is coming and the salt air can be smelled from far away. The dogs also lead the way to the place that will be their new home.

42. Why does Russel continue to go north instead of returning home?

Russel remembers what Oogruk said about not returning home. It was important for Russel to make his own way and to find his own place in the world. If Russel had returned to the government village he might have sacrificed himself and his growth.

43. Where does Russel go to find his new home?

Russel and Nancy go north to the coast where they find a village. They will live in the village that Russel saw in his dream state.

44. What was the purpose of Russel's journey? What did it accomplish?

Russel's journey out and back again has brought him full circle. When Russel began the journey he was unsure of himself, his heritage, and his ability to become the man he wanted to be. The journey taught Russel that he could cast aside his past and pave the way into the future.

45. How does Russel find his song?

Russel finally finds his own song. This occurs when Russel is nearing the end of his journey. All of the challenges that Russel faced has helped him to become a man and to develop his own personality outside the influence of others.

46. Why is the Dogsong important to Russel?

The Dogsong celebrates this part of Russel's journey in life. Russel finally understands his purpose and why it is important to celebrate it through song. The Dogsong serves as remembrance of Russel's trials, his abilities to persevere and to stand up as a man.

47. Why are the songs an important part of the Eskimo culture?

The songs are an important part of the Eskimo culture because they tell important stories and relay the trials, tribulations, challenges and victories of its people in a way that the written word could not.

48. How does the Dogsong relate to Russel's conflict with the Old Ways?

The song solidifies Russel's entrance into manhood and his acceptance and love of the Old Ways. While Russel was out in the wilderness he had nothing but the Old Ways to rely on and therefore had to learn the ways of his ancestors. Russel now understands the importance of the Old Ways and appreciates them.

49. What is the first verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

Dogsong begins: Out before me/ They go,/ in the long line to sea./Out they go. Russel sings of the dogs and how they continue to lead him toward the sea even when he is/was unsure of his direction. It shows that Russel and his dogs have developed great trust.

50. What is the second verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

*The second verse of Dogsong:
Come see my dogs. They carry me/ into all things, all things I will be;/ all things that will come to me/ will come my dogs./ I stand on the earth and I sing.*

Russel is saying that without his dogs he could not continue his journey. Russel and his dogs rely on one another. Russel relies on the dogs for direction and strength; the dogs rely on Russel for food and guidance. Therefore, anything that comes to Russel will also come to his dogs.

51. What is the third verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

*The third verse of Dogsong:
Come, see my dogs.
See them, see them/ in the smoke of my life,/ in the eyes of my children,/ in the sound of my feet,/ in the dance of my words./ I stand on earth and I sing.*

Russel embraces the Old Ways and pays tribute to the earth. In this verse he dedicates himself to the Old Ways and also promises to continue to pay heed to the Old Ways and to also teach his children.

52. What is the fourth verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

*The fourth verse of Dogsong:
Come, see my dogs.
My dogs are what lead me,/ they are what move me./ See my dogs in the steam,/in the steam of life./They are me.*

Russel declares his reliance on his dogs and also his love for them. The dogs have become an integral part of Russel's

life.

53. What is the fifth verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

The fifth verse of Dogsong:

Come, see my dogs.

I was nothing before them,/ no man and no wife./ Without them, no life,/ no girl-woman breathing/ no song.

This verse pays tribute to Russel's journey. Russel started out as a boy with no life experience. The dogs helped Russel to gain his independence and his life as a man.

54. What is the sixth verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

The sixth verse of Dogsong:

Come, see my dogs.

With them I ran,/ ran north to the sea./ I stand by the sea and I sing./ I sing of my huts/ and of Oogruk.

Russel revisits part of his journey as he and the dogs headed north to the sea. During this time Russel remembered Oogruk and the lessons he learned from the old man.

55. What is the seventh verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

The seventh verse of Dogsong:

Come, see my dogs.

Out before me they go./ Out before me they curve/ in the long line out/ before me/ they go, I go, we go. They are me.

Once again, Russel reiterates his connection to the dogs. Once they were separate entities. Now the dogs are an extension of Russel's body and spirit.

56. What is the overall meaning of the song?

The song tells of Russel and the dogs being one unit, one person. Russel's song is one of reclamation of his true self and respect for Eskimo traditions. The dogs that once ran only for Oogruk now run only for Russel. They are as much a part of him as he is of them and Oogruk.

57. How does the Dogsong relate to the dream-self Russel saw in the earlier part of the book?

The song that Russel sings mirrors the song that his dream-self sings in a previous chapter. At this point, Russel has "earned" the right to sing about his life and its challenges.

58. What happens to Russel at the end of the journey? How has he changed?

He emerges as a full-grown man, with his history and priorities intact. Russel finally views himself as belonging to something greater than he can comprehend.

59. What will happen to Russel and Nancy? Where will they live?

The story leads the reader to believe that Russel and Nancy will be husband and wife. They will live in the coastal village where they will raise a family?

60. What can the reader garner from the foreshadowing of Russel's dream about his future?

The dream-self reveals that Russel lives in a village with his wife and family, which are well taken care of despite the dangers of the arctic. Russel will continue to face challenges but now has the ability and strength to do what must be done.

Essay Topics/Writing Assignments

These 20 essay questions can be used as essay questions on a test, or as stand-alone essay topics for a take-home or in-class writing assignment. Students should have a full understanding of the text in order to answer these questions. They ask for a thorough analysis of the text.

1. Russel had no idea where he was at certain times because he had no maps in his possession. Russel chose to rely on his instinct as well as the dogs. Would Russel be able to tell by the landscape, plants or animals? What would be different about the region opposed to Russel's childhood home? Explain the changes in the terrain, animals, and territory in general.

2. Russel's determination helped him gain the strength to build the shelter. How did Russel know how to build a lean-to? Do you think his knowledge was gained from television, real life experience, or instruction? Explain.

3. The confrontations with the bear and the woolly mammoth were scary and exciting. Why did Paulsen put Russel in these situations? Examine the encounter from the bear and mammoth's points of view. Discuss how a human might provoke an animal in the wild. Examine humans as threats to animals and their young.

4. Russel's dream about the woolly mammoth was insightful and prophetic, but only after Russel figured out what they were trying to say. Why do you think that the dream was cryptic? Do you think the dream was cryptic? Why didn't Russel's dream-self recognize the younger Russel?

5. Russel began to take charge when he decided that the camp needed to be created and all things organized. Why was this an important step? How did Russel begin to change at this time? How does the building of a camp change the situation? Did Nancy have any part in this change? Explain.

6. On more than one occasion, Russel had encounters with the animals. Most notably the meeting with the woolly mammoth, caribou, and the bear. Examine animal intelligence and how underestimating that intelligence might have been a fatal error for Russel. What might have happened if Russel had tried to dominate the animals prematurely? How would you feel if confronted by one of the animals?

7. Who is Russel Susskit? What makes him an unusual protagonist? Explain how you relate to Russel. How might you feel in Russel's shoes? How is Russel's life different from yours?

8. Write a complete description of Oogruk. Include his age, ethnicity, lifestyle, beliefs, status in the community, unusual aspects, etc.

9. Songs play a large part in the story. Explain the significance of finding one's own song. Why does Russel think he won't be able to find a song that fits only him? How does Russel's song develop? What does Russel's song mean?

10. Russel sees himself as an older man in a strange situation. Explain the situation. How does each version of Russel deal with the situation? How does the young Russel react to the older Russel's decisions and actions? How is the young Russel affected by the wife and children?

11. What is the purpose of Russel's quest? What is the most difficult situation encountered by Russel? What is learned? Who plays the biggest part in Russel's transformation? How does Russel change during the journey?

12. Foreshadowing is used in several places throughout the story. Give at least three examples of foreshadowing. Explain each in depth including the purpose and information gained from the use of the technique.

13. Compare and contrast Russel's father and Oogruk. Which teaches Russel the most? Who is the most influential? How does Russel feel about each?

14. Russel discusses the Outsiders and the modern conveniences they have introduced into the village. Discuss the modern conveniences, the Outsiders, and Russel's objections to both. Why does Russel see himself as an Outsider? Is this an accurate perception? Explain.

15. Examine Russel's relationship with the dogs. What is it? How and why does it change during the journey? How do they feel about each other at the beginning and the end of the journey? When do the dogs go from belonging to Oogruk to belonging to Russel?

16. What lessons will Russel be able to teach to the younger people in the new village? Can Russel's lessons be taught or must they be learned individually? Does each lesson have to be learned through experience? What lesson do you think would be most valuable? What lessons have you learned from the story?

17. Examine oral tradition as it is used in the story. Why is it important? Does Russel understand Oogruk's stories and their importance? Why aren't the stories and songs written? Do you think that the stories would have the same impact if they were written? Explain. Also give examples.

18. Russel's quest can be seen as a gateway into manhood. Explain how the quest helped to turn Russel into a man. Compare and contrast this quest with others in modern cultures. Include vision quests and bar mitzvahs, etc.

19. Russel's father tries to help Russel by preaching to him about the Christian faith. This does not help Russel. Explain the beliefs of Russel's father, why Russel does not share his father's faith and how the father reacts. Also examine how and where Russel goes looking for his own faith and belief system.

20. Flashback is used in several places throughout the story. Give at least three examples of flashback. Explain each in depth including the purpose and information gained from the use of the technique.

Daily Lessons

This section contains 30 daily lessons. Each one has a specific objective and offers at least three (often more) ways to teach that objective. Lessons include classroom discussions, group and partner activities, in-class handouts, individual writing assignments, at least one homework assignment, class participation exercises and other ways to teach students about the text in a classroom setting. Use some or all of the suggestions provided to work with your students in the classroom and help them understand the text.

Lesson 1

Objective: Russel Susskit is an Eskimo boy who is learning about his culture. Learn about the Eskimo culture, both modern and ancient. Discuss the culture and the book's portrayal of it and its people.

- 1) 1. Who is Russel Susskit? Where does he live? Who is his family? Write a 750 word essay on Russel. Include his age, physical description, likes and dislikes, etc.
2. Learn about the Eskimo culture both modern and ancient. Use outside resources. Write a 1000 word essay on the Eskimo culture.
3. Discuss famous Eskimos including their inventions, accomplishments and contributions to society.
4. Homework: Create a collage of things related to the Eskimo culture.

Lesson 2

Objective: Russel and his father spent the winters in the government village and the summers in the fish-camp. Learn about the fish-camp, including its purpose.

- 1) 1. Discuss the fish-camp. What kind of camp was it? What did Russel and his father do there? What was the purpose? Where was it located? Did people go to learn how to fish? What kind of fishing is mentioned in the story? What tools are used?
2. Learn about fish in the sub-arctic and arctic climates. Also learn how to catch those specific fish and how the Eskimos prepared them.
3. Visit an online site to learn about fish-camps, charter services, and the various types of fish that would be located in the places traveled to by Russel and his people.
4. Homework: Sketch your idea of a fish-camp.

Lesson 3

Objective: Oogruk was the old wise man and shaman in the village. Discuss Oogruk and his ways. Also examine the life and purpose of a shaman in the Eskimo culture.

- 1) 1. Many men seek to become a shaman in the tribe however, Oogruk is the only one. What is the purpose of a shaman? How is a shaman different than other members of the tribe? How do other members view a shaman once that level is attained? What does one have to do to become a shaman?
2. Create a plan of action one would have to take to become a shaman in your tribe. Include steps and timelines. How do you think it was done by Oogruk? Explain.
3. Reference your own culture or religious affiliation. What position, if any, could be equated to a shaman? Explain the position, who holds it, and the steps to holding that position.
4. Homework: Design a ceremonial outfit for your shaman. Try to be as authentic as possible.

Lesson 4

Objective: Jesus was a big part of Russel's father's life. When Russel goes to his father for advice, Russel's father suggests praying to Jesus. This does not satisfy Russel. Examine Russel's issues and the difference in his faith from his father's faith.

- 1) 1. Write a journal page from the point of view of Russel's father regarding his faith and the hope that Russel will also take Jesus as his Savior. Examine how Russel's father feels about the relationship between Russel and Oogruk.
2. Compare and contrast the Christian and Eskimo cultures. Include the presence of the missionaries in the government village and how they were received by the people.
3. Write a 750 word essay on the historical figure of Jesus.
4. Homework: Compare The beliefs of the Eskimos to your own personal beliefs in essay form.

Lesson 5

Objective: The people in the Eskimo village relied on animal skins for clothing and to keep warm. Discuss the use of animal skins versus the use of man-made materials.

- 1) 1. Discuss the use of animal skins. Which skins were most common? What were their main uses? How were they prepared for use? Who used them the most? Explain.
2. Compare and contrast the pros and cons of using animal skins versus man-made materials. Stage a debate on the topic.
3. Design modern outdoor gear using animal skins versus common man-made materials.
4. Homework: Create a collage of animal skin clothing, both modern and ancient.

Lesson 6

Objective: Sled dogs play a large part in the old Eskimo culture and in the story. Learn about sled dogs and discuss their importance in the story.

- 1) 1. Learn about the use of sled dogs in the Eskimo culture. What kinds of dogs are/were used most often? What kinds of dogs are used in the story? Why are those dogs preferred? What other types of dogs might perform well under harsh conditions?
2. Using outside sources learn about the Iditarod. Include its purpose, history, and participants. Discuss how it relates to the book.
3. Watch footage of the Iditarod to better understand the use of sled dogs.
4. Homework: Create a crossword puzzle using sled dogs as the theme.

Lesson 7

Objective: Hunting is seen as a noble sport and necessary for the tribe to be sustainable. Hunters are revered for their skill and contributions they routinely make to the village. Discuss hunting as it applies to the tribe.

- 1) 1. In small groups, discuss the importance of hunting and hunters in the Eskimo culture. Is there any comparison to modern American culture? Explain. What might happen if the hunters were unable to find any wild game? Are there any vegetarians in the tribe? If so, what might they eat?
2. Create a safari type brochure for big game hunters that visit the area of Yukon in which the Eskimos typically live.
3. Draw a hunting scene in which a tribesman is stalking a big game animal.
4. Homework: Fashion your own hunting weapon out of items from around the house or class room.

Lesson 8

Objective: The story takes place in the sub-arctic climate. Learn about the arctic and sub-arctic to better understand the trials faced by Russel, Nancy and the dogs.

- 1) 1. Find two maps of the area mentioned in the story, one road or standardized map and one topographical map. Discuss the terrain and topography of the region.
2. One of the things noted in the story is the annual occurrence of long nights. Discuss how the nights in the arctic and sub-arctic differ from those in your region during the same time of the year.
3. Study the climate of the Yukon and other areas in which Eskimos are known to live. Compare and contrast to your region during various times of the year.
4. Homework: Create a collage of items that are often linked to the arctic and sub-arctic, such as the Iditarod, Aurora Borealis, etc.

Lesson 9

Objective: Russel wants to forgo his formal education to learn more about his culture and its traditions. Learn about Eskimo traditions and the things that Russel learns from Oogruk and others.

- 1) 1. Compare and contrast the methods and traditions observed within the Eskimo tribe compared to that of modern culture. Include traditions regarding celebrations, education, family units, etc.
2. Russel stops going to school and moves in with Oogruk so that he can learn about the Old Ways. Discuss how this would or not work in a traditional American family. What are the laws about attending school? Would it be legal for a 14 year old to live with a non-family member for the purposes of learning about cultural tradition?
3. Write a 500 word essay on the differences and similarities between education in the tribe, between the tribes, and in modern American culture.
4. Homework: Choose one holiday that typically has a lot of connections with tradition. Compare and contrast your family's way of celebrating with the way of the Eskimos.

Lesson 10

Objective: The story shows that the people in the tribe have a great respect for their elders, even if they are somewhat strange like Oogruk. Learn about the concept of respect for one's elders and what that means in the Eskimo and modern American cultures.

- 1) 1. In small groups discuss the relationship between Russel and his father; Russel and Oogruk; Oogruk and other members of the village. How does respect for one's elders play a part in the story?
2. Compare and contrast the concept of respect for one's elders in the Eskimo culture with the American culture. Also choose one other culture for the comparison.
3. Research how the relationship between elders and younger members of society has changed in the past 50 years and 100 years. What are the most significant changes?
4. Homework: Hold a family discussion about respecting one's elders. Note comments and observations to share with the class.

Lesson 11

Objective: One of the issues faced by Russel is snow blindness. Learn about snow blindness and how it affects a person. Also learn how a person can function in the outdoors while suffering from snow blindness.

- 1) 1. Discuss Russel's problem with snow blindness. What is snow blindness? Does a person actually go blind? What causes it? Is it a temporary or permanent problem? What can one do to prevent it? How is it cured? What happened to Russel to cause him to become snow blind?
2. Write a story about a person that becomes snow blind in a strange situation.
3. It is often said that one's senses become stronger when one is lacking or gone. Split the class into small groups for an experiment. Choose one person per group and blindfold him/her. Take turns positioning people in various locations near the person. Have the blindfolded person attempt to locate people and objects by using other senses. Note observations.
4. Homework: Research and write an essay on how a person's senses become sharper once one is damaged or destroyed.

Lesson 12

Objective: There are several places in the story where Russel happens to find a shelter already in existence during his travels. Discuss how and why a shelter might appear out of nowhere. Also discuss the condition of the various shelters and how they were helpful to the completion of Russel's journey.

- 1) 1. Russel seems to find shelter when he needs it most. Do you think this is realistic? Where were the shelters found? What was happening with Russel at the time? Who do you think built the shelters? Why were they abandoned? Were the shelters inhabitable? How were they used? Explain.
2. Compare the shelter in the story to ones that might have been used in pioneer days in America or those used by native tribes. What are the similarities and differences? Which is best suited to its purpose? How would you build a shelter? Consider storage space, entrances, exits, and windows.
3. Build a model shelter using items from the classroom such as pencils, toothpicks or Popsicle sticks. How does your model compare to the others in the class?
4. Homework: Draw two versions of the same shelter. One should be a shelter that might be found in the story or some other native design. The other should be your own design.

Lesson 13

Objective: Russel begins to have dreams about his future. These dreams will guide and confuse Russel. Discuss the importance of Russel's dreams and their meaning.

- 1) 1. Russel had a dream that could be considered to be a prophetic dream. Using the details given in the story, analyze Russel's dreams. How do they relate to the story?
2. Begin a dream journal to record your dreams for a period of one week. Write down as much detail as you can remember.
3. Using the dream analysis material and/or dictionary, analyze one of your own dreams. Does the analysis feel accurate? Write an essay about the dream, experience, and results.
4. Homework: Watch a movie or read a book in which a dream is a major part of the plot.

Lesson 14

Objective: Navigation is one of the things Russel had to learn on his journey. He did not have a map and did not always trust his own sense of direction. Russel did trust the dogs. Discuss how Russel found his way on the journey.

- 1) 1. What type of navigation and tracking skills would have been used at the time of the story? How accurate were those tools? Were the tools more or less accurate than the senses of the dogs? Compare and contrast them with the methods used today. Also discuss why Russel chose to trust the dogs' sense over his own. Which was most accurate? Were the dogs right? What helped to guide the dogs? What would you do in Russel's place?
2. Navigation is one of the things Russel had to learn. Study ancient ways of navigation. Practice using the tools that

might have been used in the days before radio, modern communication, and electronics. Go outside to use the tools to test your skill.

3. One of the major changes in navigation came when RADAR was introduced. What does the acronym RADAR stand for? How did RADAR change the face of navigation? Compare the use of radar versus the old ways of navigation and detection, including maps, guiding by the sky and stars, etc.

4. Homework: Practice navigating by using the stars as a guide. Which way is north? Do you have a natural sense of direction or an internal compass?

Lesson 15

Objective: In Russel's dream he saw his family. Their faces were slicked with fat which meant that they were eating and therefore healthy. Discuss the signs of healthy living in the story and compare them to American standards of today.

1) 1. Russel sees his future family in their shelter. Their faces were slicked with fat and their faces were round. In Russel's mind, this meant that they were eating and therefore healthy. Do you think Russel's assessment is accurate? Explain. How might things change for the family? What could make them healthier.

2. Discuss the signs of healthy living in the story and compare them to American standards of today.

3. Create a healthy menu for the Eskimos based upon the foods available in their region. What could take place of animal fats? Are there any fruits or vegetables available? How would you prepare the food?

4. Homework: Create a dish using at least one of the items mentioned in the story and/or on your menu.

Lesson 16

Objective: There is a division between the Eskimos and the Outsiders. The Outsiders are typically missionaries but the term also applies to others that do not belong in the village. Discuss the concept of Outsiders and how cliques were formed in the community.

1) 1. Cliques are commonplace in many social situations. This can be seen in Russel's village between the Eskimos and the missionaries. You probably see this in your school. In small groups discuss the cliques. What are they? What is the attitude? Do you belong to any? What are the advantages and disadvantages to being in a clique? What do teachers think about it? Is it harmful or helpful? Explain.

2. Write a 500 word essay on the following: Missionaries came to the Eskimo village to enlighten the people. They brought modern conveniences and planned to teach the Eskimos about Christianity. Discuss the arrival of the missionaries and why the Eskimos continue to refer to them as Outsiders even though they have been present for some time. How do the Eskimos feel about the Outsiders?

3. One of the things shunned by Russel is the TV in the game room. It is one of the modern conveniences brought by the Outsiders. Discuss Russel's feelings about modern conveniences. What other things did the Outsiders bring? What was the collective opinion of the Eskimos? What would you want to introduce? Explain.

4. Homework: An excellent story about fitting in is "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss. Read "The Sneetches" for fun and

discuss the moral of the story.

Lesson 17

Objective: One of the biggest obstacles in the story was the relationship between Russel and Oogruk's dogs. Russel and the dogs had to learn to trust one another and to form a relationship that could work so that everyone would survive in the climate and reach a final destination.

1) 1. The development of the relationship between Russel and Oogruk's dogs was a big obstacle. In the beginning of the story Russel learns about Oogruk's dogs and the story of Ulgavik. Discuss the relationships between Oogruk and his dogs plus the various tales of Ulgavik and the animals including birds and his sled dogs. Did either of the men possess a special gift with animals? Explain.

2. Watch an episode of The Dog Whisperer or a similar show to see how people relate to animals on a higher level. Discuss how that type of communication is valuable, particularly within the context of the story.

3. Learn about animal training and the best ways to train dogs as the dogs were trained in the story. What methods would work best? Which methods would not work? Is it recommended to whip or hit the dogs in any way? What methods did Russel use? What occurred to finally create a strong relationship between Russel and the dogs? When did the dogs go from belonging to Oogruk to belonging to Russel?

4. Homework: Write a short story from the point of view of one or more of the dogs regarding their relationship with Russel.

Lesson 18

Objective: Russel learns about the songs from Oogruk. Discuss the songs and why they are important. Learn about the formation of the songs, oral tradition, and the quest for one's own song.

1) 1. Oogruk sings his song for Russel. Russel is impressed by the song and wants to learn how to develop his own song. How is this done? What is the context of Oogruk's song? What about the song impresses Russel? What must happen in order for someone to create his own song? What are common elements of Eskimo songs?

2. Write a song that best fits your personality and situation. Use the format in the book as a guide. Share with the class.

3. Many cultures still use oral tradition to pass down stories as well as history and heritage. Choose a culture that still practices this art and study how it affects their community.

4. Homework: One of the most famous movies regarding oral tradition is "Wind Talkers." Watch the movie to understand how oral tradition is used and how it is invaluable.

Lesson 19

Objective: The rituals practiced by the Eskimos are markedly different than those celebrated by American people. Examine the celebrations of the characters and what they mean.

- 1) 1. Class activity: Eskimos have certain celebrations to mark success in hunting and other areas of life. Use internet resources to define these rituals and what they mean. What rituals might the Eskimos celebrate in Russel's village? What kind of celebrations would be the most popular? How do you think the Outsiders might react to these celebrations? Explain.
2. As a class, attend a local festival that celebrates a particular person or holiday. It can be a parade in honor of a holiday or a festival celebrating a religious, social, political or regional person or group.
3. Celebrations typically require a specific type of dress. For instance, at a christening, the person being christened typically wears white. People getting married tend to be in formal dress. Masquerades and Halloween require another type of dress. Choose a celebration and create an outfit/costume specific to that event. Wear it to school and explain your celebration and choices.
4. Homework: Prepare a traditional meal that might be served during a celebratory feast. What is the celebration? Share with the class or family and friends.

Lesson 20

Objective: In this section Russel finds a pregnant woman that is unconscious and clearly facing hypothermia and frostbite. Learn about hypothermia and the effects of extreme weather on mother and baby,

- 1) 1. One of the issues with Nancy's condition is that she was clearly suffering from hypothermia. Nancy is also pregnant. How would the hypothermia affect the baby? What was Russel's main concern? What would be your main concern? Russel thinks about the pain Nancy will have to endure. What will cause the pain? What can be done to lessen the pain? Do you think Nancy will recover?
2. Research and write a 500 word essay on hypothermia. Does everyone handle hypothermia in the same way? How is hypothermia affected by a person's metabolism? Do you think Nancy's metabolism is the same as yours? What affects a person's metabolism? What parts of the story are scientifically accurate? What can be done to alter one's metabolism?
3. Nancy was clearly suffering from hypothermia. What is hypothermia? Create a fact sheet about hypothermia including symptoms and treatments as well as possible cures. What types of things would be included in a first aid kit to prevent or stop hypothermia from occurring? What might you have done in that situation?
4. Homework: Compare and contrast the causes and effects of hypothermia and frostbite. Which is the worst? Which can cause the most damage? Create a bubble map for the two issues.

Lesson 21

Objective: Songs are an important part of the story. In Part 3, Russel finally finds his song and sings it to celebrate his dogs, journey, relationship with Nancy and his past as a boy as well as being a part of the Eskimo culture. Learn about creating a song.

- 1) 1. Discuss Russel's song. What is contained in the song? Examine each verse, bridge, etc. to understand how the song is crafted. Is the Eskimo method of songwriting different from the traditional and/or American method? Explain. Explain the purpose of meter and repeating lines as well as rhyme.

2. Study your favorite song to understand how lyrics are written. Does the song use a formula? If so, what is it? What about the song makes it a favorite? Craft a song based on the same style. Put music to the song and share the song with the class.

3. Learn a traditional song or dance and perform together as a group. Students may elect to dress in costume to lend authenticity.

4. Homework: Construct a songbook with songs and music that may have been used in Russel's village. Look for songs applicable to both America and the Eskimo culture. Are any of them the same? What do the songs have in common? How many did you know?

Lesson 22

Objective: Finding food and water in the outdoors. Russel finds himself in a predicament with no food and no water and must find a solution. Discuss the difficulties faced by Russel, Nancy and the dogs.

1) 1. Russel spends a great deal of time in the early days being hungry and searching for food. The memories of being able to eat what he wanted and as much as he wanted plagued him when there was no food to be had. Russel knew that it was important to eat if he was going to be able to maintain enough strength to build a shelter and survive. Examine the body's need for water and nutritious food. Discuss the length of time that the body can survive without each. How does one know if there is not enough food or water?

2. Russel must find water that is suitable to drink. Drinking water from a lake or stream in this region is most likely safe while drinking sea water is not. Salt water is not safe for the body. How does lake water compare? How can one tell just by looking at water if it is relatively safe to drink? How can one purify water in the outdoors? Keep in mind that Russel must adhere to the Old Ways.

3. Pretend that your neighborhood has no houses and no packaged foods or water system. Write a story explaining where you would go to get food and water, how you can be sure it is safe, and how it should be prepared.

4. Homework: Learn about storing food in nature with no refrigerator or means of traditional preservation. Examine all seasons. How should it be done to best preserve the food and to avoid food poisoning, spoilage, and animal attacks?

Lesson 23

Objective: The process of natural selection is seen throughout the story from people in weakened conditions such as the starving family to the killing of various animals. Examine the process of natural selection, which is the concept that the strongest survives and the weakest dies.

1) 1. One of the first things Russel did was to take stock of his personal possessions and how they might be used in the woods. The most practical items include Russel's lance, bow and arrow and knife. Discuss the objects in Russel's possession and how they might be used. Which tool would be best for each job Russel might encounter while on his journey?

2. Gather items from a backpack or purse, and then get into small groups and discuss how the items may be useful. Should all items be saved in case they are needed for later or cast aside?

3. Write a short story putting yourself in Russel's place. The only items you have available to you to survive in the woods are the things found in your backpack/purse. How would these items be used? Do they have more than one use each? What could they be used for?

4. Homework: Many times when people set out on treks they prepare a survival pack filled with supplies. With a parent's permission, create your own survival pack and present it to the class.

Lesson 24

Objective: Examine the presence of the animal kingdom in relation to Russel's trek through the tundra. How did Russel co-exist with the animals? What could have been done better? How did Russel's actions affect his relationship with the animals?

1) 1. One of the largest animals Russel encountered was a bear. As a class, choose one particular type of bear and study its characteristics, behaviors, and native setting. What interesting things can be learned about bears? What should one know for safety purposes? (Examples: The largest bear is the polar bear; an average bear can smell up to 3-4 miles and run up to 35 mph; some bears climb trees while others do not, etc.)

2. While Russel's instant reaction to the bear was fear, he knew that bears typically do not attack unless provoked. Many animals do not attack unless provoked. In small groups discuss what might provoke an animal to attack. Some examples: if the animal is separated from its young or food; if the animal is hungry or naturally aggressive, if it feels threatened by your presence or proximity, etc.

3. Russel came to respect the animals, due to the knowledge that this was their territory or through fear. Russel's respect for the bear was based in fear as well as knowing that the woods were where the bear belonged and it was just going about its daily business. Examine cohabitating with animals in the wilderness and respecting each other's territory.

4. Homework: One of the animals mentioned in the story was a woolly mammoth. Choose a very unusual animal to use in a short story. Use the setting for the book in the story, replacing one of the animals with the unusual one or one that you have invented.

Lesson 25

Objective: Russel had moments when he wanted to turn back and experienced fear of the unknown. Examine fear of the unknown and how it affects a person's actions.

1) 1. As a class, discuss the incident with Russel and the woolly mammoth. Although it was a dream, Russel encountered the woolly mammoth. How did the dream Russel react? How did the real Russel react? Did Russel panic? Discuss characteristics of a woolly mammoth. Was it dangerous? What would have happened if Russel could not have conquered the beast? What did the woolly mammoth represent?

2. The encounter with the woolly mammoth was a surprise to Russel but not a surprise to the dream Russel who went out with an intention to kill the animal. Discuss why the dream Russel intended to kill the animal. Was it for food or protection? Was the choice wise? How did dream Russel's wife feel? What options did dream Russel have in regards to killing or living alongside the woolly mammoth?

3. Write an essay about an encounter where fear of the unknown had an effect on you personally. Be sure to describe the

incident using all five senses. What caused the incident? Was it positive or negative? Include what was learned by the experience.

4. Homework: Write an essay about the physical issues that can be caused by fear. Address both positive and negative influences.

Lesson 26

Objective: Adapting to one's surroundings. There were many instances in which Russel was forced to adapt to his surroundings in order to survive. Discuss at least one major incident in which Russel was forced to adapt.

1) 1. One of the many changes Russel went through while stranded was learning how to fend for himself. Russel was used to having modern conveniences even though he tended to shun some of them. Russel did not often have to cook for himself at home and always had shelter and water as well as a safe place to sleep. When Russel became stranded, all of those things were gone.

2. After Russel arrives in the new village there will be more adjustments to life in a new home. While much of it would be the same as when he was in the village, Russel's attitudes have changed drastically. In small groups, discuss what kinds of changes Russel made and would have to make. What would be the one thing that would require the most adaptation?

3. Consider the emotions Russel experienced as he adapted to his surroundings. There was fear that he would make a mistake as well as the lack of confidence in himself.

4. Homework: Going into school for the first time requires a great deal of adaptation. One must adapt to a new environment, new people, new social patterns, and new materials. Write a poem about adapting to a new situation.

Lesson 27

Objective: Recording history. Throughout the story, Russel was unable to write about his adventures, so he chose to keep a mental journal which he would eventually turn into song. Examine the concept of journaling, its pros and cons.

1) 1. Because Russel was unable to write down his thoughts and actions regarding his experiences in the arctic, he was forced to keep a mental journal. By keeping track of certain events, Russel was able to gauge his progress and changes while he was making his way to his new village where he would begin a new life. Without the journal, many of the lessons and changes could have easily been forgotten.

2. History and culture have been preserved by the use of the journal. As with Russel's case, many of those journals were mental and shared in the form of stories or traditions. Write an essay about an important figure who kept a journal. Probably the most well known journal in the world is the Diary of Anne Frank. As a class, read the diary and discuss. How does Anne Frank's situation compare and contrast to Russel's situation? Each had great realizations during this time. What are the other comparisons? Discuss the individual outcomes.

3. Russel would refer to his mental journal for the rest of his life, even after he returned home and his song was created. Being able to recall specific events allowed Russel to mature and change his thinking and behavior patterns. Discuss which patterns Russel would be likely to change. Also discuss how Russel mentally recorded the lessons learned from Oogruk and the others back in the village.

4. Homework: Start a daily journal for a period of two weeks. Write thoughts, feelings, happenings at school and at home, as well as anything else you would like.

Lesson 28

Objective: At the end of the story, Russel was able to look at things differently than before he began his journey. Discuss how new and challenging experiences can change a person's perception.

- 1) 1. One of the most prevalent themes in the book is perception. Russel has a definite set of opinions and beliefs about his culture until he goes through his journey. As Russel has new and challenging experiences, he begins to perceive himself differently as he was able to accomplish goals he would have considered impossible had he stayed in the village. Discuss perception. Include experiences that have altered your perception of self, family, friends, and abilities.
2. Class discussion: Russel became more confident as he realized he could do more than he ever realized. Name the events that caused Russel to accomplish new things.
3. At the end of the story, Russel realizes that strength comes from adversity. When Russel completes his journey, everything seems different. The food looks better and smells better, he has more confidence, there is a deeper appreciation for the things Russel has in his life, from the most basic to the items that he now considers to be luxury. As a class, go to the library and find a book in which the main character must overcome some great adversity. Vote on the books to create a new reading list.
4. Homework: Have each student create a crossword puzzle using elements of the story. Complete in class.

Lesson 29

Objective: Russel Susskit goes through major changes in the story. Discuss Russel at various stages in the story to better understand his maturity and journey from youth through to adulthood.

- 1) 1. Create a bio and sketches of Russel Susskit then and now. What are the major changes? What were Russel's strengths and weaknesses before, during, and after his journey to the sea coast? Give specific examples.
2. Create a third biographical sketch of Russel 5-10-20 years from the end of his journey. What challenges will Russel face? How do you think he will change? Be as descriptive as possible.
3. Discuss how Russel's concept and use of the Old Ways may change as he gets older. What do you think he will teach his children? Will Russel ever give into the New Ways? How might Russel's opinions on the Outsiders change as he ages?
4. Homework: Draw a sketch of the seaside village in which Russel and Nancy will live.

Lesson 30

Objective: Gary Paulsen is a three time Newbery Honor Award winner for his books. Learn more about Paulsen and his work.

- 1) 1. Write a 750 word bio on Gary Paulsen. Include information about his books, frequent subjects and awards.
2. Learn about the Newbery Honor Award. What is it? Is it a prestigious award? What does it signify? What Newbery books have you read?
3. Choose another Paulsen book and read an excerpt in class. How does it compare to *Dogsong*? Would you read more of this particular book?
4. Homework: Choose another Paulsen book to read for fun.

Fun Classroom Activities

The 20 enjoyable, interactive classroom activities that are included will help your students understand the text in amusing ways. Fun Classroom Activities include group projects, games, critical thinking activities, brainstorming sessions, writing poems, drawing or sketching, and more that will allow your students to interact with each other, be creative, and ultimately grasp key concepts from the text by "doing" rather than simply studying.

1. Create a Crossword Puzzle

Create a crossword puzzle using the people, places and things in the story.

2. Read More Paulsen

Read more young adult books by Gary Paulsen. Which do you like best? Which is your favorite character? Why?

3. Learn about Eskimos

Learn about the Eskimo culture. Is the story true to real life? Is Russel a good characterization of the Eskimos?

4. Learn about Shaman

Oogruk was a powerful shaman. Learn about shaman and their abilities.

5. Create a Collage

Create a collage of things related to the Eskimo culture.

6. Create a Trivia Game

Create a trivia game using the people, places and things in the story.

7. Design a Costume

Design a ceremonial outfit for your shaman. Try to be as authentic as possible.

8. Plan a Party

Plan an Eskimo themed party. Wear costumes and serve foods that are mentioned in the story, if possible.

9. Create a Model

Fashion your own hunting weapon out of items from around the house or class room.

10. Compare Traditions

Choose one holiday that typically has a lot of connections with tradition. Compare and contrast your family's way of celebrating with the way of the Eskimos.

11. Watch a Movie

One of the most famous movies regarding oral tradition is "Wind Talkers." Watch the movie to understand how oral tradition is used and how it is invaluable.

12. Learn about Being Blind

It is often said that one's senses become stronger when one is lacking or gone. Choose one person per group and blindfold him/her. Take turns positioning people in various locations near the person. Have the blindfolded person attempt to locate people and objects by using other senses. Note observations.

13. Draw a Sketch

Draw a sketch of the seaside village in which Russel and Nancy will live.

14. Start a Journal

Start a daily journal for a period of two weeks. Write thoughts, feelings, happenings at school and at home, as well as anything else you would like.

15. Write a Poem

Going into school for the first time requires a great deal of adaptation. One must adapt to a new environment, new people, new social patterns, and new materials. Write a poem about adapting to a new situation.

16. Write a Short Story

Choose a very unusual animal to use in a short story. Use the setting for the book in the story, replacing one of the animals with the unusual one or one that you have invented.

17. Create a Survival Kit

Many times when people set out on treks they prepare a survival pack filled with supplies. With a parent's permission, create your own survival pack and present it to the class.

18. Create a Songbook

Create a songbook with songs and music that may have been used in Russel's village. Look for songs applicable to both America and the Eskimo culture. Are any of them the same? What do the songs have in common? How many did you know?

19. Create a Sketch

Sketch your idea of a fish-camp like the one discussed in the story.

20. Create a Collage

Create a collage of items that are often linked to the arctic and sub-arctic, such as the Iditarod, Aurora Borealis, etc.

Worksheets and Evaluation Forms

The following worksheets may come in handy for grading in-class student performance.

Note: These forms are included as printable Word and PDF files with your purchase.

[Oral Reading Evaluation Sheet](#)

[Reading Assignment Sheet](#)

[Writing Evaluation Form](#)

Oral Reading Evaluation Sheet

Name: _____

Period: _____

5 = Above Average

3 = Average

1 = Below Average

Audibility - Projecting your voice so your audience can hear and understand you.

5 4 3 2 1

Pronunciation - Ability to recognize words before you say them and pronounce all the sounds correctly.

5 4 3 2 1

Articulation - Using your tongue, mouth and lips to pronounce all the sounds correctly.

5 4 3 2 1

Vocal Variety/Expression - Using appropriate pitch, volume and flow.

5 4 3 2 1

Rate - Reading a speed, or pace that is easy to follow.

5 4 3 2 1

Comments:

Reading Assignment Sheet

Name: _____

Period: _____

| Reading Assignment | Date Assigned | Date Due | Date Completed |
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Writing Evaluation Form

Name: _____

Period: _____

5 = Above Average

3 = Average

1 = Below Average

Clear thesis or position

5 4 3 2 1

Relevant supporting arguments

5 4 3 2 1

Transitions between paragraphs

5 4 3 2 1

Clarity of expression

5 4 3 2 1

Strong conclusion

5 4 3 2 1

Grammar

5 4 3 2 1

Spelling

5 4 3 2 1

Punctuation

5 4 3 2 1

Quizzes & Homework Assignments

Use these as possible quizzes for your lesson plans. Alternatively, they can be used as homework assignments. They are designed to test your students' understanding or the material at different stages throughout the unit. You may easily create your own tests using our [Quiz and Test Generator](#) related to this product.

[One Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14](#)

[Two Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14](#)

[Four Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5](#)

[Four Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

[Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - to](#)

Quiz: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Oogruk says that the new village had good things. Which was not one of the good things mentioned?

- a) Fish.
- b) Women.
- c) Meat.
- d) Songs.

2. What word is often used to denote a sign of good health?

- a) Fat.
- b) Round.
- c) Shiny.
- d) Pleasant.

3. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

- a) Fire.
- b) Outsiders.
- c) Electricity.
- d) Guns.

4. How many wives has the elder had?

- a) 3.
- b) 2.
- c) 1.
- d) 4.

5. What part of the village was of great interest to the villagers?

- a) Town hall.
- b) Church.
- c) Cafeteria.
- d) Game room.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. The snowmobile tracks represent _____.

2. Russel gets a feeling of ___ when he looks at the sky.

3. Russel sees ___ children in his dream.

4. Russel and the dogs slept for ___ day(s).

5. The elder's _____ are revered by his people.

Quiz Answer Key: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. a.
3. d.
4. a.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. The snowmobile tracks represent _____.

New ways.

2. Russel gets a feeling of ____ when he looks at the sky.

Comfort.

3. Russel sees ____ children in his dream.

2.

4. Russel and the dogs slept for ____ day(s).

2.

5. The elder's _____ are revered by his people.

Songs.

Quiz: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Which adjective best describes the dogs?

- a) Feral.
- b) Aloof.
- c) Submissive.
- d) Mean.

2. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

- a) Relief.
- b) Joy.
- c) Fear.
- d) Pain.

3. Russel admires which item belonging to the man?

- a) Shoes.
- b) Parka.
- c) Sled.
- d) Bow.

4. How many bones were left by the animals?

- a) 3.
- b) 2.
- c) 1.
- d) 4.

5. Russel and the dogs are heading in which direction?

- a) East.
- b) North.
- c) West.
- d) South.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

2. What is the name of the fastener used to hold the dogs together?

3. Russel was also aware of the father of _____.

4. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

5. Russel offers to give his ____ to the old man but Oogruk refuses.

Quiz Answer Key: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. c.
3. c.
4. b.
5. b.

Short Answer Key

1. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

Smart.

2. What is the name of the fastener used to hold the dogs together?

Gangline.

3. Russel was also aware of the father of ____.

Ice.

4. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

Fear.

5. Russel offers to give his ____ to the old man but Oogruk refuses.

Parka.

Quiz: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. How old is Russel?

- a) 15.
- b) 13.
- c) 12.
- d) 14.

2. According to the old man, what should one do after killing an animal?

- a) Hide it.
- b) Thank it.
- c) Atone.
- d) Pray.

3. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

- a) Guns.
- b) Outsiders.
- c) Fire.
- d) Electricity.

4. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

- a) Diligent.
- b) Wise.
- c) Smart.
- d) Prudent.

5. What other weapon is taken on the hunting trip?

- a) Knife.
- b) Gun.
- c) Spear.
- d) Lance.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. The elder's ____ are revered by his people.

2. What is an ulu?

3. Where do Russel and his father spend the Summer months?

4. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

5. For Russel, _____ and the dream time come together.

Quiz Answer Key: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. d.
2. b.
3. a.
4. c.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. The elder's _____ are revered by his people.

Songs.

2. What is an ulu?

Knife.

3. Where do Russel and his father spend the Summer months?

Fish camp.

4. Oogruk says that before there was/were _____, animals "felt different about dying."

Guns.

5. For Russel, _____ and the dream time come together.

Waking life.

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Quiz: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Which adjective best describes the dogs?

- a) Aloof.
- b) Submissive.
- c) Mean.
- d) Feral.

2. Russel asks the old man if it is possible to get ____ back.

- a) Songs.
- b) Women.
- c) Missionaries.
- d) Spirits.

3. It is said that a shaman can make ____ talk.

- a) Animals.
- b) Stars.
- c) Water.
- d) Stones.

4. Russel is surprised when the old man says he will go with Russel to do what?

- a) Fish.
- b) Hunt.
- c) Swim.
- d) Run the dogs.

5. What emotion did the dogs feel when they first met Russel?

- a) Fear.
- b) Hatred.
- c) Excitement.
- d) Trepidation.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What is a hummock?

2. The area in which Russel lived often experienced long ____.

3. What other weapon is taken on the hunting trip?

4. What is supposedly contained in raw seal meat?

5. Russel offers to give his ____ to the old man but Oogruk refuses.

Quiz Answer Key: Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. a.
2. a.
3. d.
4. b.
5. a.

Short Answer Key

1. What is a hummock?

Hill.

2. The area in which Russel lived often experienced long ____.

Nights.

3. What other weapon is taken on the hunting trip?

Lance.

4. What is supposedly contained in raw seal meat?

Worms.

5. Russel offers to give his ____ to the old man but Oograk refuses.

Parka.

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Quiz:

Name: _____

Period: _____

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

Quiz Answer Key:

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Short Answer Key

Tests

Six pre-generated tests are included for your convenience. There is a mid-book test and a final test produced with three distinct levels of difficulty. You may easily create your own tests using our [Quiz and Test Generator](#) related to this product.

[Easy Mid-Book Test - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 - Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14](#)

[Easy Final Test - Complete Book](#)

[Medium Mid-Book Test - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 - Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14](#)

[Medium Final Test - Complete Book](#)

[Hard Mid-Book Test - Part 1, The Trance: Chapters 1 - 5 - Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14](#)

[Hard Final Test - Complete Book](#)

Mid-Book Test (up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14)

Name: _____

Period: _____

This test consists of 15 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. The next morning when Russel awakens, he notices that something is different about the _____.

- a) Weather.
- b) Sled.
- c) Dogs.
- d) Wind.

2. What is the name of the elder consulted by Russel?

- a) Bibick.
- b) Oogruk.
- c) Antonuck.
- d) Grennick.

3. What does the older man do after the animal is killed?

- a) Cry.
- b) Dance.
- c) Sing.
- d) Pray.

4. Russel tracks a _____ in the snow.

- a) Caribou.
- b) Deer.
- c) Polar bear.
- d) Fox.

5. The elder is the only one in the village who owns _____.

- a) A sled.
- b) Gloves.
- c) Dogs.
- d) Showshoes.

6. What is the name of the unconscious woman?

- a) Nika.
- b) Nancy.
- c) Nellie.
- d) Nadia.

7. Which adjective best describes the dogs?

- a) Submissive.
- b) Mean.

- c) Feral.
- d) Aloof.

8. Which of the following animals attack the corpses of the woman and children?

- a) Wolves.
- b) Leopards.
- c) Caribou.
- d) Bear.

9. Russel sees ___ children in his dream.

- a) 3.
- b) 6.
- c) 4.
- d) 2.

10. The family is suffering from which issue?

- a) Starvation.
- b) Hypothermia.
- c) Frostbite.
- d) Flu.

11. Russel was also aware of the father of ____.

- a) Snow.
- b) Fear.
- c) Futility.
- d) Ice.

12. The great man in the village hides which emotion?

- a) Worry.
- b) Happiness.
- c) Fear.
- d) Sadness.

13. How many days do Russel and the woman stay in the shelter?

- a) 3.
- b) 4.
- c) 5.
- d) 6.

14. What is an ulu?

- a) Fishing pole.
- b) Knife.
- c) Boot.
- d) Dog.

15. How far is Russel from home?

- a) 75 miles.
- b) 100 miles.
- c) 125 miles.
- d) 150 miles.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. How many of the dogs die in the night?

2. What part of the village was of great interest to the villagers?

3. What group of animals does Russel find?

4. The baby is born ____.

5. Unlike other people in the village, Russel did not do which of the following?

Easy Mid-Book Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. c.
2. b.
3. c.
4. c.
5. c.
6. b.
7. d.
8. a.
9. d.
10. a.
11. d.
12. d.
13. c.
14. b.
15. d.

Short Answer Key

1. How many of the dogs die in the night?

1.

2. What part of the village was of great interest to the villagers?

Game room.

3. What group of animals does Russel find?

Caribou.

4. The baby is born ____.

Dead.

5. Unlike other people in the village, Russel did not do which of the following?

Go to school.

Final Test

Name: _____

Period: _____

This test consists of 15 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. When Russel and Oogruk go hunting, they take ___ harpoons.

- a) 5.
- b) 4.
- c) 2.
- d) 3.

2. Unlike other people in the village, Russel did not do which of the following?

- a) Teach Sunday school.
- b) Swim.
- c) Hunt.
- d) Go to school.

3. Russel sees ___ children in his dream.

- a) 6.
- b) 2.
- c) 4.
- d) 3.

4. Russel sings of his ____.

- a) Thoughts.
- b) Hunts.
- c) Mother.
- d) Father.

5. What emotion does Russel sense from the people in the shelter?

- a) Relief.
- b) Fear.
- c) Joy.
- d) Pain.

6. What tool was used to kill whales?

- a) Harpoon.
- b) Spear.
- c) Gun.
- d) Knife.

7. What does Russel give to the weary dogs?

- a) Meat.
- b) Water.
- c) Kibble.
- d) Warm milk.

8. An old woman stated that while shamans were powerful they were not always ____.

- a) Prudent.
- b) Wise.
- c) Diligent.
- d) Smart.

9. Who is the first to sing the Dogsong?

- a) Dream self.
- b) Russel.
- c) Oogruk.
- d) Nancy.

10. As the story goes on, the dogs become less ____.

- a) Nervous.
- b) Defiant.
- c) Motivated.
- d) Courageous.

11. Where was the baby left?

- a) Woods.
- b) Hospital.
- c) Hilltop.
- d) Tent.

12. What is a ptarmigan?

- a) Prayer book.
- b) Missionary.
- c) Shoe.
- d) Bird.

13. How many days do Russel and the woman stay in the shelter?

- a) 4.
- b) 3.
- c) 6.
- d) 5.

14. The elder is what type of person?

- a) Sherpa.
- b) Witch doctor.
- c) Medicine Man.
- d) Shaman.

15. What is an anorak?

- a) Parka.
- b) Boots.
- c) Dog.
- d) Hood.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. The gangline is broken into how many pieces?

2. How many bones were left by the animals?

3. What word is best used to describe the environment?

4. Russel begins to develop a closeness with ____.

5. How many animals does Russel kill?

Easy Final Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. c.
2. d.
3. b.
4. b.
5. b.
6. a.
7. a.
8. d.
9. a.
10. a.
11. c.
12. d.
13. d.
14. d.
15. d.

Short Answer Key

1. The gangline is broken into how many pieces?

2.

2. How many bones were left by the animals?

2.

3. What word is best used to describe the environment?

Forbidding.

4. Russel begins to develop a closeness with _____.

The dogs.

5. How many animals does Russel kill?

4.

Mid-Book Test (up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14)

Name: _____

Period: _____

This test consists of 5 multiple choice, 5 short answer, and 10 short essay questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Russel begins to imagine that he sees ___ on the dogs' feet.

- a) Claws.
- b) Light.
- c) Shadows.
- d) Fire.

2. The elder is the only one in the village who owns ____.

- a) Showshoes.
- b) Gloves.
- c) Dogs.
- d) A sled.

3. Russel gets a feeling of ___ when he looks at the sky.

- a) Relief.
- b) Warning.
- c) Panic.
- d) Comfort.

4. What material was used to make the hinges?

- a) Plastic.
- b) Plant fiber.
- c) Metal.
- d) Leather.

5. What is the name of the fastener used to hold the dogs together?

- a) Tether.
- b) Rope.
- c) Gangline.
- d) Lash.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What color are the dogs' eyes?

2. How far is Russel from home?

3. What is an ulu?

4. The next morning when Russel awakens, he notices that something is different about the _____.

5. What item does Russel find abandoned?

Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. Explain the man's dance during the celebration in the village.

2. What does Russel discover when he wakes from his first dream? What is his next step?

3. What does Russel notice about the man's dogs and sled?

4. Who are the Outsiders? Why are they different from the Eskimos?

5. Who is Ulgavik? What was special about the man?

6. What does Russel do when a violent storm sets in?

7. Russel falls into a dream state. What does Russel see first?

8. What is the man's state of mind at this point? What does the man do next?

9. What is the warning Russel receives from his father about cooking meat?

10. After a night of rest, Russel goes back out into the wilderness. What concerns does Russel have about the dogs?

Medium Mid-Book Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. c.
3. d.
4. d.
5. c.

Short Answer Key

1. What color are the dogs' eyes?

Yellow.

2. How far is Russel from home?

150 miles.

3. What is an ulu?

Knife.

4. The next morning when Russel awakens, he notices that something is different about the _____.

Dogs.

5. What item does Russel find abandoned?

Snowmobile.

Short Essay Answer Key

1. Explain the man's dance during the celebration in the village.

The man begins to dance, using the dance to tell the story of the woolly mammoth. As the man dances, Russel watches in amazement at the power and the anger the man conveys. The man begins to sing the mammoth's death song and his own song of triumph and gratitude. As the man re-enacts the kill, the village people in the council tent all watch in wonderment at the beauty of the mammoth's self sacrifice. When the man finishes singing and dancing his story, the people scream for joy.

2. What does Russel discover when he wakes from his first dream? What is his next step?

In chapter eight, Russel awakens from the first dream to find that the dogs had fought amongst themselves. Still, the damage is minimal and he repairs the gang line with ease. Russel then loads the caribou carcasses and skins onto the seat and he and Oogruk's dogs continue their journey north.

3. What does Russel notice about the man's dogs and sled?

Russel admires the man's sled. It is fine-looking and well-made. The sled, made from fine bone and ivory, "shone yellow white and rich in the night light" (p. 94). Russel can tell that the dogs are not like Oogruk's dogs. These dogs are bigger than Oogruk's dogs and they stand level with the man's waist. The dogs all have yellow eyes. Russel can see that the dogs would just as soon eat the man as pull his sled, but he also senses that the large gray dogs are a loyal and fearless team.

4. Who are the Outsiders? Why are they different from the Eskimos?

The Outsiders was originally the term given to missionaries that visited the government village. It came to be the term used for anyone outside the Eskimo culture. The Outsiders bring in new ideas and modern technology, which is not always trusted or appreciated by the Eskimos.

5. Who is Ulgavik? What was special about the man?

Oogruk talks to Russel about a man named Ulgavik who could sing to the birds. This was a rare gift, to be able to communicate with the birds. Ulgavik was also an expert on sled dogs. Ulgavik's sled dogs became Ulgavik's eyes when the man grew old and lost his vision.

6. What does Russel do when a violent storm sets in?

Russel knows that he cannot go on while the storm is raging. Russel and the dogs sleep through the storm. When they awaken, it is daylight once again. Russel and the dogs slept for two days. After tying weapons, skins and meat to the sled, Russel calls up the dogs and the trek northward continues. Russel runs the dogs for nearly two days straight. The land becomes flat and treeless. Russel contemplates heading in the direction of the sea but decides to allow the dogs to set the course.

7. Russel falls into a dream state. What does Russel see first?

Russel's dream begins with a vision of swirling fog through which he can see a shelter made of skins on a shore. An oil lamp burns inside the shelter. Russel sees two children in the shelter. Their round faces shine in the lamplight. A woman tends the lamp. She, too, is fat and "shiny beautiful" as she tends the lamp and gazes upon her children. The woman's face and her children's faces are slick with the fat from the meat they have eaten. In Russel's mind, this means good health.

8. What is the man's state of mind at this point? What does the man do next?

Russel senses that the man feels sad and misses his wife and children. The man hesitates to enter the village, but his wolf-dogs become excited at the thought of more food and they run wildly into the center of camp. The man recognizes the people in the village and knows them as his own, even though he is a stranger from a place far away. The people welcome the man and his wolf-dogs happily. They know that the man is a great hunter because of all the meat he brings with him. The people celebrate the man's arrival with feasting, dancing and singing. Russel, however, can still feel the sadness in the man's heart.

9. What is the warning Russel receives from his father about cooking meat?

Russel brings in chunks of seal and caribou meat in from the pantry and cooks it on the stove. Russel's father cautions him to cook the meat thoroughly. Russel's father informs him that raw meat contains bugs and other things that could make Russel sick.

10. After a night of rest, Russel goes back out into the wilderness. What concerns does Russel have about the dogs?

The next morning, Russel wakes the dogs and they set out again. They travel north into unfamiliar territory. Russel can see that the dogs are losing weight and know that if they do not have meat soon they will all die.

Final Test

Name: _____

Period: _____

This test consists of 5 multiple choice, 5 short answer, and 0 short essay questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. What color was the air in the lean-to?

- a) Blue.
- b) Yellow.
- c) White.
- d) Black.

2. What is lacking in Part 3?

- a) Characterization.
- b) Narrative.
- c) Song lyrics.
- d) Story telling.

3. What weapon does Russel carry on his person?

- a) Arrows.
- b) Lance.
- c) Knife.
- d) Gun.

4. What tool was used to kill whales?

- a) Harpoon.
- b) Spear.
- c) Gun.
- d) Knife.

5. What type of oil does the elder use in his lamp?

- a) Seal.
- b) Vegetable.
- c) Plant.
- d) Whale.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What was the issue with the skins?

2. What item does Russel find abandoned?

3. What is an ulu?

4. How did the church refer to Nancy?

5. What animal was used to make Russel's outerparka?

Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. What was the purpose of Russel's journey? What did it accomplish?

2. What is the second verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

3. What can the reader garner from the foreshadowing of Russel's dream about his future?

Medium Final Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. b.
3. a.
4. a.
5. a.

Short Answer Key

1. What was the issue with the skins?

Frozen.

2. What item does Russel find abandoned?

Snowmobile.

3. What is an ulu?

Knife.

4. How did the church refer to Nancy?

Sinner.

5. What animal was used to make Russel's outerparka?

Deer.

Short Essay Answer Key

1. What was the purpose of Russel's journey? What did it accomplish?

Russel's journey out and back again has brought him full circle. When Russel began the journey he was unsure of himself, his heritage, and his ability to become the man he wanted to be. The journey taught Russel that he could cast aside his past and pave the way into the future.

2. What is the second verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

The second verse of Dogsong:

Come see my dogs. They carry me/ into all things, all things I will be;/ all things that will come to me/ will come my dogs./ I stand on the earth and I sing.

Russel is saying that without his dogs he could not continue his journey. Russel and his dogs rely on one another. Russel relies on the dogs for direction and strength; the dogs rely on Russel for food and guidance. Therefore, anything that comes to Russel will also come to his dogs.

3. What can the reader garner from the foreshadowing of Russel's dream about his future?

The dream-self reveals that Russel lives in a village with his wife and family, which are well taken care of despite the dangers of the arctic. Russel will continue to face challenges but now has the ability and strength to do what must be done.

4. What is the animal encountered by Russel's dream-self? What happens when the man attacks the mammoth?

Russel sees a great woolly mammoth emerge from the fog. Russel knows that this will be a fight to the death. The mammoth charges and the man spears the massive beast in the center of its chest. This angers the mammoth and the mammoth catches two dogs and sends them flying through the air. Suddenly, the mammoth stops in its tracks. The animal lumbers, then falls to the ground and dies.

5. How does the Dogsong relate to the dream-self Russel saw in the earlier part of the book?

The song that Russel sings mirrors the song that his dream-self sings in a previous chapter. At this point, Russel has "earned" the right to sing about his life and its challenges.

6. Why are the songs an important part of the Eskimo culture?

The songs are an important part of the Eskimo culture because they tell important stories and relay the trials, tribulations, challenges and victories of its people in a way that the written word could not.

7. Where does Russel live and with whom?

Russel lives in a government village with his father. The family moves at the change of the seasons. Russel and his father spend the winter months in the government house in the village and they spend their summers in a fish-camp.

8. Oogruk tells Russel about missing his wife, who ran off. What does Oogruk say? What is Russel's reaction?

Oogruk admits that he misses having a woman in his home. Oogruk's third wife left for a party and never came back. Oogruk's first two wives died. Russel is at a loss of what to say because he knows nothing about women. This does not bother him as he knows he is not ready to think about women yet. Russel is only fourteen years old.

9. What does Russel admire about Oogruk?

Russel admires the fact that Oogruk has unusual abilities even though Russel is somewhat intimidated and fearful about Oogruk's gifts. He also admires the fact that Oogruk is clearly his own man.

10. Russel's father recommends taking a gift to Oogruk. What is the gift? What is Russel's opinion of the gift?

Russel's father then suggests that Russel take two caribou heads to Oogruk because Oogruk "loves the eyes" (p. 11). Russel has never eaten caribou eyes and the thought is somewhat disgusting to him. Oogruk is appreciative of the gift and tells Russel to heat a pan on the stove as eyes are best eaten when warmed.

Mid-Book Test (up to Part Two, The Dreamrun: Chapters 6 - 14)

Name: _____

Period: _____

This test consists of 5 short answer questions, 10 short essay questions, and 1 (of 3) essay topics.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. How many of the dogs die in the night?

2. What did the woman sleep on while in the shelter?

3. What item does Russel find abandoned?

4. Russel and the dogs slept for ____ day(s).

5. Which is not one of the animals Russel expects to find in the hills?

Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. What is a shaman?

2. Who is Oogruk? What is unusual about the man?

3. Who is Ulgavik? What was special about the man?

4. What does Russel discover when he wakes from his first dream? What is his next step?

5. Who is the pregnant woman? What is her story? What happens with the baby?

6. What is Russel's solution to the problem with the dogs? What actions does Russel take?

7. Why does Russel go to Oogruk?

8. Oogruk tells Russel about missing his wife, who ran off. What does Oogruk say? What is Russel's reaction?

9. What advice does Russel's father give about Oogruk?

10. Russel falls into a dream state. What does Russel see first?

Essay Topics

Directions: Select **JUST 1 of the 3** essay topics and write a few paragraphs of response.

- 1.** Russel sees himself as an older man in a strange situation. Explain the situation. How does each version of Russel deal with the situation? How does the young Russel react to the older Russel's decisions and actions? How is the young Russel affected by the wife and children?
- 2.** Russel's dream about the woolly mammoth was insightful and prophetic, but only after Russel figured out what they were trying to say. Why do you think that the dream was cryptic? Do you think the dream was cryptic? Why didn't Russel's dream-self recognize the younger Russel?
- 3.** Examine oral tradition as it is used in the story. Why is it important? Does Russel understand Oogruk's stories and their importance? Why aren't the stories and songs written? Do you think that the stories would have the same impact if they were written? Explain. Also give examples.

Hard Mid-Book Test - Answer Key

Short Answer Key

1. How many of the dogs die in the night?

1.

2. What did the woman sleep on while in the shelter?

Skins.

3. What item does Russel find abandoned?

Snowmobile.

4. Russel and the dogs slept for ___ day(s).

2.

5. Which is not one of the animals Russel expects to find in the hills?

Bobcats.

Short Essay Answer Key

1. What is a shaman?

A shaman is a type of mystic. A shaman combines the natural and supernatural worlds to guide and advise others. This is a rare gift. A shaman is known to use trances, self-hypnosis, and sometimes hallucinogenic drugs to take themselves into a state in which they can communicate with the other side.

2. Who is Oogruk? What is unusual about the man?

Oogruk is the village shaman. Oogruk has lived a long full life. He is an unusual man because of his odd ways, hermit-like status, and abilities to predict the future.

3. Who is Ulgavik? What was special about the man?

Oogruk talks to Russel about a man named Ulgavik who could sing to the birds. This was a rare gift, to be able to communicate with the birds. Ulgavik was also an expert on sled dogs. Ulgavik's sled dogs became Ulgavik's eyes when the man grew old and lost his vision.

4. What does Russel discover when he wakes from his first dream? What is his next step?

In chapter eight, Russel awakens from the first dream to find that the dogs had fought amongst themselves. Still, the damage is minimal and he repairs the gang line with ease. Russel then loads the caribou carcasses and skins onto the seat and he and Oogruk's dogs continue their journey north.

5. Who is the pregnant woman? What is her story? What happens with the baby?

The pregnant woman's name is Nancy. Nancy tells Russel that she became pregnant out of wedlock. The missionaries in Nancy's village convinced her that being unmarried and pregnant is a sin, so Nancy chose to leave her village. She started out on the snowmobile but ran out of gas. Nancy tells Russel that she left the snowmobile and began walking because she did not want anyone to find her body. Although Nancy recovers, she goes into labor early and delivers a still-born baby.

6. What is Russel's solution to the problem with the dogs? What actions does Russel take?

Russel surveys the landscape and decides that there will be plenty of food to hunt for in the hills. Russel knows that there are rabbits, ptarmigan, foxes and lemmings nearby. Russel and the dogs happen on a herd of several hundred caribou. Russel jumps off the sled and pulls arrows from his quiver. Altogether, Russel and the dogs kill four caribou.

7. Why does Russel go to Oogruk?

Russel has many questions about his life and that of his ancestors. Russel consults his father who instructs Russel to pray. This advice is not sufficient for Russel. Russel's father suggests that Russel go to Oogruk, a wise man in the village.

8. Oogruk tells Russel about missing his wife, who ran off. What does Oogruk say? What is Russel's reaction?

Oogruk admits that he misses having a woman in his home. Oogruk's third wife left for a party and never came back. Oogruk's first two wives died. Russel is at a loss of what to say because he knows nothing about women. This does not bother him as he knows he is not ready to think about women yet. Russel is only fourteen years old.

9. What advice does Russel's father give about Oogruk?

Russel's father says that Oogruk's words can be difficult to understand but that Oogruk's songs are another matter. Oogruk's songs are legendary in the village and tell of the ancestry of the Eskimos and the Old Ways.

10. Russel falls into a dream state. What does Russel see first?

Russel's dream begins with a vision of swirling fog through which he can see a shelter made of skins on a shore. An oil lamp burns inside the shelter. Russel sees two children in the shelter. Their round faces shine in the lamplight. A woman tends the lamp. She, too, is fat and "shiny beautiful" as she tends the lamp and gazes upon her children. The woman's face and her children's faces are slick with the fat from the meat they have eaten. In Russel's mind, this means good health.

Essay Topics Answer Key

Answers for Essay Topics are not included as there are an unlimited number of possible responses.

Final Test

Name: _____

Period: _____

This test consists of 5 short answer questions, 10 short essay questions, and 1 (of 3) essay topics.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Russel was also aware of the father of _____.

2. Russel has earned the right to have his own _____.

3. What material was used to make the hinges?

4. Russel thanks the dogs for being able to stand on _____.

5. The mother has been known to send down the _____ death.

Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. What are Russel's first impressions when he leaves Oogruk's house?

2. Who is Oogruk? What is unusual about the man?

3. What can the reader garner from the foreshadowing of Russel's dream about his future?

4. Where do Russel and Nancy take the dogs?

5. Russel's father recommends taking a gift to Oogruk. What is the gift? What is Russel's opinion of the gift?

6. Oogruk tells Russel about missing his wife, who ran off. What does Oogruk say? What is Russel's reaction?

7. What is the basis of the story?

8. What happens to Russel at the end of the journey? How has he changed?

9. What will happen to Russel and Nancy? Where will they live?

10. What is the first verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

Essay Topics

Directions: Select **JUST 1 of the 3** essay topics and write a few paragraphs of response.

- 1.** Foreshadowing is used in several places throughout the story. Give at least three examples of foreshadowing. Explain each in depth including the purpose and information gained from the use of the technique.
- 2.** Russel sees himself as an older man in a strange situation. Explain the situation. How does each version of Russel deal with the situation? How does the young Russel react to the older Russel's decisions and actions? How is the young Russel affected by the wife and children?
- 3.** What lessons will Russel be able to teach to the younger people in the new village? Can Russel's lessons be taught or must they be learned individually? Does each lesson have to be learned through experience? What lesson do you think would be most valuable? What lessons have you learned from the story?

Hard Final Test - Answer Key

Short Answer Key

1. Russel was also aware of the father of ____.

Ice.

2. Russel has earned the right to have his own ____.

Song.

3. What material was used to make the hinges?

Leather.

4. Russel thanks the dogs for being able to stand on ____.

The earth.

5. The mother has been known to send down the ____ death.

White.

Short Essay Answer Key

1. What are Russel's first impressions when he leaves Oogruk's house?

Russel leaves Oogruk and heads out into the frozen wilderness. Russel sees the beauty around him in nature. The colors in the sky give Russel a feeling of wonder and comfort. However, Russel is still unsure of his journey.

2. Who is Oogruk? What is unusual about the man?

Oogruk is the village shaman. Oogruk has lived a long full life. He is an unusual man because of his odd ways, hermit-like status, and abilities to predict the future.

3. What can the reader garner from the foreshadowing of Russel's dream about his future?

The dream-self reveals that Russel lives in a village with his wife and family, which are well taken care of despite the dangers of the arctic. Russel will continue to face challenges but now has the ability and strength to do what must be done.

4. Where do Russel and Nancy take the dogs?

Russel and Nancy continue north toward the sea. Spring is coming and the salt air can be smelled from far away. The dogs also lead the way to the place that will be their new home.

5. Russel's father recommends taking a gift to Oogruk. What is the gift? What is Russel's opinion of the gift?

Russel's father then suggests that Russel take two caribou heads to Oogruk because Oogruk "loves the eyes" (p. 11). Russel has never eaten caribou eyes and the thought is somewhat disgusting to him. Oogruk is appreciative of the gift and tells Russel to heat a pan on the stove as eyes are best eaten when warmed.

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Oogruk admits that he misses having a woman in his home. Oogruk's third wife left for a party and never came back. Oogruk's first two wives died. Russel is at a loss of what to say because he knows nothing about women. This does not bother him as he knows he is not ready to think about women yet. Russel is only fourteen years old.

7. What is the basis of the story?

Dogsong is the story of a young Eskimo boy who learns the importance of tradition and honoring one's culture. Russel is young and confused about his place in the world and must learn to trust himself and find his way in the world as well as his culture.

8. What happens to Russel at the end of the journey? How has he changed?

He emerges as a full-grown man, with his history and priorities intact. Russel finally views himself as belonging to something greater than he can comprehend.

9. What will happen to Russel and Nancy? Where will they live?

The story leads the reader to believe that Russel and Nancy will be husband and wife. They will live in the coastal village where they will raise a family?

10. What is the first verse of Dogsong? What does it mean?

Dogsong begins: Out before me/ They go,/ in the long line to sea./Out they go. Russel sings of the dogs and how they continue to lead him toward the sea even when he is/was unsure of his direction. It shows that Russel and his dogs have developed great trust.

Essay Topics Answer Key

Answers for Essay Topics are not included as there are an unlimited number of possible responses.