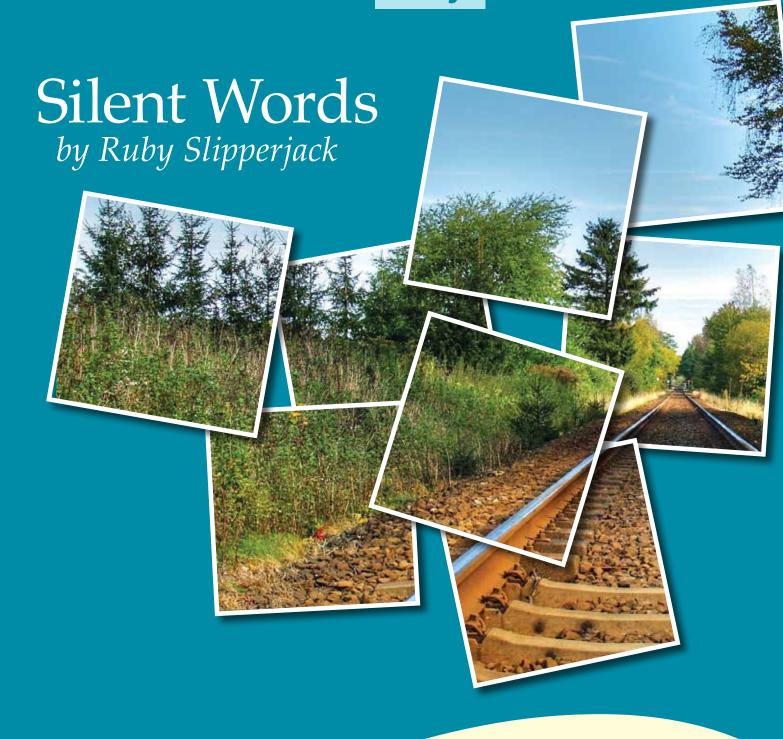
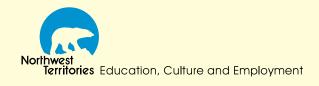
English 130

Novel Study







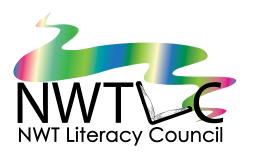
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Contact the NWT Literacy Council to get print copies of this novel study or download it from our website.



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Introduction

Set in northwestern Ontario in the 1960s, *Silent Words* tells the story of a young Ojibway boy and his journey of self-discovery. Danny's life is a daily struggle for survival. He runs away from his violent and abusive home and finds his way through a series of communities along the CN railway line. Various people take the boy in for a time, including a family with other children, an elderly couple, a boy and his father, a young bachelor, and a wise old man. Through his travels and encounters, Danny learns about himself and the world he lives in.

Ruby Slipperjack wrote *Silent Words*. She is Ojibway, born in 1952, in Fort Hope, Ontario. Her writing and painting delve into the traditional and cultural ways of the Ojibway people of northern Ontario.

In her early years, Ruby spent time on her father's trap line on Whitewater Lake. Her family later moved to a community along the main railway line. She attended residential school for many years and graduated from high school in Thunder Bay.

The author provides the reader with an intimate view of First Nations communities and their values of being non-judgmental, open, and accepting; of sharing with others and respecting elders. This book reminds us of the richness of a traditional way of life; that life on the land offers fulfillment and many rewards.

The novel study provides learners with an excellent learning opportunity. Each section has vocabulary and comprehension questions, journal and reflection writing ideas, and extended learning options. *Silent Words* reads well and provides an opportunity for exciting and passionate discussions about the place of First Nations people in Canada and a traditional way of life.

Summary of Learning Activities

This novel study is very in-depth and provides many different learning activities. Use all the questions, activities, and ideas; or pick and choose what suits you and your learners. There is an answer key for instructors at the end of each section. Each section has instructor notes, learner handouts, and an answer key.

Pre-reading

- The first section sets the stage for reading the novel.
- Learners read the preface and make predictions about the novel.
- Learners draw on their own life experiences to answer questions.

Chapter Sections The novel study has nine chapter sections. Each chapter section has activities that cover two or three chapters.

- **Vocabulary:** Learners learn and use vocabulary words in different ways.
- **Comprehension Questions:** Learners answer factual questions to help instructors evaluate how well they understand the novel.
- **Reflection and Journal Writing:** Learners choose one question to write about in their journal. Encourage them to share their writing.
- Discussion: Learners think critically and relate the novel to their own lives. Be sensitive and use some discretion. Learners may find some topics painful or difficult.
- Extended Learning Activities: Learners explore the novel in more detail. They review literary techniques, research different topics on the Internet and practise their writing skills.

Epilogue and Review

- Learners answer questions.
- They reflect on the novel through journal writing.
- Learners discuss the meaning of the novel.
- Learners do one final project on the novel.



Shows instructor notes for each learning activity.



Shows learner handouts for each activity. Copy enough handouts before you start the activity. Some activities do not have handouts.



Shows the answer key for instructors.



Activity 1—Introduce Silent Words (Handout 1)

Discuss the title, author, publisher, and date, and read the information on the back cover of the novel. Can the learners draw any conclusions about the book from this information? Write their answers on flipchart paper. Talk about the word "native." Do people still use this word? What other words do people now use for "native?" Ask learners to fill in Handout 1.

Activity 2—Research the Author (Handout 2)

Ask learners to research the author Ruby Slipperjack on the Internet and write a short biography that includes the following: Where is the author from? How did she grow up? What education does she have? What other books has she written? Handout #2 provides information on how to write a biography. There is also a sample biography of Ruby Slipperjack for the instructor.

Activity 3—Locate Fort Hope (Eabametoong First Nation), Ontario

Ruby Slipperjack is from Fort Hope, Ontario, also called Eabametoong First Nation. Ask learners to look it up in Wikipedia. How far is it from Thunder Bay? Do any roads go to Eabametoong First Nation? Ask them to go to Google Earth and look up Fort Hope, to see how far north and isolated the community is. This helps them envision northern Ontario when they read the book.

Eabametoong, also known as Fort Hope, is an Ojibway First Nation in the Kenora District, of Ontario. The community is located about 300 km

northeast of Thunder Bay and is accessible only by airplane, water or winter ice roads.

Eabametoong came to be during the fur trade era when the Hudson's Bay Company set up a trading post by Eabamet Lake in 1890. Canoe was used as the main source of transportation so the post had to be near water. The Fort Hope Band came into existence in 1905 when the treaty was signed by 500 people. The new community of Eabametoong started in 1982 with the official name of Eabametoong First Nation being adopted in 1985.

The name Eabametoong has a significant meaning in the Anishinaabe language; the name means "the reversing of the waterplace." The water flow from Eabamet Lake into the Albany River reverses each year, resulting from runoff water, such that water flows into Eabamet Lake from the Albany River for a short period of time. The main draw for the people of Eabametoong before the fur trade was the multitudes of various fish including sturgeon, walleye and whitefish which still inhabit the waters today.

Information from

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eabametoong_First_Nation

Activity 4—About Fort Hope (Handout 3)

Fort Hope (Eabametoong First Nation) made national news in 2010 for the drug problems they have in the community. Ask learners to read the article on the handout and then discuss it.

At one time almost 80% of adult residents in Fort Hope, Ontario were addicted to OxyContin. Several videos online discuss this problem.

 OxyContin addicts in Fort Hope, ON: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6Y3h1jRvHk

- The Life You Want: A Young Women's Struggle Through Addiction: http://vimeo.com/31881132
- Vlog: No help for OxyContin addicts in rural Ontario: http://www.globaltoronto.com/video/vlog+no+help+for+oxycontin+a ddicts+in+rural+ontario/video.html?v=2204176231#web+only
- On the streets of Fort Hope:
 http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2010/11/02/on-the-streets-of-fort-hope

Some questions you can discuss are:

- Why do you think this reserve and other places across Canada have so many drug and alcohol problems?
- Have things become worse over the past 10 or 20 years? Why or why not?
- Do you think the things the article suggests, like reconnecting youth with the land and job training, will make things better? Why or why not?

Activity 5—Agree/Disagree

Put up Agree and Disagree signs in the classroom. Read out the statements below one at a time. Ask learners to stand by a sign to show if they agree or disagree with each statement. Discuss their reasons for choosing.

- The federal government should get involved to help First Nations communities.
- Residential schools are to blame for all the issues that First Nations communities and people face.
- Things are much worse now than 30 years ago.
- NWT communities function way better than many reserves down south.

- Lack of proper housing is a huge problem in many First Nations communities.
- First Nations people were better off when they lived on the land.

Activity 6—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 4)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- Why do you think the Eabametoong First Nation and other places across Canada have so many drug and alcohol problems?
- Have things become worse over the past 10 or 20 years? Explain your answer.
- What do you think would help the Eabametoong First Nation and other reserves across Canada?

Activity 7—Ojibway, Ojibwe, or Ojibwa?

Put the words Ojibway, Ojibwe, and Ojibwa on the board. Ask learners what the difference is between these words. Ask learners to research on the Internet the most common spelling of this word.

Tell them: All these different spellings refer to the same people. In the United States more people actually use 'Chippewa,' and in Canada more people use 'Ojibway,' but all of these spellings are common. They all come from an Algonquian word meaning 'puckered,' probably because of the tribe's puckered moccasin style. The Ojibway people call themselves Anishinaabe in their own language, which means 'original person.' For the purposes of this novel study we have used Ojibway because that is the most common spelling, although Ojibwe is more of a traditional spelling.



Introduction to Silent Words

Look at and read the title, cover page, and information on the back page, and answer the following questions.

1.	Where does this story take place?
2.	What is this book about?
3.	The author says, "I have been to all the places I write about. I know the smell, feel, and texture of the earth I walk on. I belong to it." What does she mean by this?
4.	What do you think the title means?

5.	Do you think you will like this book? Why or why not?



Research the Author

Write a one page biography on Ruby Slipperjack. You can find information about her in the book *Silent Words* and on the Internet.

A biography is an account of someone's life. It can be a few sentences, several pages or even a book. Very short biographies tell the basic facts of someone's life and importance. Some of the basic details that you should include are:

- Date and place of birth and death
- Family information (where they grew up, what their life was like growing up)
- Lifetime accomplishments
- Major life events
- Effects/impact on society, historical significance



About Fort Hope

"Fort Hopeless" — Ontario's shame1

By <u>Christina Blizzard</u>, Qmi Agency First Posted: Saturday, November 06, 2010

EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION - You can't avoid the irony in the sign in the band office: Welcome to Eabametoong—sometimes known as Fort Hope. Right now, this embattled community on the mighty Albany River is more Fort Hopeless.

This tiny Oji-Cree reserve of 1,200 people, north of Thunder Bay, is gripped by a massive prescription drug problem—both Percocet and OxyContin. In recent months, there have been two murders and an attempted murder, as well as 47 arsons and numerous assaults and break and enters, as well as animal mutilations.

It's so bad that Chief Lewis Nate declared a state of emergency, Oct. 21. The community can't sweep the problems under the rug, he says. While the state of emergency is a plea for help from outside, he says residents have to do their part.

"Ownership	has got to	come from the	community"	he said in ar	n interview
Ownership	nas got to	come nom me	community, 1	ne said in ai	i iiitei vie w.

http://www.torontosun.com/comment/columnists/christina_blizzard/2010/11/06/16003196.html

¹From:

"You are scared something else is going to happen—whether it's a fire or whether someone is going to get hurt. You're always nervous—a phone call and you automatically think something is happening. If you hear a plane leaving, you wonder if it's a Medevac and someone has been hurt."

Fire bombings are commonplace. Many of the community's 300 houses are scorched and gutted from past attacks. The local gospel church was torched. A singed Cree prayer book lies fluttering in the wintry wind outside the burned shell of what was once Rev. Charlie Shawinimash's home.

The minister at the local Anglican Church, Shawinimash's house was firebombed early on the morning of Oct. 18. He woke early and made some tea, then went back to bed. At around 4 a.m. he woke again and smelled smoke. Thinking he'd left the stove on, he went to the kitchen. The fire wasn't there. He checked the bedrooms.

"I checked one of the rooms where my grandchildren were sleeping and there was already fire on the bed," he said through a Cree interpreter.

He fled the house safely with his grandchildren, but it has rocked him to the core.

"Someone threw fire in the house and it was a deliberate act of arson," he said.

"I see total family breakdown and the children are not communicating with parents or parents are not communicating with their children," he said.

All the hand sanitizer dispensers in the local health centre are empty. They can't be filled until cages can be put around them so they can't be broken

into. In the past, patients at the centre have stolen the alcohol-based sanitizer, boiled it with warm water and drunk it for a high.

The local water treatment plant has been broken into three times and equipment stolen by addicts looking to sell it to feed their habit. Nate admits it's going to be a long time before the community can pull out of this deadly tailspin. And they need resources.

"Immediately, we need to stabilize and make sure people are feeling safe and that we don't have anything else happen in our community that will set us back again," he said.

Long term, they need recreation programs for their young people and a chance at job training so they can enjoy the prosperity the rest of the country has.

Narcotics are smuggled into this isolated, fly-in community in many ways, says a police spokesman. They come in through Canada Post, through the airstrip and air cargo. Sometimes electronic equipment is taken apart, drugs are hidden in it and it's put back together again. Some drug dealers simply carry it in themselves.

There is no screening at the tiny airport to stop them. In January and February, the drugs are brought in over the ice road. The stakes are high: One 80 mg of OxyContin can sell for anywhere between \$350 and \$500. People desperate for the drugs have sold their furniture to find cash.

"It's through the effective communication of community people reporting it to police and through police investigation that we have been able to find them," said Sgt. Jackie George of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) that watches the reserve.

"The money that's going towards the drugs, it's not going towards the community, it's not going towards the community economy, it's not feeding children, so there are a huge residual effects from the sale of these prescription pills."

Police on the reserve are simply overwhelmed by the scope of the crisis and don't have the resources to staff the community around the clock, she said.

"We are not funded to be a 24-hour, seven-day a week police service," she said.

"We have five officers here and we need twice that to deal with it," she said.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy, of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, said the community is putting together an action plan, with programs aimed at reconnecting young people with the land and with traditional values. In the longer term, he says they need job training and marketable skills and the community needs an opportunity for wealth creation.

"What is happening here in Fort Hope—Eabametoong—is happening in Ontario. It's happening within Canada, one of the richest countries in the world."



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- Why do you think the Eabametoong First Nation and other places across Canada have so many drug and alcohol problems?
- Have things become worse over the past 10 to 20 years? Explain your answer?
- What do you think would help the Eabametoong First Nation and other places across Canada?



Pre-reading Answer Key

Research the Author (Handout 2)

Ruby Slipperjack was born in 1952 in Fort Hope, Ontario. Her writing and painting delve into the traditional and cultural ways of the Ojibway people in northern Ontario. She herself is Ojibway.

In her early years, Ruby spent time on her father's trapline on Whitewater Lake. Her family later moved to a community along the main railway line. She attended residential school for many years and graduated high school in Thunder Bay.

After high school, Ruby went to university. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1988, a Bachelor of Education in 1989, and a Master of Education in 1993. She completed a doctoral program at the University of Western Ontario, and received a PhD in 2005. Ruby Slipperjack-Farrell now works as a professor at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She is a professor and the Chair of the Department of Indigenous Learning.

Ruby retains much of her traditional and cultural heritage, and she writes about these experiences in her many literary accomplishments. Her first novel, Honour the Sun, was published in 1987; and earned rave reviews. In this novel she writes about a young girl growing up in a tiny Ojibway community in northern Ontario. She went on to write five more books, including Silent Words.

The last several books that Slipperjack wrote were aimed at young adults. They provide insight into the struggles that many face living on and off the reserve, and adjusting to new ways of living.

Slipperjack's books remind us of how rich the traditional way of life is and how rewarding and fulfilling a life on the land can be.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

shimmering jeering culvert unison

cascaded haze riveted

Learners look up these words and use each one in a sentence to show the meaning of the word.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- The first three chapters describe a very helpless situation for Danny. He is a young boy who doesn't have any options to escape his abusive life. Describe how you felt when you read these first chapters. Do you feel bad for Danny? Do you feel an ache for the baby? Do you feel angry at his father? Do you wonder what happened to his mother?
- At the end of Chapter 3, Danny is still in a very vulnerable position. Do you think he was better off to run away or tell someone about his abusive situation at home? Explain your answer.
- Describe Danny's living situation.

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on the first three chapters. Some discussion topics are:

- Did you see any foreshadowing in the first chapter? Foreshadowing is when the author hints at something that comes later in the book. Here is one example: "I found out where your mother is. She's at Colby Landing. It's on the CN line, just on the other side of Allan Water Bridge. Now wouldn't it be nice if you went to live with your mama?"
- How does Danny react to being called a "stupid Injun?" Why does
 he react that way? Why is it insulting to call someone an "Injun"?
 Learners can look up the origins to both "Indian" and "Injun" and
 discuss.
- What might have happened to Danny if he told someone about his abusive situation at home? Would he have gone into a foster home? Would that be worse than staying in his home? What do you think?

Activity 5—Descriptive Words (Handout 4)

Descriptive words or phrases help paint a clear picture and tell a story about something. They make stories and books more interesting. Learners read the information on Handout 4 about adjectives and adverbs, and then:

- Underline all the adjectives and adverbs in the sentences from the book.
- Reread the first paragraph and make a list of descriptive words that come to their mind.

Activity 6—Descriptive Paragraph (Handout 5)

The first three chapters of *Silent Words* rely heavily on descriptive devices. The author tries to paint a word picture in your mind of the characters, events, and places in the novel. She includes all five senses in her writing: sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.

Descriptive writing often makes use of figurative language such as imagery. Imagery uses vivid word pictures to describe an object.

Learners follow the handout to create a word picture and then a descriptive paragraph.

Activity 7—Good Things/Bad Things (Handout 6)

In the first three chapters good things and bad things happen to Danny. Ask learners to go through the chapters again and pick out all the good things and bad things and write them on the handout.



Vocabulary

shir	nmering	jeering	culvert	unison
caso	caded	haze	riveted	
dict (no	ionary and wr un, verb, adjec	rite down the defin tive, adverb, etc.) t	Look up each bold wition. Identify which he word is in the sestand what the word	h part of speech intence. Write a
1.	The street stre	etched empty in the	e shimmering heat.	
	Definition:			
	Part of Speecl	າ:		
	Sentence:			
2.	Then they bad	cked away, jeering	and making fun of	me lying there.
	Definition: _			
	Part of Speed	h:		
	Sentence:			

3.	Around the turn of the road farther down, I finally reached the culvert and scrambled down the creek.
	Definition:
	Part of Speech:
	Sentence:
4.	Our feet pounded in unison , raising clouds of dust as we raced towards the train station.
	Definition:
	Part of Speech:
	Sentence:
5.	Voices broke out and an argument ensued .
	Definition:
	Part of Speech:
	Sentence:

6.	I stopped at the edge of the clearing and watched the shimmering
	haze over the dark roof.
	Definition:
	Part of Speech:
	Sontanco
	Sentence:
7.	My eyes were riveted on the big man in the middle of the road.
	Definition:
	Part of Speech:
	Contanço
	Sentence:



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 1, 2 and 3 in sentence form.

Chapter 1

	Who is the main character in this book and how old is he?
,	When did Sarah move into the house?
-	
1	Why did Sarah beat Danny?
_	
7	When did Danny's mother leave?
-	

5.	Why does Danny go home in the afternoon?
6.	Why doesn't Danny tell someone about the abuse he experiences at home?
Cha	apter 2
7.	What did the string do to the car on the road?
8.	"Fear travelled up from my stomach to my throat as I became aware that I was in really big trouble." Why was Danny in so much trouble and why is he so fearful?

9.	What does Danny decide to do when he realizes he is in a lot of trouble?
10.	Who helped him?
Cha	apter 3
11.	Where does Danny get a ticket to?
12.	How does Danny manage to get on the train without being seen?

13.	What happens to Danny when he goes to buy some food at the canteen?
14.	What does Danny do the first night away from home?
15.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section?

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Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- The first three chapters describe a very helpless situation for Danny. He is a young boy who doesn't have any options to escape his abusive life. Describe how you felt when you read these first chapters.
- At the end of Chapter 3 Danny is still in a very vulnerable position. Do you think he was better off to run away or tell someone about his abusive home? Explain your answer.
- Describe Danny's living situation.



Descriptive Words

Descriptive words or phrases help paint a clear picture and tell a story about something. They make stories and books more interesting.

We usually use adjectives to describe a noun. Adjectives can tell how many, what size, what colour, etc.

• Jane drove her <u>red</u> snowmobile home.

Adverbs describe verbs. They tell how something is done. Often adverbs end in -ly.

• Jane <u>quickly</u> drove her red snowmobile home.

Part 1

Look at the sentences below from the first three chapters and underline all the adjectives and circle all the adverbs.

- Mama used to wear stretchy slacks all the time with a loose blouse hanging over the waist. Her short, curly black hair was always neatly combed...
- 2. The old light blue house sat on a hill surrounded by tall pine trees.

- 3. The old, wrinkled, weathered face broke into hundreds of deep lines as she smiled back at me.
- Birds move in such jerky movements, like there's no middle speed.
 They either sit perfectly still or they move very fast.
- 5. I slowly climbed the shoulder to the road.
- 6. I scrambled up again with both fists clenched, but a sharp pain suddenly hit me behind the ear.
- 7. All I could see was my reflection in the windows: a small skinny kid with messy straight black hair hanging just below the ears.

Part 2

Reread the first paragraph in Chapter 1. How do you feel after reading it? Circle five of the words below that describe how you feel. Or write down five of your own words.

sad	anxious	interested	worried
helpless	uninterested	intrigued	desperate
distressed	forlorn	captivated	engaged
fascinated	bored	indifferent	afraid
antsy	concerned	distressed	entertained



Descriptive Paragraph

The first three chapters of *Silent Words* rely heavily on descriptive devices. The author tries to paint a word picture in your mind of the characters, events, and places in the novel. She includes all five senses in her writing: sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.

Descriptive writing often makes use of figurative language such as imagery. Imagery uses vivid word pictures to describe an object.

For example:

"Her hair was grey only around the sides of her face and was neatly pulled back into a braid that hung down her back. The old wrinkled, weathered face broke into hundreds of deep lines as she smiled back at me. Her eyes didn't seem to fit her face. They were lively and full of spirit...they were young." p.20

Follow this formula to create a word picture and then a descriptive paragraph.²

- 1. Write a noun on the first line.
- 2. Write two adjectives on the second line.
- 3. Write three verbs that tell what the noun does on the third line.

² **Source:** Sharon Miron, Aurora College, NWT.

- 4. Write a thought or impression which you associate with the noun on the fourth line.
- 5. Write an adverb on the fifth line.
- 6. Repeat the noun or write a synonym on the last line.

For example:

Waves

Salty, tangy

Crest, swell, shimmer

Crash against the rocky shore

Wildly

Waves

After you finish your word picture, write the words into a descriptive paragraph.

For example:

The air at the seashore was tangy. I could taste the salty water in the spray from the waves. As I strolled slowly along the beach, I saw the waves crash wildly against the rocky shore. Far out, the sea shimmered in the sunlight like glass. Closer in, the sea began to swell into white crested waves. I watched the sea for hours.

Choose a topic from the first thr	ree chapters. Here a	re some ideas:
• Elders	 neglect 	• stepmother
 First Nation 	• journey	bullies
communities	• escape	• Danny
 stupid Injun 		
Noun		
Two adjectives:		
Three verbs:		
Thought or impression of noun		
Adverb:		
Noun (same as top)		

Use the word picture to write a descriptive paragraph.					
_			 	 	
_			 	 	
_			 	 	



Good Things/Bad Things

In our first look at Danny's life we see lots of bad things happening to Danny, but there are a few good things too. Make a list of the all the bad things and good things that happen to Danny in the first three chapters.

Good Things	Bad Things
The man that Sarah was with defended Danny by saying "Sarah, let go. He's just a little kid."	Boys chased Danny and spit on him.

Good Things	Bad Things



Chapters 1–3 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout1)

shimmering jeering culvert unison

cascaded haze riveted

Shimmering: shining with a subdued flickering light (adjective)

Jeering: to taunt or mock (verb)

Culvert: a sewer or drain crossing under a road (noun)

Unison: something that happens at the same time as something else (noun)

Ensued: to follow in order; come afterward (verb)

Haze: atmospheric moisture, dust, smoke, vapour that diminishes

visibility (noun)

Riveted: to engross or hold the attention (verb)

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Chapter 1

- 1. Who is the main character in this book and how old is he? *Danny is the main character and he is 11 years old.*
- 2. When did Sarah move into the house? Sarah moved in the day her mother moved out, about one year ago.
- 3. Why did Sarah beat Danny? Sarah beat Danny so he wouldn't tell his father that he caught her with another man.
- 4. When did Danny's mother leave? *Sometime in the last year, as she was around last summer.*

5. Why does Danny go home in the afternoon? He is very hungry and needs to find something to eat.

Chapter 2

- 6. Why doesn't Danny tell someone about the abuse he experiences at home? Danny is afraid that he will be taken from his home and have to go live with strangers. He thinks this would be way worse than living in the situation he is in now.
- 7. What did the string do to the car on the road? The car bumped into the string and it stopped the car. The man got out of the car to look for the kids who played the prank.
- 8. "Fear travelled up from my stomach to my throat as I became aware that I was in really big trouble." Why is Danny in so much trouble and why is he so fearful? The driver of the car that hit the string across the road was very angry and stopped to talk to Danny's father. When the driver finished his conversation with Danny's father, he backed out of the driveway and ended up getting into an accident. The whole situation started because of the string that Danny put across the road and his dad is very mad. Danny is fearful because the last time his father was angry with him, his father slapped him so hard he went sprawling across the kitchen floor.
- 9. What does Danny decide to do after he realizes he is in big trouble? Danny decides that he needs to run away from home as he is terrified that his father will beat him. He steals money and climbs out the window.
- 10. Who helps Danny? His friend Tom helps him buy a train ticket.

Chapter 3

11. Where does Danny get a ticket to and why is he upset about this location? Danny gets a ticket to Armstrong, the next town over. He wants a ticket to some place further from his home town. He is nervous that his father will find him in Armstrong.

- 12. How does Danny manage to get on the train without being seen? *Danny walks behind an Elder and asks if he can sit with her. People assume that he is with her and do not question him about travelling alone.*
- 13. What happens to Danny when he goes to buy food at the canteen? *A* woman pays for a bag of candy for Danny. When he goes to buy his pop and chips the man at the counter makes him pay for the candy again.
- 14. What does Danny do the first night away from home? Danny finds himself in a strange town wandering around. He steals a blanket from a clothesline and then goes into a field and wraps himself up in the blanket and goes to sleep.

Descriptive Words (Handout 4)

Part 1

Look at the sentences below from the first three chapters and underline all the adjectives and circle all the adverbs.

- 1. Mama used to wear <u>stretchy</u> slacks all the time with a <u>loose</u> blouse hanging over the waist. Her <u>short, curly black</u> hair was always neatly combed...
- 2. The <u>old light blue</u> house sat on a hill surrounded by <u>tall</u> pine trees.
- 3. The <u>old, wrinkled, weathered</u> face broke into <u>hundreds</u> of <u>deep</u> lines as she smiled back at me.

4. Birds move in such jerky movements, like there's no middle speed.

They either sit perfectly still or they move very fast.

- 5. I(slowly)climbed the shoulder to the road.
- 6. I scrambled up again with both fists clenched, but a <u>sharp</u> pain suddenly hit me behind the ear.
- 7. All I could see was my reflection in the windows: a <u>small skinny</u> kid with <u>messy straight black</u> hair hanging just below the ears.

Descriptive Paragraphs (Handout 5)

Answers will vary.

Good Things/Bad Things (Handout 6)

In our first look at Danny's life we see lots of bad things happen to Danny, but there are some good things too. Make a list of the all the bad things and good things that happen to Danny in the first three chapters.

Good Things	Bad Things
The man that Sarah was with defended Danny by saying "Sarah, let go. He's just a little kid."	 Town boys chase Danny and spit on him. Sarah beats up Danny at home.

- Danny's friend Tom helps him with his cut.
- Tom helps Danny buy a ticket so he can run away.
- The old woman on the train smiles at Danny and lets him sit with her.
- The train conductor smiles at Danny and gives him directions to the pop and candy shop.

- Danny's dad yells at Danny and Danny knows he is in for it.
- The man selling the pop and candy on the train rips Danny off; makes him pay for candy a woman already paid for.
- No one on the train seems to help Danny or notice he is running away.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handouts 1)

dignified humiliation meticulous plaguing

measured seized ferocious incredulous

Cut out each word and definition on Handout 1. Put all the words in one envelope and all the definitions in a different envelope. Learners can work in pairs. Give a set of envelopes to each pair of learners and ask them to figure out which definition goes with each word. Go over the definitions together when learners have completed the first activity.

Activity 2—More Vocabulary (Handout 2)

Ask learners to complete the handout on synonyms. Learners write down two synonyms for each word. The word should fit into the sentence given. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.

Activity 3—Chapter Questions (Handout 3)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 4—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 4)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

 After reading Chapter 4, describe your impression of the town of Armstrong.

- Charlie's grandfather always told Charlie to "listen, watch, and learn." What does that mean to you? Where have you heard this kind of statement before? Would you consider it a teaching of First Nations cultures? What are some more teachings of First Nation cultures?
- When Danny receives the \$20 from Charlie, he wants to cry because he didn't know people could be so kind. Write about a time when someone was kind to you unexpectedly. How can we be more kind to others?

Activity 5—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 4 and 5. Some discussion topics are:

- The kids that Danny meets up with in Armstrong speak Ojibway. They are surprised that Danny doesn't speak the language. "Don't you speak any Indian?" Why do you think Danny doesn't speak his language well? It seems a little surprising since the year is 1969. Do you think most Aboriginal people living in the NWT spoke their first language at that time? What does the loss of language do to culture and community?
- So far on his journey, Danny has met up with several adults. Charlie seems like a very decent person. Why doesn't he report Danny to the authorities? Does it seem odd to you that he sends Danny off to Savant Lake on his own?
- The grandmother says at one point, "No matter every child is my grandchild." What do you think this means? Do you know of any Elders and people in your life that have this attitude? Discuss with the class.

Activity 6—Life in 1969 (Handout 5)

The date that Danny leaves for his journey is July 11, 1969. Discuss with learners the time period of the 1960s. Ask learners what they know about the 60s. Then ask them to use the Internet to research 1969 and answer the questions on the handout. A good website is http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1969.html

Discuss what life was like in the 60s for the people in your community. How does this compare with the popular images of life in the 60s?

Activity 7—Irony (Handout 6)

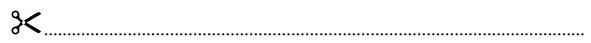
Play the song "Isn't it ironic?" by Alanis Moressette. Ask learners to write down the things in the song that Alanis Morissette says are ironic like rain on your wedding day. Make a list of these things. Go over the definition of ironic on the handout. Now re-evaluate the list of things from the song to see if they are really ironic.

Tell learners that Alanis Morissette had it all wrong. It isn't like a black fly in your Chardonnay, and it isn't like rain on your wedding day. Those are just examples of bad luck. Rain on your wedding day would only be ironic if, say, you deliberately moved your wedding to Yellowknife from Vancouver in an effort to avoid the rain, and then it rained anyway. It is also ironic that there's a song called "Ironic" that isn't, in fact, ironic. Go over the handout together and work on the questions as a class. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.



Vocabulary

Put all the words in one envelope and all the definitions in a different envelope. Learners can work in pairs. Give a set of envelopes to each pair of learners and ask them to figure out which definition goes with each word. Go over the definitions together when learners have completed the first activity.



dignified

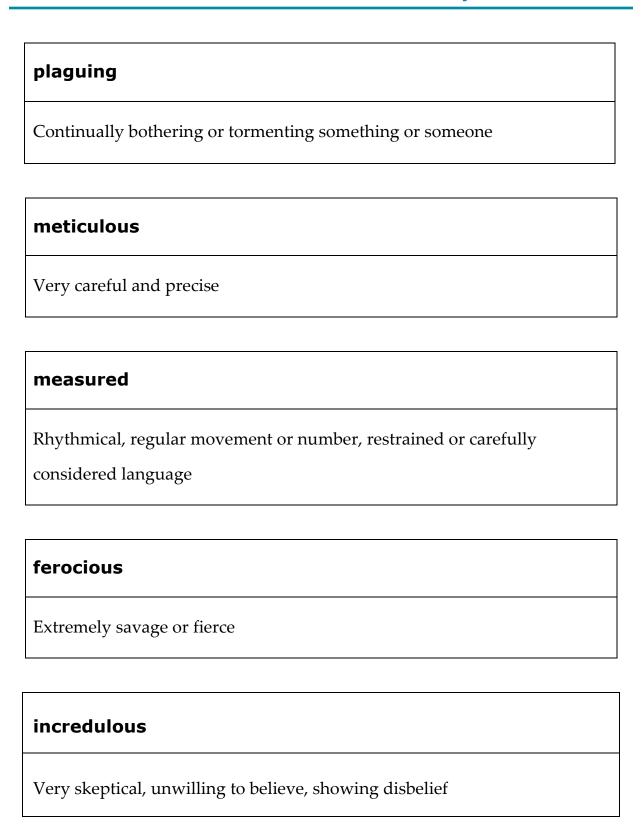
Proud, noble, distinguished appearance or manner/behaviour

humiliation

Insult, bruised ego, hurt pride, injured dignity or self-respect

meticulous

Very careful and precise



seized

To take hold of suddenly or with force, to grasp with the mind or understand quickly, to have a sudden overwhelming effect on thoughts or behaviour



More Vocabulary

Read each sentence below from the Chapters 4 and 5. Write down two synonyms for each word. The word should fit into the sentence. See the example in the first one.

1.	I ran down the steps and strolled past them, as dignified as I could manage, down the street in my measured stride. (p.28)
	dignified: proud
	measured:
2.	The familiar fear and humiliation seized me as I looked up at two young teenagers. (p.29)
	Humiliation:
	Seized:
3.	With meticulous care, he held the spoon between his knees and sat hunched over with his tongue sticking out at the corner of his mouth, slowly pushing the knife blade along the neck of the spoon. (p. 32)

4.	He turned a ferocious glance at me and I took off down the road. (p. 32)
5.	My eyes felt swollen and still from all my crying and hiccups were now plaguing me too. (p. 37)
6.	Incredulous, I glanced up at him. "Are you kidding? They'll ship me home immediately!" (p. 42)



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 4 and 5 in sentence form.

Chapter 4

1.	What does Danny discover when he goes to pay for his food at the store?
2.	What happens after Danny comes out of the store?
3.	What words does Danny keep saying to himself so that he doesn't cry or get upset?

What happens when Danny meets up with some kids at the stream?
After Danny spends time with the children and grandmother he thinks they must be the happiest people in the world. Why does he think that?
What do you feel when you realize that Danny is leaning on a whee under the train?
What do we learn about Danny's life when he lived with both his mother and father?

Chapter 5

8.	How does Danny feel when he realizes the houses he sees from the train are in fact "broken fallen-down houses"?
9.	How does Charlie trick Danny?
10.	Danny spends a pleasant evening with Charlie's family. He goes fishing with Charlie and hangs out with Charlie's children. What does Danny say at the end of the evening that is inappropriate? How does Billy react to Danny's comment?
11.	What does Charlie tell Danny before he gets on the train?

12.	What does Charlie give Danny just before he gets on the train? How does Danny react?
13.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- After reading Chapter 4, describe your impression of the town of Armstrong.
- Charlie's grandfather always told Charlie to "listen, watch, and learn." What does that mean to you? Where have you heard this kind of statement before? Would you consider it a teaching of First Nations cultures? What are some more teachings of First Nation cultures?
- When Danny receives the \$20 from Charlie, he wants to cry because he didn't know people could be so kind. Write about a time when someone was kind to you unexpectedly. How can we be more kind to others?



Life in 1969

V	What war was going on in 1969?
V	Why were people protesting the war?
_	
_	
_	
_	
V	What music event attracted more than 35,000 people?
V	What space event happened in this year?
_	
_	
_	

5.	What was the average cost of a house in the US?
6.	What was the average yearly wage in the US?
7.	Who was the Prime Minister of Canada in 1969?
8.	What film won the Oscar for Best Film in 1969?
9.	Who won the Stanley Cup in 1969?
10.	What well-known children's show was introduced in 1969?
_	
11.	What was life like in your community in the 1960s?



Irony

Alanis Morissette has it all wrong. It isn't like a black fly in your Chardonnay, and it isn't like rain on your wedding day. Those are just examples of bad luck. Rain on your wedding day would only be ironic if, say, you deliberately moved your wedding to Yellowknife from Vancouver in an effort to avoid the rain, and then it rained anyway. It is also ironic that there's a song called "Ironic" that isn't, in fact, ironic.

So, what is irony? Irony is often misused because people don't really know what it means. Let's start with a definition from the online Oxford Dictionary.

Irony³

Using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect: 'Don't go overboard with the gratitude,' he rejoined with heavy irony. (To someone who had shown no gratitude)

- A state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often wryly amusing as a result: *the irony is that I thought he could help me*.
- Also dramatic or tragic irony: a literary technique, originally used in Greek tragedy, by which the full significance of a character's words or actions is clear to the audience or reader although unknown to the character.

³ From http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/irony?q=irony

You may find the dictionary definition a bit confusing. Now that is ironic, as a definition is supposed to help clarify what something means!

A simple way of putting it is that irony usually signals a difference between the appearance of things and reality. For instance, here is how Wikipedia defines it:

Ironic statements (verbal irony) often convey a meaning exactly opposite from their literal meaning. In ironic situations (situational irony), actions often have an effect exactly opposite from what is intended.

Situational irony

Irony is when the result of something you do is the opposite of what was intended. Many times people confuse coincidence or improbability with irony. For example some people might say the following is ironic.

"When I met my future husband I found out that his ex-wife and son lived in the same small town as my sister halfway across the country." This may seem ironic but it is actually a coincidence.

Here are several examples of situational irony:

After the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, the average cost to rehabilitate a seal was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, amid cheers and applause, two seals that cost the most to save were released back into the wild. A minute later, a killer whale ate them both.

Mr. Jones arrived too late to chair a community meeting on how to manage the heavy snowfall this winter because his truck got stuck in a snowdrift.

Part 1: Read each statement below and decide if it shows irony (I),

coincidence (C), or it is simply improbable (IM). 1. A person bets his life savings in a roulette game and wins. _____ 2. A person dreams of a plane crash so they travel by car. The plane they would have taken ends up crashing. _____ A person dreams of a plane crash so they travel by car. They end up in a car accident. ____ A woman steps in a puddle and her husband makes fun of her. On the next street, the woman's husband steps in a puddle. _____ An old man turns 98. He wins the lottery and dies the next day of chronic emphysema. He gets emphysema from decades of inhaling latex particles while scratching lottery tickets. An ambulance driver rushes to the scene of an accident, only to run over the victim. The victim crawled into the middle of the street in the dark of night. The fire station burns down. _____ 7. In 1912 people brag that the Titanic is "100% unsinkable". And yet the 8. ship sinks on its maiden voyage. _____

9.	You go to Edmonton for a visit and see a close friend downtown that you haven't seen in years
10.	You think of your husband and decide to call him. You pick up the phone to call him but he is calling you at the same time
11.	Your friend steps in a puddle and you make fun of them. The next thing you know – YOU step in one!
12.	A man makes his living examining air bags in a factory, to make sure they work properly. He dies in a car wreck because he failed to check his own airbag
Par	t 2: Can you think of any ironic situations from your life? Write them ow:
1.	,
2.	
3.	

	Now you have some idea of what situational irony is. What
	on in Chapter 4 of the novel do you consider situational irony?
√hy?	
-	
_	
-	
_	
_	
_	
_	



Chapters 4 and 5 Answer Key

More Vocabulary (Handout 2)

1. I ran down the steps and strolled past them, as **dignified** as I could manage, down the street in my **measured** stride. (p.28)

Dignified: proud, composed, refined, respected, stately, distinguished

Measured: regular, rhythmical, deliberate, calculated, careful

2. The familiar fear and **humiliation seized** me as I looked up at two young teenagers. (p.29)

Humiliation: *embarrassment, discomfort, disgrace, dishonour, insult*

Seized: *grabbed, clutched, captured*

3. With **meticulous** care, he held the spoon between his knees and sat hunched over with his tongue sticking out at the corner of his mouth, slowly pushing the knife blade along the neck of the spoon. (p. 32)

Meticulous: accurate, exact, fastidious, particular, precise

4. He turned a **ferocious** glance at me and I took off down the road. (p. 32) **Ferocious:** *savage*, *wild*, *brutal*, *cruel*, *fierce*

5. My eyes felt swollen and still from all my crying and hiccups were now **plaguing** me too. (p. 37)

Plaguing: aggravating, annoying, bothering, distressing, irking, irritating, nagging, troubling, afflicting

6. **Incredulous**, I glanced up at him. "Are you kidding? They'll ship me home immediately!

Incredulous: disbelieving, questioning, wary, skeptical, doubtful, unconvinced

Chapter Questions (Handout 3)

Chapter 4

- 1. What did Danny discover when he went to pay for his food at the store? Danny discovered that he pinned his train ticket instead of money to the clothesline, to pay for the blanket he took.
- 2. What happened after Danny came out of the store? Danny met up with some kids and he shared his donuts with them. Then two teenage boys started chasing them and caught Danny. A man in a car saved him and dropped him off down at the stream where the other kids were.
- 3. What words does Danny keep saying to himself so that he won't cry or get upset? *Mama is waiting for you. Mama is waiting for you. Mama loves you.*
- 4. What happens when Danny meets up with some kids at the stream? He plays with them for the day and then goes home with them for supper. Their grandmother feeds him stew and he spends time there until their father comes home. Danny flees in a panic, as their father is a menacing figure.
- 5. After Danny has spent time with the children and grandmother he thinks they must be the happiest people in the world. Why does he think that? Danny thinks they are happy because they seem to have a real sense of self and peace. He sees that the children are well cared for and that the grandmother loves them. This is something he has not experienced for a long time.
- 6. What do you feel when you realize that Danny is leaning on a wheel under the train? *I feel anxious.* (*Answers may vary.*)
- 7. What do we learn about Danny's life when he lived with both his mother and father? We learn that they lived at a trapper's shack in the bush and we assume they trapped for a living.

Chapter 5

- 8. How does Danny feel when he realizes the houses he sees from the train are in fact "broken fallen-down houses"? *Danny feels hopeless at this point. He sits downs and cries, and asks his mother for help.*
- 9. How does Charlie trick Danny? *In conversation, Charlie suddenly asks Danny his name and Danny tells him without thinking.*
- 10. Danny spends a pleasant evening with Charlie's family. He goes fishing with Charlie and hangs out with Charlie's children. What does Danny say at the end of the evening that is inappropriate? He calls Billy, Charlie's daughter, a motor-mouth who suffers from verbal diarrhoea. How does Billy react to Danny's comment? She is angry and says that Danny should not talk that way and that someone will bash him in the mouth some day. She also tells him that he is not at home and should not talk that way.
- 11. What does Charlie tell Danny before he gets on the train? *He tells him that his grandfather always used to tell him to listen, watch, and learn.*
- 12. What does Charlie give Danny just before he gets on the train? How does Danny react? Charlie gives Danny a piece of paper and when Danny gets on the train he sees that it is a \$20 bill. Danny wants to cry because he didn't know people could be so kind.

Life in 1969 (Handout 5)

- 1. What war was going on in 1969? The Vietnam War
- 2. Why were people protesting the war?
 - At first people supported the war, but as the years went by more and more people opposed it. A startling number of young men were dying in the war. At the peak of the war 33,000 men were drafted each month. By the end of the 60s thousands and thousands of people openly demonstrated in the largest single protest event in the history of the United States.

- 3. What music event attracted more than 500,000 people? Woodstock
- 4. What space event happened in 1969? The U.S. Apollo 11 mission landed on the moon. Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon. And the famous words "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" became part of history.
- 5. What was the average cost of a new house in the US? \$15,550
- 6. What was the average yearly wage in the US? \$8,550.00
- 7. Who was the Prime Minister of Canada in 1969? Pierre Trudeau
- 8. What film won the Oscar for Best Film in 1969? Oliver
- 9. Who won the Stanley Cup in 1969? Montreal Canadiens
- 10. What well-known children's show was introduced in 1969? *Sesame Street*

Irony (Handout 6)

Part 1:

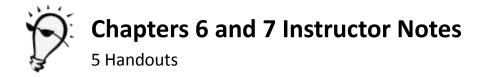
- 1. A person bets their life savings in a roulette game and wins. (IM)
- 2. A man dreams of a plane crash, so he travels by car. The plane he would have taken ends up crashing. (*C*)
- 3. A woman dreams of a plane crash so she travels by car; she ends up in a car accident. (*I*)
- 4. A woman steps into a puddle and her husband makes fun of her. On the next street, the woman's husband steps into a puddle. (*I*)
- 5. An old man turns 98. He wins the lottery and dies the next day... of chronic emphysema. He gets emphysema from inhaling latex particles for decades while scratching lottery tickets. (*I*)

- 6. An ambulance driver rushes to the scene of an accident, only to run over the victim. The victim crawled into the middle of the street in the darkness of night. (*I*)
- 7. The fire station burns down. (C)
- 8. In 1912 people brag that the Titanic is "100% unsinkable". And yet the ship sinks on its maiden voyage. (*I*)
- 9. You go to Vancouver for a visit and see a close friend downtown that you haven't seen in years. (*C*)
- 10. You are thinking of your husband and decide to call him. You pick up the phone to call him but he is trying to call you at the same time. (*C*)
- 11. Your friend steps into a puddle and you make fun of them ... and the next thing you know YOU step in one!? (*I*)
- 12. A man makes his living examining air bags in a factory, to make sure they work properly. He dies in a car wreck because he failed to check his own airbag. (*I*)

Part 2: Can you think of any ironic situations from your life? Some examples are:

- Taking an umbrella with you when you think it is going to rain, and it doesn't rain after all.
- My child's teacher gave him a detention for arriving to class late, the next day the teacher was 10 minutes late for class.
- I took my child to the dentist the other day and she gave my child a lollipop after her oral exam.

Part 3: Now you have some idea of what situational irony is. What situation in Chapter 4 of the novel do you consider situational irony? Why? It was ironic that Danny wants to go on the passenger train, but goes on a freight train, and ends up in the middle of nowhere walking on the tracks. And then all of sudden he has to get off the tracks in a hurry to avoid the passenger train that he wanted to be on in the first place.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

galvanized cantankerous acrid

commenced ridiculous exaggerated

Learners answer the questions on the handout about the vocabulary words. Use the answer key to discuss their answers.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- The old woman says to Danny, "God helps those who help themselves." What does this mean?
- On Pages 51 and 52, reread Danny's description of fetching water for the first time. Write a story about a time in your life that you had to fetch water from a stream, lake, or pump.
- Read Page 59. What do you think the old man is trying to teach Danny?

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 6 and 7. Some discussion topics are:

- Up to this point no adults report Danny to the authorities. What do you think would happen today in a similar situation?
- Just before Danny leaves he sits down for one last meal with the old man and old woman. Danny thinks in his mind, "No one said a word, but we said a lot. I was learning." What does Danny mean by this?
- Finally Danny has some hope to find his mother; that hope soon fades when he finds out she is not in Collins. Henry's words are harsh to Danny but carry some truth. Why do you think Danny's mother left Danny and his father?

Activity 5—Northern Ontario Communities (Handout 4)

Use Google Earth to look up some of the places that the book mentions: Allanwater Bridge, Sioux Lookout, Collins, Savant Lake, Nakina, and Armstrong. They are all real places. Find some information about each place. Learners can use the handout as a guide.

How much does it cost today to travel on the train from Savant Lake to Armstrong? From Armstrong to Collins? From Sioux Lookout to Savant Lake? Learners can find this information on the Via Rail website. http://www.viarail.ca/en

Activity 6—Translation (Handout 5)

The old man and woman speak in a very thick accent. Give learners the handout and ask them to translate what it says. Learners can work in pairs. Compare everyone's translations. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.



1.

Vocabulary

galvanized		cantankerous	acrid			
commenced		ridiculous	exaggerated			
I smiled	d and hurried aw	ay, swinging the galvar	nized pail over my			
,	a) Is the word "galvanized" a verb, adjective, or noun in this sentence?					
b) The word "galvanized" has se sentences below. Which one s "galvanized" as the sentence i. The group hopes to galva		ich one shows the same	meaning for			
ii.	proposed law.	nized support for the pr	C			
iii.	0 10	ry that makes galvanized	,			
c) Wri	te a sentence usin	ag "galvanize" as a verb				

rai	lroad tracks and, boy, she was loud and sounded cantankerous				
a)	What do you think "cantankerous" means?				
b)	Is the word "cantankerous" a verb, adjective, or noun?				
c)	Write down five synonyms for the word "cantankerous?"				
d)	Write a sentence using the word "cantankerous."				
	,				

3.	Th	ere was an acrid smell in the air.
	a)	What do you think "acrid" means?
	b)	Is the word "acrid" a verb, adjective, or noun?
	c)	Look up the word "acrid" in the dictionary. Write down the definition that fits best.
	_	
	d)	What does this sentence mean? "Her acrid remarks make her unpopular in her community."
4.	_	ut it down and picked it up with my left hand and the handle nmenced to try separating my knuckles on that side too.
	a)	Write two words that you could substitute for "commenced" in the above sentence.

c) Wr	te a sentence u	using the wo	ord "com	menced.	."	
Feeling	quite ridicul o	ous, I ran ba	ck down	the hill a	and retrie	eved th
C	1	,				
water _l	ail."					
•		vou could s	ubstitute	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	ail." te five words y ence.	you could s	ubstitute	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute _	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute 	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute 	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute 	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute _ _ _	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute 	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a
a) Wr	te five words y	you could s	ubstitute 	for "ridi	iculous" i	in the a

c)	There is a famous quote from Napoleon Bonaparte "It is only one
	step from the sublime to the ridiculous." What does this mean?

- 6. With **exaggerated** movements, he expertly slipped the pail handle on the handle hook, then he set to revving his elbows with the long arm of the pump.
 - a) The word "exaggerated" in the above sentence is an adjective because "exaggerated" describes "movements." The word "exaggerated" has many forms: noun, adverb, adjective, and verb. Write down the form for each of the words below.

i.	exaggeration:
ij	exaggerator:
11.	chaggerator.
iii.	exaggeratedly:
iv.	exaggerates:
v.	exaggerating:

b)	Write	a sentence using each form of the word "exaggerated."
	i.	exaggeration:
	ii.	exaggerator:
	iii.	exaggeratedly:
	iv.	exaggerates:
	v.	exaggerating:



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 6 and 7 in sentence form.

Chapter	6
---------	---

How does Danny meet the old woman?
Which language does Danny think the old couple speak?
Which language does the old man use for evening meal prayers and bedtime prayers?
What does Danny call the old couple?

Wha angr	t does Danny find out about his mother that makes him really
Why	is Danny so frightened of the thunderstorm?
Why	does the minister come to visit each week?
How	does Danny learn that his mother is in Collins?

ipter 7
What does Danny do for the old couple before he leaves?
What happens when Danny arrives in Collins?
Who does Danny go home with?
What does Henry say about Danny's mother? How does Danny feel?

14.	What does Jim tell Henry about Danny staying with them?
15.	What does Henry give Danny? Why does Danny need these things?
16.	Danny is used to saying grace before meals. He waits patiently for grace, before he digs into his fish. What does Jim say to Danny?
17.	What card game does Danny learn?
18.	How does Chapter 7 end?

19.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next
	section?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- The old woman says to Danny, "God helps those who help themselves." What does this mean?
- On Pages 51 and 52, reread Danny's description of fetching water for the first time. Write a story about a time in your life that you had to fetch water from a stream, lake, or pump.
- Read Page 59. What do you think the old man is trying to teach Danny?



Northern Ontario Communities

Use Google Earth and the Internet to look up some places that the book mentions: Allanwater Bridge, Sioux Lookout, Collins, Savant Lake, Nakina and Armstrong. Fill in the table below.

	Population	Sources of Employment	Interesting Facts
Allanwater Bridge			
Sioux Lookout			
Collins			

	Population	Sources of Employment	Interesting Facts
Savant Lake			
Nakina			
Armstrong			

Today, how much does it cost to travel on Via Rail:

- From Sioux Lookout to Armstrong? _____



Translation

The old couple speak with a very thick accent. Read the sentences and translate what they say.

1.	"Da ol' fool 'as let da stobe go out again."
2.	God 'elps doze o 'elps demselbes, I always say."
3.	"Dere's a pat runs down from dis way, an dere's no 'ill to clime. Da's da one I use."
4.	"To honour da Eart, boy you mus' un'erstan dat it is alibe. Da men wit da machines are like lice dat feed on da libin' scalp o' Mudder Eart."

	life reach up to da sun."
-	
,	"You mean 'e 'as been doin some strange tings to da ol' minister's 'ead! Dey say 'e's been sayin some strange tings in 'is sermons dese
_	days! Ha, ha! 'e's learin too fas', it ink!"



Chapters 6 and 7 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

- 1. I smiled and hurried away, swinging the **galvanized** pail over my head.
 - a) Is the word "galvanized" a verb, adjective, or noun in this sentence? *adjective*
 - b) The word galvanized has several meanings. Look at the sentences below. Which one shows what galvanized means in the sentence from the book.
 - I work at a factory where steel is galvanized.
 - c) Write a sentence using the verb form of "galvanize." *Answers will vary.*
- 2. Then I met an old lady by the train stop. She said she lived by the railroad tracks and, boy, she was loud and sounded **cantankerous!**
 - a) What do you think "cantankerous" means? Answers will vary.
 - b) Is the word "cantankerous" a verb, adjective, or noun? adjective
 - c) Write down five synonyms for the word "cantankerous?" illtempered, grumpy, crotchety, ornery, crabby, cross, grouchy, irritable, moody, testy, surly, cranky,
 - d) Write a sentence using the word "cantankerous." Answers will vary.
- 3. There was an **acrid** smell in the air.
 - a) What do you think "acrid" means? Answers will vary.
 - b) Is the word "acrid" a verb, adjective, or noun? adjective

- c) Look up the word "acrid" in the dictionary. Write down the definition that fits best. *Sharp or biting to the taste or smell, bitterly pungent*
- d) What does this sentence mean? "Her acrid remarks make her unpopular in her community." *This sentence means that her bitter, mean, or biting remarks make people in the community not like her.*
- 4. I put it down and picked it up with my left hand and the handle **commenced** to try separating my knuckles on that side too.
 - a) Write two words that you could substitute for "commenced" in the above sentence. *started, began*
 - b) Is "commenced" a verb, adjective or noun? verb
 - c) Write a sentence using the word "commenced." *Answers will vary*.
- 5. Feeling quite **ridiculous**, I ran back down the hill and retrieved the water pail.
 - a) Write five words that you could substitute for "ridiculous" in the above sentence. absurd, , bizarre, goofy, ludicrous, silly, foolish, preposterous
 - b) Write a definition for "ridiculous." Check your definition with one from a dictionary. *Being extremely silly or unreasonable*
 - There is a famous quote from Napoleon Bonaparte "It is only one step from the sublime to the ridiculous." What does this mean?
 - Sometimes you can go from the very good or very serious to something that is very bad or silly. If something declines considerably in quality or importance, it is said to have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous.
 - An example would be going out on a boat excursion and having a beautiful calm evening and then a sudden gust of wind comes up and you are scrambling to get the boat safely to shore.

- 6. With **exaggerated** movements, he expertly slipped the pail handle on the handle hook, then he set to revving his elbows with the long arm of the pump.
 - a) The word "exaggerated" in the above sentence is an adjective because "exaggerated" describes "movements." The word "exaggerated" has many forms: noun, adverb, adjective, and verb. Write down the form for each of the words below.

i. Exaggeration: noun

ii. Exaggerator: noun

iii. Exaggeratedly: adverb

iv. Exaggerates: verb

v. Exaggerating: verb

b) Write a sentence using each of the words above. *Answers will vary*.

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Chapter 6

- 1. How does Danny meet the old woman? He offers to carry her bags home and tells her about looking for his Mama.
- 2. Which language does Danny think the old couple speak? *He thinks they speak an old kind of English.*
- 3. Which language does the old man use for evening meal prayers and bedtime prayers? *He uses Latin*.
- 4. What does Danny call the old couple? *He calls them Mr. and Mrs. Old Indian.*
- 5. Why does Danny like to live with the old man and old woman? *Living* with them reminds Danny of living with his father and mother in the bush. He feels safe.

- 6. What does Danny find out about his mother that makes him really angry? He finds out that Colby Landing is not a real place. This means that he has no idea where his mother is.
- 7. Why is Danny so frightened of the thunderstorm? He is frightened because the old man is going on and on about mother earth and the wrath of God, and the storm is close by.
- 8. Why does the minister come to visit each week? At first we think the minister comes to look after the old man but then we learn that the minster is actually learning from the old man. So he comes to listen and learn from the old man.
- 9. How does Danny learn that his mother is in Collins? He overhears someone at the station talking about a Charlotte. He asks them if they are talking about Charlotte Lynx and indeed they are. He learns that she is in Collins with Joe.

Chapter 7

- 10. What does Danny do for the old couple before he leaves? He rushes around getting enough supplies for the old couple for at least a week.
- 11. What happens when Danny arrives in Collins? *Danny learns that there is no Charlotte living in Collins and the only Joe in Collins is in jail.*
- 12. Who does Danny go home with? Danny goes home with another young boy, Henry, and his father, Jim.
- 13. What does Henry say about Danny's mother? How does Danny feel? Henry says that it would be a lot easier for his mother to find him than for a kid to find his mother. He says that his mother could be anywhere. Danny feels very hurt by this.
- 14. What does Jim tell Henry about Danny staying with them? *Jim tells* Henry that he can stay for a while but that someone is probably out looking for him.

- 15. What does Henry give Danny? Why does Danny need these things? Henry gives Danny a bunch of his old clothes that he has outgrown. Danny has been wearing the same clothes for about one month so he is desperate for new clothes.
- 16. Danny is used to saying grace before meals. He waits patiently for grace before he digs into his fish. What does Jim say to Danny? Jim says "Are you waiting for Grace? Sorry, but she doesn't live here." And then he goes on to thank Billy for the fish and says that when he catches an extra one he will pass it along.
- 17. What card game does Danny learn to play? *Danny learns how to play cribbage*.
- 18. How does Chapter 7 end? *Danny sleeps in the cabin with Henry and Jim.*There is no loud snoring, just the crackle of the fire, he drifts off to sleep.

Northern Ontario Communities (Handout 4)

	Population	Sources of Employment	Interesting Facts
Allanwater Bridge	No permanent settlement – only recreation cabins	Recreation, fishing, hunting camps	Good fishing and hunting – almost a ghost town now
Sioux Lookout	5,000	Tourism, lumber and health care are the primary sources of employment.	Great fishing, known as the "sunset country" Also known as the "hub of the north" as

			they provide essential services to 30,000 people in 29 remote communities
Collins	30 people live there	Not much. Live off the land. The train stops in Collins.	Home to the Namaygoosisagagun First Nation
Savant Lake	98	Fly-in fishing and hunting camps – Via Rail stops here	Home to Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (Savant Lake)
Nakina	700	Mineral exploration and tourism are the biggest employers.	One of the most remote communities on the road network – old railway town – has a very interesting history
Armstrong	1,216	Tourism, agriculture	Armstrong is now a township and the community of Earlton is the largest community there. It has the most fertile land in the north.

Today, how much does it cost to travel on Via Rail: (answers will change with time)

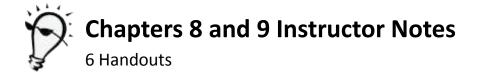
• From Savant Lake to Sioux Lookout? \$45.20

- From Collins to Allanwater Bridge? \$45.20
- From Armstrong to Nakina? \$65.54
- From Sioux Lookout to Armstrong? \$81.36

Translation (Handout 5)

- "Da ol' fool 'as let da stobe go out again." That old fool has let the stove go out again.
- God 'elps doze o 'elps demselbes, I always say." God helps those who help themselves, I always say.
- "Dere's a pat runs down from dis way, an dere's no 'ill to clime.

 Da's da one I use." *There's a path runs down from this way, and there's no hill to climb. That's the one I use.*
- "To honour da Eart, boy you mus' un'erstan dat it is alibe. Da men wit da machines are like lice dat feed on da libin' scalp o' Mudder Eart." To honour the Earth, boy you must understand that it is alive. The men with the machines are like lice that feed on the living scalp of Mother Earth.
- Da chile o' da groun' dey walk on. It is da groun' dat grib all life, an all life reach up to da sun." The child of the ground they walk on. It is the ground that gives all life, and all life reaches up to the sun.
- "You mean 'e 'as been doin some strange tings to da ol' minister's 'ead! Dey say 'e's been sayin some strange tings in 'is sermons dese days! Ha, ha! 'e's learnin too fas', i tink!" You mean he has been doing some strange things to the old minister's head! They say he's been saying some strange things in his sermons these days! Ha, ha! He's learning too fast, I think!



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

dubious laboured accusations monotonous

existence ambushed churned conjure

Learners match the correct word to the correct meaning, answer questions about the words, and then fill in the blanks with the correct word.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- Henry's mother froze to death, most likely due to alcohol. Henry's father, Jim, stops drinking and changes his life so he can raise his son. What tragedies have happened in your community as a result of drug and alcohol abuse?
- Why was it so good for Danny to tell Grandfather about his life?
 How does talking about things actually help with healing?
- At the end of Chapter 8, everything seems to be going so well for Danny. How did you feel when you realized that Danny was going to run away again? What do you think would have happened if Danny had stayed and admitted he may have caused the fire?

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 8 and 9. Some discussion topics are:

- What is Danny learning on his adventure? List learners' ideas on the board and discuss them. Some ideas: fishing, paddling a canoe, having good people help him, knowing life can be very pleasurable, learning traditional skills, learning his Ojibway language, and much more. Danny is learning a lot about life and his culture.
- When Henry and Danny are at the moose kill, they start goofing around with the meat. Why do others look down on this behaviour? What kinds of rituals or traditions do people in your community or culture follow when they harvest meat?

Activity 5—Memegwesiwag People (Handout 4)

Read the last page of Chapter 9. Ask learners if they know anything about the Memegwesiwag people. Ask if they have any culture or traditions similar to those the book describes. Ask learners to use the Internet to do research about the Memegwesiwag people, and then answer the questions on Handout 4.

Activity 6—What's in a Name? (Handout 5)

Danny is not necessarily surprised that grandfather's name is Ol' Jim. He remembers Jim saying, "the human being is shaped by the name he is given because personality and appearance is attached to a given name and that is how he or she will be treated and expected to behave." Ask learners: What does this mean? What does your name mean? Were you given your name for a special reason? Look up your English name on the Internet and learn what it means. Learners can use the guide on the handout to help them.

Activity 7—Character Match (Handout 6)

Learners choose five characters from the story. In the boxes on the handout, they write a brief and accurate description of each character. Make sure they do not write the character's name. Ask learners to exchange their descriptions with another person and try to figure out the correct character for each description.



Vocabulary

dubious laboured accusations monotonous

existence ambushed churned conjure

Part 1: Match the word to the meaning.

dubious	Lacking in variety, doing the same thing over and over again.
laboured	2. The fact or state of continued being or life.
accusations	3. Doubtful, to be uncertain.
monotonous	4. To agitate or stir.
existence	5. Strained, requiring or showing effort.
ambushed	6. To call or bring to mind, to imagine a picture in your mind.
churned	7. A charge of wrongdoing that is made against a person or other party.
conjure	8. To be attacked by surprise.

Par	t 2: Answer th	e following questi	ons using the vocab	oulary words.
dub	pious	laboured	accusations	monotonous
exis	stence	ambushed	churned	conjure
1.	Which four v	vords are verbs?		
2.	Which two w	ords are adjective	s?	
3.	Which two w	vords are nouns?		

4.	What is the	root word of mor	notonous?	
5.	What is the root word of existence?			
Paı	r t 3: Fill in the	blanks with the	correct word from y	your vocabulary list.
dul	bious	laboured	accusations	monotonous
exi	stence	ambushed	churned	conjure
1.	As I ran fast with each fo		po	unded in my brain
2.	-		cious, but I was rath how we were goin	
3.		omment as the in up some pos		and my mind began to
4.		_	I tried to match the	
5.	His arms co paddled.	ntinually	in an unb	proken pattern as he
6.	Now all we leaving "ahs		knowledge their	by

7.	I didn't even get a chance to breathe and look around because we		
	seemed to have been	and surrounded by an	
	army of warlike huge mosquitoes that had	set out to suck all the blood	
	out of us.		

8. When I came in, Henry had the manual egg-beater going pretty fast at first, then it sort of ______ slowly.



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 8 and 9 in sentence form.

Chapter 8

1.	How does Danny respond to going out in the canoe and spending the day on the lake?
2.	What happened when Danny put the pot of water on the fire? How did Henry react?
3.	What do they have for supper?

	What happens to the cake while they are cooking it? How does everyone react?
•	
	What happened the next morning?
	How did Henry know that his dad and Billy were trying to trick him' What did he and Danny do?
	What did Danny feel really proud about?
	What happens when Danny and Henry goof around with the meat? Why should they not do that?
•	

9.	What happened to Henry's mother?
10.	What do we find out about Danny's mother in Chapter 8?
Cha	apter 9
11.	Why does Danny run away?
12.	Who does Danny meet up with next?
13.	Why does Danny decide to go with Ol' Jim?
14.	Why do you think Danny tells Ol' Jim his whole life story?

15.	Why does Ol' Jim leave tobacco on the rocks?
16.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next
	section?
_	



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- Henry's mother froze to death, most likely due to alcohol. Henry's father, Jim, stops drinking and changes his life so he can raise his son. What tragedies have happened in your community as a result of drug and alcohol abuse?
- Why was it so good for Danny to tell Grandfather about his life?
 How does talking about things actually help with healing?
- At the end of Chapter 8, everything seems to be going so well for Danny. How did you feel when you realized that Danny was going to run away again? What do you think would have happened if Danny had stayed and admitted he may have caused the fire?



Memegwesiwag People

At the end of Chapter 9, Ol' Jim shares his tobacco with some Memegwesiwag. Look on the Internet to find answers to the following questions about the Memegwesiwag. Another spelling is "Memegwesi."

Memegwesiwag help others	s?
ey disapprove of?	
	e Memegwesiwag help others

4.	What do the Cree and Ojibway hold the Memegwesiwag responsible for?
5.	Who in the Christian world can we equate with the Memegwesiwag?
6.	Is there anything like this in your culture?
7.	What differing opinions did you find on the Internet about the Memegwesiwag?



What's in a Name?

Danny is not necessarily surprised that grandfather's name is Ol' Jim. He remembers Jim saying, "the human being is shaped by the name he is given because personality and appearance is attached to a given name and that is how he or she will be treated and expected to behave."

Wh	nat does this mean to you?
rea par you	nat does your name mean? Were you given your name for a special son? Fill in the blanks below. If you don't know the answers ask your rents, grandparents, or other family members about your name and how a were named. Who named you?
2.	Were you named after someone? If so, who?
3.	Do you have any special nicknames?

a) What were you told? b) Do you have a special story about your name? c) If so what is it? Find out what your English name means. You can look up name meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male of female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your personality:	b) Do you have a special story about your name?	Ha	ve you ever been told the meaning of your name?
c) If so what is it? Find out what your English name means. You can look up name meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male of female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	c) If so what is it? Find out what your English name means. You can look up name meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male of female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	a)	What were you told?
Find out what your English name means. You can look up name meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male o female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	Find out what your English name means. You can look up name meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male of female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	b)	Do you have a special story about your name?
meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male o female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	meanings on the Internet. Name meaning: Go to http://www.kabalarians.com/ and get a brief analysis of your name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male of female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	c)	If so what is it?
name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male o female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	name. All you need to do is write your name down and select male o female. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your	me	anings on the Internet.
		nar fen	me. All you need to do is write your name down and select male of nale. Write down some of the points that you feel describe your



Character Match

So far we have met many different characters. Choose five of the following characters and describe each in a box below. Cut out each box and pass them to a neighbor to see if they can name the characters you describe.

\square Danny	\square Tom	Sarah	
\square Mrs. Old Indian	\square Mr. Old Indian	\square Henry	
\square Jim	\square Billy	☐ Ol′ Jim	
\square Angus Solligan	\square Danny's father		



Chapters 8 and 9 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

Part 1: Match the word to the meaning.

dubious	3	Lacking variety, doing the same thing over and over again.
laboured	5	2. The fact or state of continued being or life.
accusations	7	3. Doubtful, uncertain.
monotonous	1	4. Agitated, mixed, shaken, or stirred.
existence	2	5. Strained, requiring or showing effort.
ambushed	8	6. To call or bring to mind, to imagine a picture in your mind.
churned	4	7. A charge of wrongdoing against another person or party.
conjure	6	8. Attacked by surprise.

Part 2: Answer the following questions.

- 1. Which four words are verbs? laboured, ambushed, conjures, churned
- 2. Which two words are adjectives? dubious, monotonous,
- 3. Which two words are nouns? accusations, existence
- 4. What is the root word of monotonous? monotony
- 5. What is the root word of existence? *exist*

Part 3: Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- 1. As I ran faster, the *accusations* pounded in my brain with each footstep.
- 2. The cake picture looked delicious, but I was rather <u>dubious</u> as to how we were going to cook it.
- 3. I made no comment as the information sank in and my mind began to *conjure* up some possibilities.
- 4. The canoe sped forward, and I tried to match the *monotonous* dip and swirl sound of the water from his paddle.
- 5. His arms continually *churned* in an unbroken pattern as he paddled.
- 6. Now all we have left is to acknowledge their *existence* by leaving "ahsamah."
- 7. I didn't even get a chance to breathe and look around because we seemed to have been <u>ambushed</u> and surrounded by an army of warlike huge mosquitoes that had set out to suck all the blood out of us.
- 8. When I came in, Henry had the manual egg-beater going pretty fast at first, then it sort of *laboured* slowly.

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Chapter 8

- 1. How does Danny respond to going out in the canoe and spending the day on the lake? Danny enjoys every moment. He can't remember ever experiencing anything like it before. He seems to relish in the moment.
- 2. What happened when Danny put the pot of water on the fire? How did Henry react? The pot fell over and drenched the fire. Henry said "Why the heck did you do that?" But then he started to laugh and said, "Come on, no big deal!" Then Henry showed Danny how to put the pot of water on the fire so it wouldn't topple over.

- 3. What do they have for supper? They have trout, baked beans, potatoes, and for dessert they have chocolate cake.
- 4. What happens to the cake while it cooks? How does everyone react? The cake rises and overflows all over the stove and floor. Danny and Henry rush to clean it up and Jim and Billy shake with laughter.
- 5. What happens the next morning? *Billy comes to tell them that Little Foot killed a moose and everyone is going to get meat.*
- 6. How did Henry know that his dad and Billy were trying to trick him? What did he and Danny do? Henry realizes that something is strange as the tall grass ahead is not bent, he realizes that no one has gone that way. He and Danny head back down the path until they come to a log and sit down to wait for Billy and Jim to come out of their hiding spot.
- 7. What did Danny feel really proud about? Danny went and got water from the lake for everyone and passed it around. People commented on how thirsty they were and Danny was very proud of helping.
- 8. What happens when Danny and Henry goof around with the meat? Why should they not having been doing that? Shomis is an elder in the group and he glared at them for goofing around with the meat. When taking meat from an animal, you must be respectful and thankful at all times.
- 9. What happened to Henry's mother? Henry's mother froze to death two Christmases ago. She was at a party and then got lost on the way home and froze to death.
- 10. What do we find out about Danny's mother in this chapter? We find out that she was pregnant and lost the baby, and that Danny's father was having an affair. They had a big fight about who gets to keep Danny; in the end his mother packed her things and left.

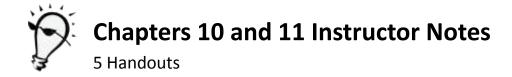
Chapter 9

- 11. Why does Danny run away? Danny runs away because he feels he is to blame for Billy's house burning down. He put some wood on the fire but couldn't get it going so he doused it with coal oil. When he left everything was fine. Danny was scared they would blame him and call the police.
- 12. Who does Danny meet up with next? Danny meets up with Ol' Jim, an elder going on a summer expedition to Whiteclay Lake.
- 13. Why does Danny decide to go with Ol' Jim? Danny has no other plans so he decides to go with Ol' Jim.
- 14. Why do you think Danny tells Ol' Jim his whole life story? Danny feels comfortable with Ol' Jim and thinks of him as a grandfather. Danny also realizes he has nothing to lose if he tells his whole story as they are in the bush and nothing can be done about it. Danny feels good about telling his story. It is a burden he has been carrying around with him for a long time.
- 15. Why does Ol' Jim leave tobacco on the rocks? Ol' Jim leaves tobacco for the Memegwesiwag who live in the rocks. Long ago the Ojibway used to be able to communicate with them, but they lost this ability over the years; it is still important to acknowledge their existence with tobacco.

Memegwesiwag People (Handout 4)

- 1. Who are the Memegwesiwag? The Memegwesiwag are the "little people" of the world of the Cree and Ojibway. To the elders, they are simply another kind of warm-hearted human, who came into the world before the Ojibway.
- 2. How do the Memegwesiwag help others? They exist in the real world and appear to chosen individuals (some people say children and medicine men). When they do, they'll do something nice for you or give you something you need. It is said they taught the Cree and Ojibway to make arrowheads and stone axes. They encourage people to be kind and look after one another.

- 3. What can the Memegwesiwag do? They can control the weather and change the direction of the wind.
- 4. What do they disapprove of? They disapprove of noise, raucous behaviour, drunkenness, and motorboats.
- 5. What do the Cree and Ojibway hold the Memegwesiwag responsible for? They are around all the time, even though you can't see them. They like to pull pranks and little jokes like pulling down a sheet from the laundry line or making off with some small object that has disappeared. It is their way of saying "We are around, don't forget about us."
- 6. What are Memegwesiwag similar to in the Christian world? Angels
- 7. Is there anything like this in your culture? *Answers will vary*.
- 8. What differing opinions about the Memegwesiwag did you find on the Internet? Some websites state that the Memegwesiwag are trouble makers and can blow canoes astray or steal things when humans do not show the proper respect.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

quivered bewhiskered tottered

cascading scaffolds whir

Learners look at the words in each sentence and then look up each word in the dictionary. They write down the correct definition, identify the part of speech in terms of its use in the sentence (noun, verb, adjective, etc.), and then write a sentence that shows the meaning of the word.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- On Page 117, Ol' Jim tells a story about an old dog and its abusive master. Reread this story. What do you think Ol' Jim is trying to tell Danny?
- What new things does Danny learn about living in the bush? Make a list and share it with others.
- On Page 118, Ol' Jim tells another story about the Magic Rock. Do you have any similar stories in your culture? Or any stories about travelling on the land?

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 10 and 11. Some discussion topics are:

- Who do you think Ol' Jim talks to all the time?
- Why do you think that some Aboriginal tribes buried their dead in the "scaffolds" fashion or what some people call tree burials? The most obvious reason is that they wanted to protect the deceased from wolves and other wild predators. Some tribes also believed that after death, souls of the dead lingered in the air and watched over the tribe until it was time for their soul to move on to the afterlife. They believed the "scaffolds" made the soul leave the body more quickly.
- In these two chapters, Danny and Ol' Jim really laugh. They laugh so hard they have tears in their eyes and dance around. It seems that they are freer to laugh when they travel on the land. Do you think this is true? Do find yourself more light hearted when you are camping or out on the land?

Activity 5—Timeline

Learners work in pairs and create a timeline of Danny's adventures so far. Tell them to mark on the timeline each place he stops and for how long they think he was there. Tell learners that they will add to the timeline as they go, so to make it long enough for the whole book.

Activity 6—Personification (Handout 4)

The author uses many different literary devices to make her writing more interesting and readable. In this activity learners explore personification.

Personification is when you give the qualities of a person to something that isn't human or, in some cases, to something that isn't even alive. There are many reasons to use personification; writers commonly use it as a literary tool.

Go over the examples of personification on the handout with learners. Ask learners if they have any examples from their everyday lives. For example: The northern lights danced in the sky.

Review Handout 4 with learners and then ask them to complete it. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.

Activity 7—Similes (Handout 5)

Similes are another literary tool that authors use to make their writing more interesting and readable. Similes use 'like' or 'as' to compare two things. We use similes in our everyday lives. Go over the examples on the handout and ask learners if they have similes that they use often. Make a list on the board.

Go over Handout 5 with learners and then ask them to complete it. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.



Vocabulary

		v o cabalai y	
	quivered	bewhiskered	tottered
	cascading	scaffolds	whir
the [de:	word up in the dicting the manner of specifical with the manner of specifical world with the manner of the manner	n each sentence. Write do conary and write down the beech the word has in the entence that shows the m	sentence (noun, verb,
1.	With a thud, the er quivered, then lay	d of his paddle hit the fisstill.	sh behind the head. It
	Your definition:		
	Dictionary definition	on:	
	Part of speech:		
	Sentence:		

2.	I grinned as he made a bewhiskered face at me.
	Your definition:
	Dictionary definition:
	Part of speech:
	Sentence:
3.	As the old man tottered over the mud and rocks toward us, he coughed from deep in his chest "woof!" and once again "woof!"
	Your definition:
	Dictionary definition:
	Part of speech:
	Sentence:
4.	I could hear the sand and rocks cascading down the bank behind me and hitting the river in a spray of water.
	Your definition:
	Dictionary definition:

Sentence:
Halfway there, he pointed to an island where he said the strange people had buried their dead in the "scaffolds" fashion long ago.
Your definition:
Dictionary definition:
Part of speech:
Sentence:
I was totally surprised by the constant whir of the wings.
Your definition:
Dictionary definition:
Part of speech:
Sentence:



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 10 and 11 in sentence form.

Chapter 10

1.	Ol' Jim talks a lot to himself. What does Danny attribute this to?
2.	What does Danny think he heard on the portage? What was it really?
3.	How does Ol' Jim react to Danny running out and screaming "bear"?

9.	What does Ol' Jim use to get rid of mosquitoes?			
Chá	apter 11			
10.	What does Ol' Jim do with the rabbit skin?			
	, 			
11.	What does Danny see in the woods? How does he react?			
12.	What does Ol' Jim put on Danny's neck to help him with his mosquito bites?			

13.	What do you think Ol' Jim means when he says "He probably knows you from somewhere and waited to see if you knew. You obviously did not." How does Danny react?
14.	What does Ol' Jim notice on Danny's head?
15.	At first, who does Ol' Jim think gave him the scars?
16.	What does it mean to bury your dead in the "scaffolds" fashion?
17.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- On Page 117, Ol' Jim tells a story about an old dog and its abusive master. Reread this story. What do you think Ol' Jim is trying to tell Danny?
- What new things does Danny learn about living in the bush? Make a list and share it with others.
- On Page 118, Ol' Jim tells another story about the Magic Rock. Do you have any similar stories in your culture? Or any stories about travelling on the land?



Personification

Everyone knows what a person is, but do you know what personification is? Personification is when you give the qualities of a person to something that isn't human or, in some cases, to something that isn't even alive. There are many reasons to use personification; writers commonly use it as a literary tool; for example to emphasize a point or to describe something so others can understand. You may use personification in your everyday speech and not even realize it!

For example: The fire is really roaring.

My computer hates me.

The camera loves you.

The sun greeted me this morning.

Time never waits for anyone.

Part 1: Read the examples of personification. Underline the idea, object, or animal that is personified. Circle what they do that makes it an example of personification.

- 1. The run down <u>house</u> appears depressed.
- 2. She did not realize that opportunity was knocking at her door.

3.	The wind howled its mighty objection.
4.	Time flew; before we knew it, it was time to go home.
5.	The sad waters of the icy wasteland streamed through the barren landscape.
6.	My computer throws a fit every time I try to use it.
7.	The sun glared down at me from the sky.
8.	The moon winked at me through the clouds.
9.	The ancient truck groaned into third gear.
10.	The winter storm sang throughout the night.
	t 2: Slipperjack uses personification throughout <i>Silent Words</i> . Find some mples in Chapter 10.
1.	Page 100:

2.	Page 102:	
3.	Page 110:	
4.	Page 112:	
	C	
tha	•	ion, you choose an object, then choose a verb chought, and then make a sentence.
	Object: snow	Verb: swaddled
	The snow swaddled	I the earth like a mother would her infant child.
	Object: stars	Verb: danced
	The stars danced pl	ayfully in the moonlit sky.
	Object: waffle	Verb: jumped
	The waffle jumped	up out of the toaster.

D	• •	. 1	C 11	
Person	1ty	the	tol	lowing:

Here are some verbs to help you: takes, hopes, remembers, listens to, tells, feels likes, brings, dances, looks forward to, reminds, looks for, teaches, shows, helps, whistles, moans, winks, glares, sleeps, sings, smiles, trips, jumps

Subject: tree	Verb:	_
Subject: wind	Verb:	_
Subject: river	Verb:	_



Similes⁴

Similes use 'like' or 'as' to compare two things. For example, if I want to say that somebody swims well, I can say they swim like a fish because fish swim well. There are two basic patterns that you can use.

Here are some examples:

like	verb + like + noun
	She swims like a fish.
Examples	He looks like an ogre.
	He walks like a duck.
	She acts like a fool.
	He smokes like a chimney.

as	as + adjective + as + noun
	He is as tall as a giant.
Examples	She is as fast as a rocket.
	He is as graceful as a swan.
	She is as sneaky as a fox.
	He is as quiet as a mouse.

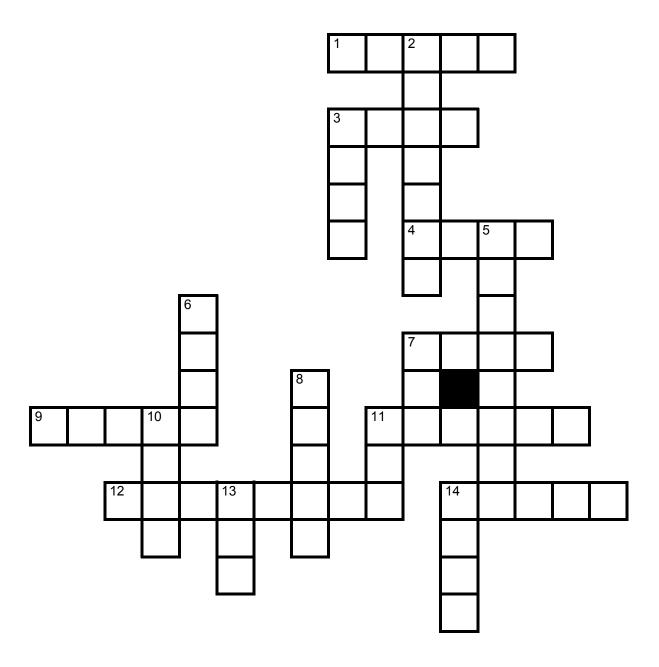
⁴ Adapted from www.bogglesworldesl.com

Part 1: Make up your own similes using the ideas below using either "like" or "as."

L.	How could I say that somebody:
	runs fast
	is pretty
	jumps well
	is strong
	is hot
	is happy

How could I say that something:
is hard
feels soft
is sweet
feels rough
is heavy
sounds noisy
is light

Part 2: Fill in the Simile Crossword using the hints on the next page.



Across			
	1. As as a feather.		
	3. Fly like a		
	4. Swim like a		
	7. Cry like a		
	9. As as a bunny.		
	11. As as an ox.		
	12. As as an eel.		
	14. As slow as a		
Down			
	2. As tall as a		
	3. As as a bee.		
	5. As as a mule.		
	6. Waddle means to walk like a		
	7. As blind as a		
	8. As as a mouse.		
	10. As as ice.		
	11. As as a fox.		
	13. Eat like a		

14. As white as _____.

Part 3: Slipperjack uses many similes throughout *Silent Words*.

An example of a simile from the book is:

"I roared like a wild creature and did a wild dance around the moss and ants, gasping for air, leaning over and slapping my legs." Page 107

Find four examples of similes in Chapter 11.

1.	Page 113:			

2.	Page 115:	
	· ·	

3.	Page 117: _		
	0 -		



Chapters 10 and 11 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

1. With a thud, the end of his paddle hit the fish behind the head. It **quivered**, then lay still.

Your definition: answers will vary

Dictionary definition: to shake with a slight, rapid movement

Part of speech: verb

Sentence: answers will vary

2. I grinned as he made a **bewhiskered** face at me.

Your definition: answers will vary

Dictionary definition: having hair or whiskers growing on the face

Part of speech: adjective

Sentence: answers will vary

3. As the old man **tottered** over the mud and rocks toward us, he coughed from deep in his chest "woof!" and once again "woof!"

Your definition: answers will vary

Dictionary definition: to move in a feeble or unsteady way

Part of speech: verb

Sentence: answers will vary

4. I could hear the sand and rocks **cascading** down the bank behind me and hitting the river in a spray of water.

Your definition: answers will vary

Dictionary definition: to fall or cause to fall

Part of speech: verb

Sentence: answers will vary

5. Halfway there, he pointed to an island where he said the strange people had buried their dead in the "scaffolds" fashion long ago.

Your definition: answers will vary

Dictionary definition: a raised framework or platform

Part of speech: adjective in the above sentence, but usually a noun

Sentence: answers will vary

6. I was totally surprised by the constant **whir** of the wings.

Your definition: answers will vary

Dictionary definition: to move so as to produce a vibrating or buzzing sound

Part of speech: verb

Sentence: answers will vary

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Chapter 10

- 1. Ol' Jim talks a lot to himself. What does Danny attribute this to? Danny figures that Jim talks to himself about all the things that he saw in the past at each point, bay, and portage.
- 2. What does Danny think he heard on the portage? What was it really? Danny thinks he heard a bear as he heard a "woof" sound. It is actually the cough of an old man. He is walking the portage from the other direction.
- 3. How does Ol' Jim react to Danny running out screaming "bear"? He laughs so hard that he has tears coming down his eyes. He jumps up and starts jumping and hopping around with laugher.

- 4. Why is the big man taking his father on one last canoe trip? *The old man would not get on an aeroplane so his son decided to take him home by canoe.*
- 5. What feelings does Danny hear in the big man's words when he talks of his father? He hears so much love in the big man's voice when he talks of his father.
- 6. What happens when Danny throws the rocks in the bush? He hits Ol' Jim by mistake as Ol' Jim has a pee in the bush. Danny finds this extremely funny and teases Ol' Jim. Danny roars like a creature and does a weird dance around the moss and ants, gasping for air and slapping his leg. He has an uncontrollable laughing fit.
- 7. What does Danny find out when he opens the food box? Danny finds out they have not much food. He is shocked to discover they have only flour, oats, tea, sugar, lard, and baking powder. He is concerned they will starve to death.
- 8. What does Ol' Jim make for lunch? He makes porridge, bannock, and tea.
- 9. What does Ol' Jim use to get rid of mosquitoes? *He burns moss in the tent*.

Chapter 11

- 10. What does Ol' Jim do with the rabbit skin? He stuffs the rabbit skin with moss and hangs it over the tent pole to dry. When it dries he pulls out the moss and uses the skin for something.
- 11. What does Danny see on his walk in the woods? How does he react? Danny sees a wolf and a wolf pup. Danny couldn't move and he had a stare down with the wolf. He finally backed away and then ran all the way back to the camp site.
- 12. What does Ol' Jim put on Danny's neck to help him with his mosquito bites? *He uses tree bark, tobacco, and water. He simmers the mixture and then spreads it over Danny's bites.*

- 13. What do you think Ol' Jim means when he says "He probably knows you from somewhere and waited to see if you knew. You obviously did not." How does Danny react? Jim means that it might be Danny's dead ancestor or a spirit that knew Danny. Danny is very uncomfortable with Ol' Jim's comment and says that it is the first time that he has seen that "ugly thing."
- 14. What does Ol' Jim notice on Danny's head? He notices at least five scars on Danny's head.
- 15. At first, who does Ol' Jim think gave Danny the scars? *He thinks that Danny's father maybe gave him the scars*.
- 16. What does it mean to bury your dead in the "scaffolds" fashion? Traditionally many Aboriginal and First Nations groups buried their dead in trees on raised wooden platforms called scaffolds.

Personification (Handout 4)

Part 1: Read the examples of personification. Underline the idea, object, or animal that is personified. Circle what they do that makes it an example of personification.

- 1. The run down house appears depressed.
- 2. She did not realize that opportunity was knocking at her door.
- 3. The wind howled its mighty objection.
- 4. <u>Time</u> flew; before we knew it, it was time to go home.

- 5. The sad <u>waters</u> of the icy wasteland streamed through the barren landscape.
- 6. My <u>computer</u> throws a fit every time I try to use it.
- 7. The <u>sun</u> glared down at me from the sky.
- 8. The moon winked at me through the clouds.
- 9. The ancient truck groaned into third gear.
- 10. The winter storm (sang) throughout the night.

Part 2: Slipperjack uses personification throughout *Silent Words*. Find some examples in Chapter 10. Underline the subject and circle the human action or thought.

- 1. Page 100: Steam hung in the humid air and flies danced over the mud.
- 2. Page 102: I engaged in a tug of wor with the <u>mud</u>, trying to get my shoe back while Ol' Jim was busy firing the bags and sacks into a clump of tall grass.
- 3. Page 110: The <u>evening</u> was quite calm now and, almost whispering in the stillness, we paddled away to a channel between the islands.

4. Page 112: I smiled to myself and listened to the gentle crackling of the fire, the <u>seagulls</u> having a big argument, the <u>laughing mallard ducks</u> having a party at the bay, and the occasional fish taking a breath of fresh air above the water.

Part 3: *Answers will vary.*

Similes (Handout 5)

Part 1: *Answers will vary*

Part 2: Fill in the Simile Crossword

Across	Down
1. As <i>light as</i> a feather	2. As tall as a <i>giraffe</i>
3. Fly like a <i>bird</i>	3. As busy as a bee
4. Swim like a <i>fish</i>	5. As <i>stubborn</i> _as a mule
7. Cry like a baby	6. Waddle means to walk like a <i>duck</i>
9. As <i>quick_</i> as a bunny	7. As blind as a bat
11. As strong as an ox	8. As quiet as a mouse
12. As <i>slippery</i> _as an eel	10. As <i>cold</i> as ice
14. As slow as a snail	11. As <i>sly</i> as a fox
	13. Eat like a <i>pig</i>
	14. As white as <i>snow</i>

Part 3: Slipperjack uses many similes throughout *Silent Words*.

Find three examples of similes in Chapter 11.

1. Page 113: A fly came zooming by outside the tent in full speed like a miniature aeroplane, a mosquito was bouncing along the tent wall

- sounding like a little drill, and a bird was singing like there was no tomorrow.
- 2. Page 115: *My legs felt like rubber*, and shaking at the knees, I threw more water over my neck.
- 3. Page 117: I felt like I turned to ice, I couldn't move.
- 4. Page 119: I looked down to see <u>long green weeds, like hair, flowing and waving</u> under the water.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

accumulating complementary emerged

scrumptious diligently maniac

Learners answer the questions about the vocabulary words. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- There are a lot of lessons in these two chapters. For example, Ol' Jim teaches Danny to be patient and live in the present moment. He tells him not to rush so much but to look at things around him. What other lessons does Danny learn in these two chapters?
- At one point Danny says, "I turned and retraced my steps, relishing this new feeling of being alive, well, and happy." Why do you think Danny feels so happy? Can you relate to this? Have you experienced this kind of feeling when camping or out on the land?
- Write about an interesting camping or on-the-land experience you have had. Describe your most amazing experience or worst trip you have had.

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 12 and 13. Some discussion topics are:

- Ol' Jim is very patient with and accepting of Danny. Talk about how Ol' Jim teaches Danny new things. Think about how Ol' Jim teaches Danny to set a snare, how he agrees to set a snare for a duck, how he never scolds Danny for doing wrong things. Is this a traditional way of teaching?
- Ol' Jim says, "It is important to remember exactly what is said so that you in turn, when you are an old man, can tell it to a little person like you." What does Ol' Jim mean by this? How is this important in First Nations, Metis or Inuit culture?
- Which themes does the author emphasize so far in the novel? What do you think she is trying to get across to the reader? How do the events in the book reveal the author's world view?

Activity 5—Traditional Skills and Life Lessons

Danny is learning the way of his people through this journey. He has not had the opportunity to learn about his culture and a traditional way of life before this. What things does Danny learn on this trip? Make a list on the board and then group them into skills and life lessons. For example, Danny learns to spread out pine branches in the tent to sleep on. This is a skill. He learns how to listen to the white-throated sparrow to see if the day will be beautiful or rainy. Is this a life lesson or a skill?

Activity 6—Emotions (Handout 4)

Ask learners to think of the different emotions they feel as they read this book. Make a list on the board. Tell learners that good writers make us feel things: happy, sad, frustrated, angry, and so forth. Ask them to fill in the handout and say what made them feel the emotions listed there.

Activity 7—Character Map (Handout 5)

Danny's character changes as the novel progresses. Ask learners to make two character maps of Danny—one from the beginning of the novel and one now. After they do this, ask these questions:

- How has Danny's character changed from the beginning of the novel to now?
- Why do you think he changed?

Activity 8 - Bannock

Ask learners: What is your favourite way to eat bannock? Ask them to bring in their recipes for baking and cooking bannock over the fire. Compare recipes. Make some bannock if you can.



Vocabulary

	accumulating	complementary	emerged	
	scrumptious	diligently	maniac	
Part	1: Fill in the blanks with	the correct word usi	ing the above list.	
1.	A loon was whooping arby the bay.	nd laughing like a		
2.	We	in the cleari	ng behind the tent.	
3.	I saw many black flecks top of the mud.	of ash		on
4.	After thetea, I checked out the sw partridge.		-	hot

I ______ searched ahead for any more rocks

and was quite aware of every movement behind me.

6.	Not very	on other things like
	rabbit or partridge, but it is sur	
Part	2: Fill in each blank with a diffe	erent word that makes sense.
1.	A loon was whooping and laughy the bay.	ghing like a
2.	We	in the clearing behind the tent.
3.	I saw many black flecks of ash top of the mud.	on
4.		breakfast and a cup of hot tea, e right of us and discovered a partridge.
5.	I and was quite aware of every i	searched ahead for any more rocks novement behind me.
6.	Not very partridge, but it is sure good o	on other things like rabbit or n fish.

Part 3: Write a sentence for each vocabulary word.

1.	accumulating:
2.	complementary:
3.	emerged:
4.	scrumptious:
5.	diligently:
6.	maniac:



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 12 and 13 in sentence form.

Chapter 12

1.	At the beginning of Chapter 12, why does Ol' Jim just about tip over the canoe?
2.	Where does Danny put the jackfish? What happens and how does Ol' Jim respond?
3.	What happens to Danny's socks?

4.	What is Danny trying to block from his mind when he realizes that Ol Jim is out in the canoe in bad weather?
5.	What happens to Ol' Jim's fish net?
6.	What time of year is it? How do you know?
7.	Why doesn't Ol' Jim just tell Danny that his snare is too high? Instead he says, "That's kind of a hard decision to ask a rabbit to make. To stretch or duck under. I think I would decide to duck under if I was a rabbit."

Chapter 13

3.	What does it mean if the white-throated sparrow finishes its song?
9.	As Danny looks at the beautiful landscape, he feels sad. Why do you think he is sad?
10.	What two traditional medicines did we learn about so far? Do you know of any traditional medicines from your culture?
11.	Ol' Jim seems to have a very good sense of humour. What instances tell us this?

12.	When Danny asks to spend the night on the island with the sandy beaches, why do you think Ol' Jim agrees?
13.	What does Ol' Jim do when Danny whistles at the loon? Why?
14.	Who do they meet on the island?
15.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

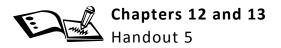
- There are a lot of lessons in these two chapters. For example, Ol' Jim teaches Danny to be patient and live in the present moment. He tells him not to rush so much but to look at things around him. What other lessons does Danny learn in these two chapters?
- At one point Danny says, "I turned and retraced my steps, relishing this new feeling of being alive, well, and happy." Why do you think Danny feels so happy? Can you relate to this? Have you experienced this kind of feeling when camping or out on the land?
- Write about an interesting camping or on-the-land experience you have had. Describe your most amazing experience or worst trip you have had.



Emotions

Which events in the story make you feel these emotions?
Fear:
Disgust:
Sadness:
Pity:
Joy:
Hopelessness:

Anger:	
Frustration:	
Hope:	
Worry:	



Character Map of Danny

What is Danny's character like at the beginning of the novel? Fill in the character map below:

What does Danny say and do?		What do others think about Danny?
	Danny Chapter 1	
How does Danny look and feel?		How do I feel about Danny?

What is Danny's character like now? Fill in the character map below:

What does Danny say and do?		What do others think about Danny?
	Danny Chapter 12-13	
How does Danny look and feel?		How do I feel about Danny?



Chapters 12 and 13 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

Part 1: Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the above list.

- 1. A loon was whooping and laughing like a maniac by the bay.
- 2. We *emerged* in the clearing behind the tent.
- 3. I saw many black flecks of ash *accumulating* on top of the mud.
- 4. After the *scrumptious* breakfast and a cup of hot tea, I checked out the swamp to the right of us and discovered a partridge.
- 5. I *diligently* searched ahead for any more rocks and was quite aware of every movement behind me.
- 6. Not very *complementary* on other things like rabbit or partridge, but it is sure good on fish.

Part 2: Fill in each blank with a different word that makes sense. *Answers will vary.*

- 1. A loon was whooping and laughing like a *fanatic* by the bay.
- 2. We *appeared* in the clearing behind the tent.
- 3. I saw many black flecks of ash *gather* on top of the mud.
- 4. After the *delicious* breakfast and a cup of hot tea, I checked out the swamp to the right of us and discovered a partridge.
- 5. I *attentively* searched ahead for any more rocks and was quite aware of every movement behind me.
- 6. Not very *tasty* on other things like rabbit or partridge, but it is sure good on fish.

Part 3: Write a sentence for each vocabulary word. Answers will vary.

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Chapter 12

- 1. At the beginning of Chapter 12, why did Ol' Jim just about tip over the canoe? Danny pulled the canoe too far up on the rock and it was unsteady.
- 2. Where does Danny put the jackfish? What happens and how does Ol' Jim respond? Danny doesn't know where to put the jackfish so he throws it into the food box. All the food in the food box ends up smelling like fish. Ol' Jim is very patient with Danny and never scolds him. He just plainly states that everything will smell like fish from now on.
- 3. What happens to Danny's socks? Danny's socks are wet so he hangs them on two sticks over the fire to dry. Ol' Jim knocks them in the fire by mistake.
- 4. What is Danny trying to block from his mind when he realizes that Ol' Jim is out in the canoe in bad weather? Danny was worried that if anything ever happened to Ol' Jim he would be lost in the woods and have no way of knowing where to go or how to get to safety.
- 5. What happened to Ol' Jim's fish net? In the middle of the night a moose swims through the net. Ol' Jim tracks the net down on the shore; it was ripped to shreds.
- 6. What time of year is it? How do you know? It is probably mid- to late-August. Danny talks about some of the leaves turning yellow although most are still green.
- 7. Why doesn't Ol' Jim just say to Danny that his snare is too high? Instead he says, "That's kind of a hard decision to ask a rabbit to make. To stretch or duck under. I think I would decide to duck under if I was a rabbit." Ol' Jim wants Danny to learn why the snare is too high and see it from the rabbit's point of view. He wants Danny to figure things out on his own.

Chapter 13

- 8. What does it mean if the white-throated sparrow finishes its song? *This is a sign that it will be a beautiful day.*
- 9. As Danny looks at the beautiful landscape, he feels sad. Why do you think he is sad? Danny is sad because he doesn't want to leave this place of beauty and go back to reality. Danny's reality is that his home life is very abusive and he really doesn't have any place to go. He seems to feel content and complete living in the wilderness with Ol' Jim. (Answers will vary)
- 10. What are two traditional medicines that we have learned about so far? Do you know of any traditional medicines from your culture? We learned how birch bark and tobacco leaves help with mosquito bites, and how moss helps babies stay free of diaper rash.
- 11.Ol' Jim seems to have a very good sense of humour. What instances tell us this? Ol' Jim not only laughs at Danny but laughs at himself. When he refers to the bears being hungry this year he says, "They must think we are some kind of tourist or something." This is a very funny response to having a bear in your camp.
- 12. When Danny asks to spend the night on the island with the sandy beaches, why do you think Ol' Jim agrees? Ol' Jim sees how important it is for Danny, and he may realize that Danny has not experienced much happiness in his life. For Danny this place is like paradise and Ol' Jim wants to share this part of their culture with him. (Answers will vary)
- 13. What does Ol' Jim do when Danny whistles at the loon? Why? How does Danny respond? Ol' Jim looks stern and then shakes his head at Danny. He does this because we should respect nature and watch quietly while it unfolds before us. It is really one of the first times that Ol' Jim scolds Danny. Danny vows never to whistle again.

14. Who do they meet on the island? They meet an old man who lives out there full time.

Emotions (Handout 4)

Answers will vary.

Character Map of Danny (Handout 5)

Beginning of Novel

What does Danny say and do? Danny seems frightened of many things. He does not trust people and lies often in order to get by.

What do others think of Danny? To his stepmother he is a bratty kid always getting into trouble; to his father he is a trouble-maker; to his friend he is an abused and lonely kid; to the bullies in town he is someone to be picked on.

How does Danny look and feel? Danny is lonely, scared and skinny. He doesn't feel good about his life and living situation and wants his mother. He is desperate for attention and love in his life.

How do I feel about Danny? Answers will vary.

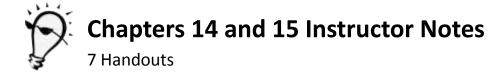
By Chapter 13

What does Danny say and do? Danny listens and respects Ol' Jim. He speaks his mind more often and works hard. Danny sees that there is another way to live.

What do others think of Danny? Billy, Henry, Jim and Ol' Jim genuinely like Danny. They think he is funny and a hard worker. Ol' Jim is amused by Danny and wants the best for him.

How does Danny look and feel? *Danny is feeling much better about himself.*He is learning some traditional values and skills. He is laughing and does not fear the people around him. He is much healthier with a rich diet of traditional foods.

How do I feel about Danny? Answers will vary.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

agile agony mirage peculiar majestic

eerie obnoxious concoction exhilarated

Learners choose the correct definition. They write a paragraph and use six vocabulary words in it. Use the answer key to discuss the answers.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- "I smiled and glanced at the tent and Ol' Jim nodded. That told me I should get busy taking the stuff down to the lake." How do you think this relates to the novel's name "Silent Words"?
- "There are no words to describe the beauty of this place." Write about a place that is beautiful to you. Describe where it is, what it looks like, and why it is important to you.
- Ol' Jim says to Danny, when Danny gets worried about what will happen next, "Enjoy what you see around you now. Things will work out." What does this mean to you? Is this an easy thing to do?

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 14 and 15. Some discussion topics are:

- Ol' Jim's son seems to be a miserable and unfriendly person. It seems odd that this man is Ol' Jim's son. Ol' Jim is such a good teacher for Danny: patient, kind, and tolerant. And yet his son is just the opposite. Why do you think this is? What do you think happened when Ol' Jim was raising his son?
- How does Danny get into so much mischief at "Hogs" cabin? How does Ol' Jim protect him?
- Danny says to Ol' Jim, "Why do people say 'the lonely call of a loon,'
 or 'the eerie hoot of an owl' when I have never heard these things by
 themselves." What is Jim's response to this? What does it mean?

Activity 5—Traditional Use of Tobacco (Handout 4)

Ol' Jim uses tobacco throughout their journey to thank the spirit world. Ask learners to review Chapters 9 to 15 and write down all the times that Ol' Jim and Danny use tobacco. Next, ask learners if their culture uses tobacco for thanks and offerings. Lastly, ask learners to research traditional use of tobacco online. Ask them to list examples of how different First Nation groups use tobacco.

Activity 6—Metaphors (Handouts 5 and 6)

Ruby Slipperjack uses different literary devices to make her writing more interesting such as similes, personification, and metaphors. Learners reviewed similes and personification in Chapters 10 and 11 activities. In this activity they learn about metaphors.

Before learners come in, write on the board "Love is
Ask learners to write as many answers a
possible in five minutes. Ask them to share their answers. Ask if they
notice any similarities. If no one mentions it, explain that these are
metaphors.

Review the definition:

The metaphor is the first cousin to the simile. Like the simile, it compares two objects, but it does not use like or as.

Give learners Handout 5 on Love is... and review it together. Handout 6 describes metaphors and gives learners several activities to do. The last activity has examples from the novel. Learners decide if each sentence is a metaphor or simile, and then explain what each means.

Activity 7—Expository Paragraph (Handout 7)

Learners write an expository paragraph on how to react to an aggressive bear. Go over the handout. It explains what an expository paragraph is and outlines how to write one. Learners probably need to research bear attacks.

- How do you protect yourself from a bear attack?
- You often hear that you should play dead to deal with a bear attack. Can you think of occasions when this method might not work?
- Are certain species of bears more likely to attack and hurt you than others? Explain.



Vocabulary

agile agony mirage peculiar majestic eerie obnoxious concoction exhilarated

Part 1: In each sentence, choose the definition that fits the **bold** word best.

- 1. That was the most slippery, **agile** critter in the world!
 - a) Quick and well coordinated
 - b) Quick thinking; mentally acute
 - c) Slow, awkward
- 2. In **agony**, I held onto the duck's neck as I raced to the water.
 - a) Pleasure, ease, and comfort
 - b) Intense physical or mental pain
 - c) A sudden or intense emotion
- 3. "It's called a **mirage**. With the mist in the air and the sun coming up on the horizon, it creates a reflection."
 - a) A hallucination
 - b) An unrealistic hope or wish

- c) A natural event where light rays bend to produce a displaced image of distant objects or the sky
- 4. I was not too sure as I glanced at the **peculiar** creature lying at the bottom of the canoe.
 - a) Common, ordinary
 - b) Belonging to some person, group, or thing
 - c) Strange, queer, odd
- 5. We were passing by some **majestic** sand cliffs.
 - a) Very grand, magnificent, impressive
 - b) Shabby, run down, and not very worthwhile
 - c) Very high up and old
- 6. It sounded **eerie**, and I could feel the hair on the back of my neck stand up.
 - a) Creepy, frightening, mysterious
 - b) Funny or silly
 - c) Natural, regular, ordinary
- 7. I listened to the **obnoxious** creature as it forced every other creature within hearing distance to stay awake and listen to it.
 - a) Agreeable, delightful, kind, likeable
 - b) Dark, shady, sad
 - c) Annoying, horrible, objectionable, offensive

- 8. As I watched hungrily, the man dished out one huge ladle after another of a macaroni and meat **concoction** until I thought there would be none left for Ol' Jim or me.
 - a) Offering, reward, gift
 - b) A mixture
 - c) Creation, invention
- 9. I pulled off my clothes and ran, totally **exhilarated**, into the cool water.
 - a) Excited, thrilled, invigorated
 - b) Sad, deflated, unhappy, despairing
 - c) Unprepared, unplanned

Part 2: On a separate piece of paper, write a short paragraph using at least six vocabulary words.

agile agony mirage peculiar majestic eerie obnoxious concoction exhilarated



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 14 and 15 in sentence form.

Chapter 14

How does Danny feel when he realizes that they are about to reactheir destination?	Why does Ol' Jim burst out laughing when Danny comes back to camp with the duck?
	How does Danny feel when he realizes that they are about to reach their destination?
Danny notices a cloud of flies on the water. What is it?	

Why do moose go under water?
When Danny and Ol' Jim get near to Ol' Jim's son's cabin, what does Danny notice?
What is Danny's first impression of Ol' Jim's son? Who does he remind him of?
Why does Danny call Ol' Jim's son "Hog?"

Chapter 15

8.	What happens the first time that Ol' Jim decides to take Danny for an overnight trip?
9.	What does Ol' Jim say about the ghosts of ancient people at the sand cliff?
10.	How does Danny react to this information? How does Ol' Jim respond?
11.	What happens to make Danny leave in such a a hurry?

12.	Where does Danny go on the plane and who does he bump into?
13.	What does Danny find out about Billy's cabin?
14.	Does Danny learn a lesson about running away when he has problem?
15.	What happens at the end of Chapter 15?
16.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- "I smiled and glanced at the tent and Ol' Jim nodded. That told me I should get busy taking the stuff down to the lake." How do you think this relates to the novel's name "Silent Words"?
- "There are no words to describe the beauty of this place." Write about a place that is beautiful to you. Describe where it is, what it looks like, and why it is important to you.
- Ol' Jim says to Danny, when Danny gets worried about what will happen next, "Enjoy what you see around you now. Things will work out." What does this mean to you? Is this an easy thing to do?



Traditional Use of Tobacco

Tobacco plays a very important role in First Nations culture and spirituality. Along with sage, cedar, and sweetgrass, people see tobacco as a sacred medicine.

Dop	people in yo	our culture	use tobac	co? If so, h	iow?	
	at are some traditional	=	First Natio	ons groups	and Abor	iginal peo
	-					



Love is...

- "Love is a battlefield"—Pat Benatar, "Love is a Battlefield"
- "Love is a rose" Neil Young, "Love Is a Rose"
- "Love, it is a river" Amanda McBroom, "The Rose"
- "Love is a banana peel" Ben Weisman and Fred Wise, "I Slipped, I Stumbled, I Fell" (sung by Elvis Presley)
- "Oh, love is a journey with water and stars"—Pablo Neruda, Sonnet 12
- "[Love] is an ever-fixed mark / That looks on tempests and is never shaken" — William Shakespeare, Sonnet 116
- "Love is a truck. Love is a wall"—Connie Kaldor, "Love Is a Truck"
- "Love's a loaded gun"—Alice Cooper, "Love's a Loaded Gun"
- "Love is a losing game" Amy Winehouse, "Love Is a Losing Game"
- "Love is the drug" Roxy Music, "Love Is the Drug"
- "Love is a song that never ends"—"Love is a Song" from *Bambi*
- "Love is a fruit, in season at all times and within the reach of every hand. Anyone may gather it and no limit is set."—Mother Teresa, No Greater Love



Metaphors

What is a metaphor? Do you ever say to your children "You are an angel" or "You are a rascal"? These are metaphors. Metaphors state that one object is the same as another, unrelated object. A metaphor states that these two things have some common ground.

Another good example is "Tom is a bum." Tom is not really a bum, but perhaps what the speaker means is that Tom is lazy or avoids work. The literal interpretation of what the speaker actually said is, "Tom and a bum are both lazy."

Part 1: Finish the statement, and/or explain what each one means.

For example: **My husband is a big teddy bear.** This means that my husband is gentle and kind.

1.	My daughter is
	Meaning:
2.	She's a sitting duck.
	Meaning:
3.	My son is
	Meaning:

4.	This homework is a breeze.
	Meaning:
5.	You are such a
	Meaning:
6.	This day is a nightmare.
	Meaning:
com not	t 2: Metaphor and simile are first cousins. Like the simile, a metaphor apares two objects, but a metaphor compares them directly and does use 'like' or 'as'. Identify each statement below as a metaphor or simile, explain the meaning. ⁵
	Simile: Her cheeks are like polished apples.
	Metaphor: Her cheeks are polished apples.
1.	Her hair is golden silk streaming in the afternoon breeze.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:

 $^{^5\,}http://suite 101.com/article/similes-and-metaphors-lesson-a 46733$

2.	The algebra question is a sharp object jiggling around in my brain.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
3.	Jordan runs like the wind.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
4.	Jan's broken nose looks like a big red balloon.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
5.	Tim is as strong as a mighty gust of wind.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
6.	Carrying my backpack is like dragging around a bag of boulders.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:

7.	Jordan's reply burns hot and crispy.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
8.	Michael is the grizzly bear of his class.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
	t 3: Identify each sentence below from the novel as a simile or aphor, and explain the meaning.
1.	Legs as rubber, shaking at the knees, I threw more water over my head.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
2.	Those weren't ordinary mosquitoes out there, they were ancient blood-sucking birds of the worst kind!
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:

3.	I decided that the man was indeed a hog.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
4.	The fresh air hit me like a breath of life.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:
5.	The storm clouds like huge mountains looming over the tree tops race towards us.
	Simile or Metaphor
	Meaning:



Expository Paragraph

An expository paragraph presents information, opinions, or ideas. It exposes something about a topic. There are two types of expository paragraphs:

To explain facts or convey information

To persuade or argue an opinion

On a separate piece of paper, write an expository paragraph on how to deal with an aggressive bear. Follow the steps below:

- Research how to deal with bear attacks and/or aggressive bears.
- Research different kinds of bears.
- Write about how to deal with an aggressive bear when you meet one, and you don't have a gun.

Use transition words to help your paragraph flow. Some transition words are:

consequently	in addition	unquestionably
clearly, then	moreover	generally speaking
furthermore	because	in general
additionally	besides that	in this situation
assuredly	of course	however
certainly	to be sure	on the other hand
granted	in other words	but
therefore	in the same way	yet
finally	and	in conclusion



Chapters 14 and 15 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

- 1. That was the most slippery, **agile** critter in the world!
 - a) Quick and well coordinated.
- 2. In **agony**, I held onto the duck's neck as I raced to the water.
 - b) Intense physical or mental pain.
- 3. "It's called a **mirage**. With the mist in the air and the sun coming up on the horizon, it creates a reflection."
 - c) A natural event where light rays bend to produce a displaced image of distant objects or the sky.
- 4. I was not too sure as I glanced at the **peculiar** creature lying at the bottom of the canoe.
 - c) Strange, queer, odd.
- 5. We were passing by some **majestic** sand cliffs.
 - a) Grand, magnificent, impressive
- 6. It sounded **eerie**, and I could feel the hair on the back of my neck stand up.
 - a) Creepy, frightening, mysterious.
- 7. I listened to the **obnoxious** creature as it forced every other creature within hearing distance to stay awake and listen to it.
 - c) Very annoying or objectionable, offensive.

- 8. As I watched hungrily, the man dished out one huge ladle after another of a macaroni and meat **concoction** until I thought there would be none left for Ol' Jim or me.
 - b) A mixture.
- 9. I pulled off my clothes and ran, totally **exhilarated**, into the cool water.
 - a) Excited, thrilled, invigorated.

Part 2: Write a paragraph and use at least six vocabulary words in it. *Answers will vary.*

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Chapter 14

- 1. Why does Ol' Jim burst out laughing when Danny comes back to camp with the duck? He bursts out laughing because Danny is wet and covered with feathers, on his clothes, hair, and face.
- 2. How does Danny feel when he realizes that they are about to reach their destination? Danny doesn't want the trip to end; he wants to travel with Ol' Jim forever.
- 3. Danny notices a cloud of flies on the water. What is it? It is a moose.
- 4. Why do moose go under water? To escape the flies.
- 5. When Danny and Ol' Jim get near to Ol' Jim's son's cabin, what does Danny notice? Danny notices that there are no dogs or kids running around. He notices that there is no noise at all, even the birds do not chirp or sing. He also notices that Ol' Jim's son does not come down to greet them. And Ol' Jim is acting 100 years old getting out of the canoe, like he knows that this is not a welcoming place.
- 6. What is Danny's first impression of Ol' Jim's son? Who does he remind him of? Danny thinks that Ol' Jim's son is the most miserable person he has

- ever met. He reminds Danny of his Uncle Fred who was so cheap and stingy he nearly starved Danny to death.
- 7. Why does Danny call Ol' Jim's son "Hog?" Danny calls Ol' Jim's son "Hog" because at dinner he takes most of the meal for himself and leaves very little for Danny and Ol' Jim.

Chapter 15

- 8. What happens the first time that Ol' Jim decides to take Danny for an overnight trip? Danny is bothered by the mice so he sets a trap, but Hog steps on it and catches his toe in it. Ol' Jim decides it is time that he Danny go to get some fish.
- 9. What does Ol' Jim say about the ghosts of ancient people at the sand cliff? Ol' Jim says that a spirit might try to enter your soul and live again through your body. Some souls who loved life so much may refuse to leave their bones to go to the other world. Now they just wander around the area where their old bones are.
- 10. How does Danny react to this information? And how does Ol' Jim respond? Danny is scared that he used a bone that he thought was a stick; he is scared that a soul has already jumped into him. Ol' Jim reassures him that old souls would not want to be around him, as he knows about them and could send them away. He also says that he would know if a soul came near him or Danny—so not to worry.
- 11. What happened to make Danny leave in such a hurry? Danny was trying to bail out "Hog's" boat and decided to see if he could turn it on. He turned it on, then hit forward by mistake, and the boat took off towards shore. "Hog" was so angry that he locked Danny in the cabin. The airplane came and then Danny left.
- 12. Where does Danny go on the plane and who does he bump into? Danny goes to Armstrong (we know this because he shows Henry the place he slept the

first night he ran away from home) and he bumps into Jim and Henry at the store.

- 13. What does Danny find out about Billy's cabin? He finds out that the cabin had very little damage. Billy wants to thank Danny for moving the gas can outside; because if it was inside, the cabin would have burnt to the ground.
- 14. Does Danny learn a lesson about running away when he has a problem? Danny says if he hadn't run away he would not have met Ol' Jim.
- 15. What happens at the end of Chapter 15? Danny goes to stay with Jim and Henry in Collins and Billy brings a puppy for both boys. Danny is happy to be back and feels like he belongs there.
- 16. What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section? *Answers will vary*.

Traditional Use of Tobacco (Handout 4)

Elders teach that tobacco was one of the four sacred medicines (sacred tobacco, cedar, sage, and sweetgrass) given to many First Nations. When used properly, people use sacred tobacco to communicate with the Spirit World and the Creator. In its original form, tobacco has both honour and purpose. The chemical additives found in commercial tobacco take away from tobacco's original purpose in Aboriginal ceremonies. Smoking cigarettes and chewing tobacco have no connection to Aboriginal spirituality. Traditional tobacco is intended for use in small amounts for prayers and ceremonies.

Some traditional methods of using traditional or sacred tobacco:

- The smoke from tobacco burning on sacred fires or in sacred pipes rises to the sky, carrying prayers to the spirit world.
- People use it as a daily offering to say prayers and give thanks for all the gifts from the Creator.

- Offering tobacco to water acknowledges that water is the sustenance of life.
- People use tobacco with other herbs as traditional medicine.
- People often use tobacco as a way to give thanks in advance or for a request. The request may be for guidance, advice, ceremonies, or taking from the animal or spirit world.
- People often give tobacco as a gift. A First Nations person who seeks
 help from another, such as an Elder, often gives that person some
 tobacco as a gift in exchange for their help.
- Tobacco has a special relationship with other plants; people say it is the main activator of all the plant spirits. It is like the key to the ignition of a car. When you use it, all things begin to happen. People always offer tobacco before they pick medicines.

Metaphors (Handout 6)

Part 1: Finish the statement, and explain what each one means. (*Answers will vary*)

1. My daughter is a peach.

Meaning: My daughter is a very nice person and well-behaved.

2. She's a sitting duck.

Meaning: This means she is vulnerable, the helpless target of something.

3. My son is the apple of my eye.

Meaning: My son is very important to me.

4. This homework is a breeze.

Meaning: This home work is very easy.

5. You are such a queen bee.

Meaning: You always want to be in charge and in control of things.

6. This day is a nightmare.

Meaning: This day has not been going very well.

Part 2: Metaphor and simile are first cousins. Like the simile, the metaphor compares two objects. But the metaphor compares them directly and does not use 'like' or 'as'. Identify each sentence below as a metaphor or simile, and explain the meaning.⁶

- 1. Her hair is golden silk, streaming in the afternoon breeze. *Metaphor* Meaning: *She has beautiful long golden hair.*
- 2. The algebra question is a sharp object jiggling around in my brain. *Metaphor*

Meaning: The algebra question is very hard and I am having a hard time understanding it.

3. Jordan runs like the wind. Simile

Meaning: Jordon runs very fast.

4. Jan's broken nose is like a big red balloon. Simile

Meaning: Jan's broken nose is swollen really big and red.

5. Tim is as strong as a mighty gust of wind. Simile

Meaning: Tim is very strong.

6. Carrying my backpack is like dragging around a bag of boulders. *Simile* Meaning: *The backpack is very heavy*.

Chapters 14 and 15

⁶ http://suite101.com/article/similes-and-metaphors-lesson-a46733

7. Jordan's reply is burning hot and crispy. *Metaphor*

Meaning: *Jordan's response is not very favourable.*

8. Michael is the pussy cat of his class. *Metaphor*

Meaning: Michael is very good natured and maybe a little timid.

Part 3: Identify each sentence below from the novel as a simile or metaphor, and explain the meaning.

1. Legs as rubber, shaking at the knees, I threw more water over my head. *Simile*

Meaning: His legs were not strong and he had a hard time standing up.

2. Those weren't ordinary mosquitoes out there, they were ancient blood-sucking birds of the worst kind! *Metaphor*

Meaning: The mosquitoes were huge!

3. I decided that the man was indeed a hog. *Metaphor*

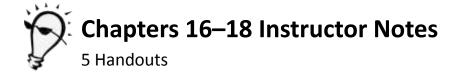
Meaning: The man eats too much and has bad manners.

4. The fresh air hit me like a breath of life. Simile

Meaning: The fresh air feels good when he goes outside.

5. The storm clouds like huge mountains looming over the tree tops race towards us. *Simile*

Meaning: The storm clouds are really large and threatening.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

rummaged gawking plodded severed veered yearning basking elaborately apprehensive engulfed

Learners complete the crossword puzzle and the questions on the handout.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- "I detected so much love and warmth from the big man as he looked at them. For some strange reason, I felt tears spring into my eyes."

 These two chapters have several other references to Danny with tears in his eyes. Why do you think Danny responds this way?
- Sometimes we plague ourselves with self-doubt; we wonder if we did something different could there be a different outcome? After Henry dies, Danny starts to wonder how it all happened. Did Henry try to save Snotty or did Snotty try to save Henry? Why was Henry out so far? Billy whispers in Danny's ear, "Sh, sh. Don't think about things you cannot change." What do Billy's words mean to you? How can these words help you in your life? Do they help Danny?

• When Danny meets up with his dad in Savant Lake his dad says to him, "Danny! Why do you always make me get mad at you? Do you know what you are doing to me? You are my son!" What went through your mind when Danny's father says these words? Have you ever blamed others for how you feel or had others blame you for how they feel?

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 16, 17, and 18. Some discussion topics are:

- How does the author prepare the readers for Henry's drowning?
- Discuss the book's theme "silent words." What does this mean?
 Several instances in these chapters describe the "silent words" that people share.
 - Page 193: "The old woman poured me some tea, which I sipped as I sat there absorbing the silent words, the little things I had almost forgotten."
 - Page 201: "I realized that we had not said a word. I followed her back into the cabin where we put the fish inside a washpan."
 - Page 213: "Sarah came and put her hand over my shoulder, but she said nothing."

Activity 5—Afterlife (Handout 4)

Billy tells Danny, "Henry is gone. Little Foot used to tell me that those who die wait for us on the other side. We will see Henry again when it is our turn." What does this mean to you? What do you believe about death? Learners read the handout and then as a group discuss the different views on afterlife.

Activity 6—Foreshadowing (Handout 5)

In this chapter the author gives us a few hints of what is to come. This is called foreshadowing. Go over the handout together and discuss foreshadowing.

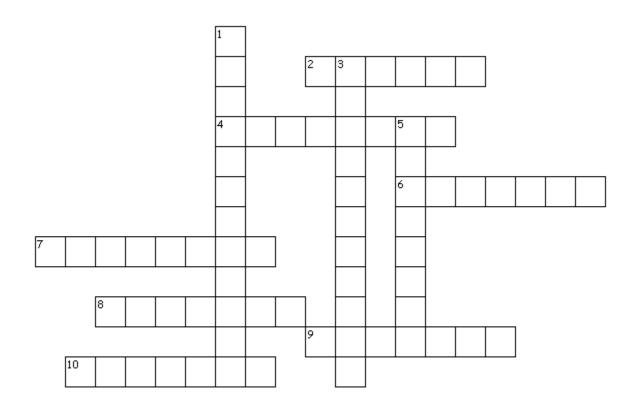
Activity 7—Timeline

Ask learners to update their timeline to Chapter 18.



Vocabulary

Part 1: Fill in the crossword using the words below and the hints on the next page.



rummaged gawking plodded severed veered yearning basking elaborately apprehensive engulfed

Across

- 2. Turn aside from a path or course direction on purpose
- 4. Search thoroughly by handling, turning over
- 6. Look at something with amazement, stare at someone
- 7. Intense or overpowering longing, desire, or need
- 8. Take great pleasure or satisfaction in something
- 9. Move or walk heavily or labouriously, trudge along
- 10. Detach, disconnect, cut off, or separate

Down

- 1. Afraid, worried, or nervous about a situation
- 3. Do something with care, detail, and precision
- 5. Flow over and enclose; overwhelmed by something

Part 2: Answer the following questions.

1.	The root word for "gawking" is "gawk." "Gawk" is both a verb and a
	noun. What is the definition of "gawk" as a noun? Write a sentence
	using "gawk" as a noun.
	Definition:
	Sentence:

at is an adverb?	
ch word from the vocabulary list is an adverb?	
s look at the word "severed."	
Is "severed" a noun, verb, adverb, or adjective?	
, , <u> </u>	
"Sever" is the root word of "severed." Is it a noun, verb, advor adjective?	verb
]	Is "severed" a noun, verb, adverb, or adjective? "Sever" is the root word of "severed." Is it a noun, verb, adv

c)	Write a sentence using "severed."
d)	Write a sentence using "sever."
Wh	nat is the one noun in the vocabulary words?
Wr	ite a sentence using this word:
Six	vocabulary words are verbs. Write them down.



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 16, 17 and 18 in sentence form.

Chapter 16

How does Danny feel about his dad?
Why does Danny decide to live at Billy's rather than stay with Jim and Henry?
Why does Billy have to go back to school?

4.	Danny has an intense fear of seeing his father. What drastic measures does he take to avoid him in Collins?
5.	What does Danny find out about Mr. and Mrs. Old Indian?
6.	How does Danny react to hearing about his father?
Cha	apter 17
7.	How much time has gone by so far in Collins?

8.	Why does Billy give Danny the nickname "Chips?"
9.	What happens to Henry's dog? How does Henry react?
10.	Danny asks Ol' Jim if Henry is OK and Ol' Jim says, "Be patient. He knows where to find you." What does this mean to you?
11.	What does Danny yearn to do?
12.	What plans do Henry and Danny make for Christmas?

13.	13. What is Jim's view on Christmas trees?				
Cha	apter 18				
14.	In this chapter we get a clearer picture of Charlotte. Describe her briefly.				
15.	How does Danny react to Henry's drowning?				
16.	How and why does Billy trick Danny?				

17.	What happens to Danny on the snowmobile trip to Ol' Jim's trapper's cabin?
18.	Ned says, "Sure is a smart kid that one, lots of spunk." How does Danny show that he is very bush smart?
19.	How did the wolves help Danny?
20.	What questions do you hope to answer as you read the novel's next section?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- "I detected so much love and warmth from the big man as he looked at them. For some strange reason, I felt tears spring into my eyes." These two chapters have several other references to Danny with tears in his eyes. Why do you think Danny responds this way?
- Sometimes we plague ourselves with self-doubt; we wonder if we did something different could there be a different outcome? After Henry dies, Danny starts to wonder how it all happened. Did Henry try to save Snotty or did Snotty try to save Henry? Why was Henry out so far? Billy whispers in Danny's ear, "Sh, sh. Don't think about things you cannot change." What do Billy's words mean to you? How can these words help you in your life? Do they help Danny?
- When Danny meets up with his dad in Savant Lake his dad says to him, "Danny! Why do you always make me get mad at you? Do you know what you are doing to me? You are my son!" What went through your mind when Danny's father says these words? Have you ever blamed others for how you feel or had others blame you for how they feel?



Afterlife

Different groups of people have different beliefs about the afterlife. Read the information below and then answer the questions that follow.

Buddhists

Buddhists believe in reincarnation and karma. They believe that when we die our souls are born again into another body—human or animal. If you have good karma it means you have done more good in your life than bad, and you will be reincarnated (reborn) into a better life. They believe that desiring things keeps us bound to the death/rebirth process. Desire means wanting or craving things in this world. If you free yourself from desire you are liberated from living in this world. This is called Nirvana.

Christians

Christians believe in God and Jesus. If you believe in God and are good to people you go to heaven. On the other hand, if you do not believe in God and do evil you go to hell. Some Christians believe we can pray for forgiveness and God forgives our sins.

First Nations

First Nations believe in an afterlife, but that the world of the dead lies a great distance from the living. The dead usually make a difficult journey to get to their place of rest, often beyond a great river, on islands far out at

sea, in the remote mountains, or in the underworld. Occasionally, human have contact with the world beyond.

Judaism

Traditional Judaism firmly believes that death is not the end of human existence. But Judaism mostly focuses on life here and now, rather than on the afterlife. Judaism does not teach much about the afterlife, and leaves a great deal of room for personal opinion.

Australian Aborigines

For traditional Aborigines, the spirit and physical worlds are closely interwoven. Traditional relationships with the land explain the transition between one and the other. Death marks the end of the physical life and releases the spirit to rejoin the ancestors' spirits and the land itself. Some tribes believe that the spirit inhabits the place where the person died. Others believe that the spirit is carried across the sea to the land of the dead. Some tribes believe the spirit may be reborn at some future time and live another earthly existence.

Atheism

Atheists celebrate life, but know death is a reality. Some atheists do not believe in an afterlife. They believe that nothing happens when you die, but some believe in immortality. They believe that memories can last forever, if they are worth remembering. They believe that what you do NOW is what counts.

Discussion Topics

Use these questions as a starting point for a discussion with others in your class.

- 1. How have your culture's beliefs about the afterlife changed over the last twenty-five years? What views have increased in popularity? What views have declined? How would you explain this change?
- 2. Have your beliefs about the afterlife changed over the last several years? If so, describe that change. What factors influenced this change?
- 3. Do you think that different views about the afterlife can all be true at the same time, even if they contradict one another?
- 4. Do our beliefs about the afterlife determine our experience? For example, suppose I believe in reincarnation leading to Nirvana and you believe in a final judgment leading to heaven or hell. Will I be reincarnated and ultimately reach Nirvana because I believe in it? Will you be judged to heaven or hell because you believe in them?
- 5. How do we decide what to believe about the afterlife? What our family or closest friends believe? What appeals to us most? Intuitive hunches? What the majority in our community believes? What has the most evidence? Some other reasons?



Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is a literary device. What does it mean?

Simply, it means that readers get hints, ahead of time, of what's going to happen later in the story. The hints might be subtle like storm clouds in the distance suggesting that danger is coming. Or hints might be more direct like hinting of an impending death.

Foreshadowing is important. It adds dramatic tension to a story as readers anticipate what might happen next. Authors use foreshadowing to create suspense or convey information that helps readers understand what comes later.

In *Silent Words*, Ruby Slipperjack uses a lot of foreshadowing. For example, Danny's stepmother Sarah tells him that his mother is in Colby's Landing. She suggests that Danny go and find her. The author is setting the stage for Danny to run away to find his mother.

Chapters 16–18 have several examples of foreshadowing. List four of them
Explain what you think they warn you about.

Ι			



Chapters 16–18 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

Across

- 2. Turned aside from a path or course direction on purpose (veered)
- 4. Search thoroughly by handling, turning over (rummaged)
- 6. Look at something with amazement; stare at someone (gawking)
- 7. Intense or overpowering longing, desire, or need (yearning)
- 8. Take great pleasure or satisfaction in something (basking)
- 9. Move or walk heavily or labouriously, trudge along (plodded)
- 10. Detach, disconnect, cut off, or separate (severed)

Down

- 1. Be afraid, worried, or nervous (apprehensive)
- 3. Do something with care, detail, and precision (elaborately)
- 5. Flow over and enclose, overwhelmed by something (engulfed)

Part 2: Answer the following questions.

1. The root word for "gawking" is "gawk." "Gawk" is both a verb and a noun. What is the definition for "gawk" as a noun?

Definition: An awkward, foolish person.

Sentence: Answers will vary.

2. Five vocabulary words are in the past tense. Write them down. How do you know they are in the past tense? *Plodded, severed, veered, rummaged.* You can tell that these words are in the past tense because they have "ed" at the end.

3. What is an adverb? *An adverb describes a verb.*

Which word from the vocabulary list is an adverb? *Elaborately*

4. Is "severed" a noun, verb, adverb, or adjective? Adjective

"Sever" is the root word of "severed." Is it a noun, verb, adverb or adjective? *Verb*

Write a sentence using "severed." Answers will vary.

Write a sentence using "sever." Answers will vary.

- 5. What is the one noun in the vocabulary list? *yearning* Write a sentence using this word: *Answers will vary*.
- 6. Six words in the vocabulary list are verbs. Write them down. *rummaged*, *gawking*, *plodded*, *veered*, *basking*, *engulfed*

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

- 1. How does Danny feel about his "Dad?" Danny doesn't think of him as his Dad anymore. He says his Dad left him when his mother left. He considers him only his father but not a proper Dad.
- 2. Why does Danny decide to live at Billy's rather than staying with Jim and Henry? Jim met a lady friend and she moved in. This reminds Danny of his father and step-mother. It is too painful to think about and he doesn't want to relive the same situation.
- 3. Why does Billy have to go back to school? *Billy goes back to school because he can't make enough money trapping. He needs to learn new skills so he can make a living. He is also being paid to go back to school.*
- 4. Danny has an intense fear of seeing his father. What drastic measures does he take to avoid him in Collins? *Danny goes with Charlotte and Sarah*

- to Savant Lake. He dresses up like a girl and gets on the train. He brushes up against his father as he is getting on the train.
- 5. What does Danny find out about Mr. and Mrs. Old Indian? Danny goes to see them when he goes to Savant Lake. He finds out that they are actually brother and sister. Mrs. Old Indian's husband died and she moved to Savant Lake to live with her brother. Danny also finds out that they winter in Sioux Lookout with Mrs. Old Indian's son.
- 6. How does Danny react to hearing about his father? Danny doesn't want anything from him, no presents or any money. He just wants his father to leave him alone.

- 7. How much time has gone by so far in Collins? *About a month passes, so it is about mid October.*
- 8. Why does Billy give Danny the nickname "Chips?" It is kind of a running joke between Billy and Danny because every time Billy goes to the store, Danny asks for chips.
- 9. What happens to Henry's dog? How does Henry react? A train kills Henry's dog. Henry withdraws from Danny and won't even acknowledge Danny's dog Snotty. Henry takes a lot of time to heal and get over his dog's death.
- 10. Danny asks Ol' Jim if Henry is OK and Ol' Jim says "Be patient. He knows where to find you." What does this mean to you? *This means that Danny should be patient and wait for Henry to come to him when he is ready.*
- 11. What does Danny yearn to do? He wants to go out on the land again with Ol' Jim. He feels the pull of nature and wants to go out again next summer.
- 12. What plans do Henry and Danny make for Christmas? They plan to go to Ol' Jim's trapper's cabin. Danny won't have to see his dad and Henry won't have to go to Saskatchewan to see Norma's family.

13. What is Jim's view on Christmas trees? Jim believes that people are wasteful when they use Christmas trees and then just throw them out. He also believes that people should treat trees and living things with more respect. "It's not garbage, it is a tree!" he exclaims.

- 14. In this chapter we get a clearer picture of Charlotte. Describe her briefly. Charlotte laughs and enjoys life. Often Danny hears her laughing around town. She once shot the cap right off of Ol' Jim's head with a sling shot. We get the impression that Charlotte is very good natured; that she's very strong and says what she thinks.
- 15. How does Danny react to Henry's drowning? *Danny is crushed when Henry dies. He sobs, and thinks he will shatter to pieces.*
- 16. How and why does Billy trick Danny? Billy takes Danny to Savant Lake for some shopping. But unknown to Danny, Billy arranged for Danny's dad to be there too. Danny's dad approaches Danny at the train station and Danny runs away again. Billy does this because Danny's father keeps pestering him about Danny. He thinks that someone coerced Danny into staying with Billy in Collins.
- 17. What happens to Danny on the snowmobile trip to Ol' Jim's trapper's cabin? Danny rides on the sleigh. It is very cold outside and Billy and Ned wrap him up on the sleigh. But the trip is so bumpy that Danny gets bumped off the sleigh in the middle of nowhere. Luckily Billy and Ned come back for him.
- 18. Ned says, "Sure is a smart kid that one, lots of spunk." How does Danny show that he is very bush smart? When Danny gets bumped off the sleigh he thinks about his options and decides to stay on the path. He realizes that he is in trouble and needs to keep warm. He uses his fur hat to wrap around his foot that does not have a boot. And he tucks his hands in his sleeves

- to make sure his hands stay warm. He keeps walking even though he is terrified of the wolves.
- 19. How did the wolves help Danny? The wolves watch over Danny and alert Billy to the direction he needs to go. When Billy sees the wolves, he slows down and starts to look for Danny. Danny was very lucky.

Foreshadowing (Handout 5)

- 1. Page 204: Ol' Jim said we had too much snow and not enough cold and that the ice was not thick enough to walk on where the current was. We just laughed. That's old people's talk. This warns us that the ice is thin and that something tragic might happen.
- 2. Page 206: I noticed Ol' Jim standing there all out of breath with his hand clenching the left side of his chest. *This warns us that Ol' Jim might be sick and something might happen to him.*
- 3. Page 212: My hair was beginning to stand on end at the back of my neck as the sound of panicky voices reached me. *This tells us that something awful happened at this point.*
- 4. Page 217: The door burst open and Bill and Ned came in. "You ready to go, Chips? Good." I glanced at the clock. It was almost midnight! This warns us that something might happen on the trip because they leave at midnight, in the dead of winter.



Activity 1—Vocabulary (Handout 1)

twilight tremendous briskly instinctively

boisterous monotone billow

Learners read each vocabulary word in the sentence from the novel. They choose three words or groups of words to substitute for each vocabulary word. Then they write a paragraph using five of the vocabulary words.

Activity 2—Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

Learners answer the questions on the handout.

Activity 3—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 3)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- Danny gets lost in the storm out at Ol' Jim's tent. Have you ever been lost in a storm or in another situation? Write about your experience.
- Do you think that Danny's father is sorry for what he did to his son? How do you think moving to town affects Danny's father?
 How is he different when he lives in the bush?
- Danny learns that the wolves are his protectors in the wilderness.
 Ol' Jim says, "Once they know you know them, they will always be there to help and guide you. They will know you recognize them.

They don't forget; it is the humans who do." What does this mean to you?

Activity 4—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on Chapters 19 and 20. Some discussion topics are:

- Ol' Jim says, "Boy, when you come home, you don't find yourself, you already got yourself! What you find are all the people who love you!" What does Ol' Jim mean by this? How does Danny react?
- What are the signs that Ol' Jim is going to die? And what are the signs that Ol' Jim knows he is going to die? (no wood piled up, smoking a pipe, slumped over the chair breathing funny, he kept on getting sick with chest pain, he didn't seem prepared for winter, Ol' Jim's hand was open, meaning his spirit was gone. Ol' Jim opened his hand on purpose because he knew he was going to die)
 - How did Daniel know where Danny was the whole time? Are you surprised by this?
 - Suspense often makes for enjoyable reading. How does Ruby Slipperjack build suspense in the last few lines of the chapter? When you write a story, how could you build suspense?

Activity 5—Fact or Opinion (Handouts 4 and 5)

Go over Handout 4 on Fact or Opinion with learners. You can do this activity in several ways. Ask learners to write **Fact** on one side of a piece of paper and **Opinion** on the other side. Read over the handout to explain what a fact is versus what an opinion is. Read out the statements on the handout. Ask learners to hold up their sign to show if they think the statement is a fact or an opinion. Some of them are tricky! Or learners can

work independently and then share their answers with the group. You may need to debate a few of them. There is an extra practice handout on Fact or Opinion. Give it to learners if you want more practice with Fact or Opinion.

Activity 6—Five Questions (Handout 6)

Ask learners to work with a partner and write out five questions they want to ask Daniel. They read Handout 6 and write the questions on it. Ask them to work in pairs to do a mock interview, with one learner as Daniel and the other as the interviewer.



Vocabulary

tw	ilight	tremendous	briskly	instinctively
bo	isterous	monotone	billow	
		ee words or grou The first one is do	•	at you can substitute for
1.	I was so reli the tent in th		when I smelled	d the wood smoke and sav
	<u>dusk</u>	early ev	ening light	<u>sunset</u>
2.	A tremendo	us shock went th	rough me, and	I turned around again.
3.	I walked bri	skly along behind	d. 	

My father's voice came back to me again, boisterous , "I must admit, though, you gave me quite a scare when you disappeared from Armstrong that night and no one knew where you went until Charlie called Tom's father the next day on the CN phone, and then the time Jim called and said you had taken off in the middle of the night and no one saw you the next day.
I answered in a very monotone voice, "I put on a girl's dress and wer to Savant Lake with Charlotte and her mother."
The teapot clanged against the can and a billow of steam and ashes erupted from the fire as I swung the snowshoe again.

7.	I heard him yelling behind me and I instinctively ran as fast as I could.
Par	rt 2: Write a short paragraph using at least five of the vocabulary words



Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions on Chapters 19 and 20 in sentence form.

1.	What does Danny learn from Ol' Jim about his father? How does he react?
2.	What is our first real clue that Ol' Jim is sick? How does Ol' Jim deflect Danny's concern?
3.	What does Ol' Jim give Danny to give to the wolves? Why?

	How does Danny handle Ol' Jim's death?
_	
	What are Danny's choices when his dad arrives? Why is he angry about this?
_	
V	What does Danny leave for Ol' Jim?
	Danny's father Daniel tells Danny that he has people waiting for hin n Whitewater Lake. Who does Danny think is waiting?
_	
τ	What does Daniel tell Danny about Sarah?

9.	How does Daniel know where Danny has been the whole time he was away? How does Danny feel about this?
10.	What does Danny learn about Jim and Norma?
11.	What does Danny find out about his mother? How does he react?
12.	What happens at the end of the chapter?



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- Danny gets lost in the storm out at Ol' Jim's tent. Have you ever been lost in a storm or in another situation? Write about your experience.
- Do you think that Danny's father is sorry for what he did to his son? How do you think moving to town affects Danny's father? How is he different when he lives in the bush?
- Danny learns that the wolves are his protectors in the wilderness.
 Ol' Jim says, "Once they know you know them, they will always be there to help and guide you. They will know you recognize them.
 They don't forget; it is the humans who do." What does this mean to you?



Fact or Opinion

It's important to know if a statement is a fact or an opinion.

Facts are statements that you can prove.

For example: "Danny ran away from home," is a fact that we know is true.

Opinions are statements that express someone's point of view or belief.. We can support an opinion with facts and discuss it, but we cannot prove it.

For example: "Silent Words is a great book," is a statement that you cannot prove. Not everyone will agree that Silent Words is a great book.

Part 1: Look at the statement below. Decide if each statement is a fact or opinion. Some of them are tricky and might cause discussion. Explain your choice.

1.	Danny's father wants the best for Danny.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	

2.	Billy wants the best for Danny.	Fact or Opinion
Ex	plain:	
3.	Ol' Jim knows he is dying.	Fact or Opinion
Ex _]	plain:	
4.	The wolves protect Danny.	Fact or Opinion
Ex	plain:	
5.	Danny does not trust his father.	Fact or Opinion
Ex	plain:	
6.	Danny is a good bush man now.	Fact or Opinion
Ex	plain:	
7.	Life is hard sometimes.	Fact or Opinion
Ex	plain:	
8.	Charlotte is a feisty young woman.	Fact or Opinion
Ex	plain:	

9.	Danny is Ojibway.	Fact or Opinion
Exp	plain:	
10.	Ol' Jim is an Elder.	Fact or Opinion
Exp	plain:	
11.	Billy is a funny guy.	Fact or Opinion
Exp	plain:	
12.	Danny does not want to go home to his father.	Fact or Opinion
Exp	plain:	
13.	The book is set in northern Ontario in the 1960s.	Fact or Opinion
Exp	plain:	
14.	Danny and Ol' Jim laugh a lot on their trip.	Fact or Opinion
Exp	plain:	
15.	Ol' Jim is an excellent teacher of traditional ways.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	

16.	Ol' Jim teaches Danny about Ojibway culture.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
17.	Danny's mother died of cancer.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
18.	Danny's mother should have found Danny before she died	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	

Part 2: Write a paragraph, on a separate piece of paper, describing the book *Silent Words*. Use both fact and opinion statements. Share your paragraph with others and ask them to identify the facts and opinions.



More on Fact or Opinion

Directions: Read each statement and then circle whether it is a fact or opinion. Explain your answer.

1.	Eating fast food is okay if you eat it once a week.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
2.	The winter is cold in the NWT.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
3.	Skateboarding downtown is against the law.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
4.	Copying homework assignments is wrong.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
5.	Living off the land is better than living in town.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	

6.	Polar bears are the most aggressive bear.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
7.	Aboriginal languages are being lost in the NWT.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
8.	Parenting is a tough job.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
9.	Yellowknife is the capital of the NWT.	Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	
10.	On average, college graduates earn more money in high school graduates.	their lifetime than Fact or Opinion
	Explain:	



Five Questions

With a partner write down five questions that you want to ask Danny's father Daniel. Do a mock interview. One of you is Daniel and the other the interviewer. Answer the questions the way you think Daniel would answer them.

1.	 	 	
2.			
3.			
4			
5.			
٠.		 	



Chapters 19 and 20 Answer Key

Vocabulary (Handout 1)

Part 1: Write three words or groups of words that could be substituted for the bold underlined word. The first one is done for you.

- 2. A <u>tremendous</u> shock went through me, and I turned around again. *colossal, great, huge, great big, immense, incredible, massive, etc.*
- 3. I walked **briskly** along behind. *quickly, rapidly, vigorously, promptly*
- 4. My father's voice came back to me again, **boisterous**, "I must admit, though, you gave me quite a scare when you disappeared from Armstrong that night and no one knew where you went until Charlie called Tom's father the next day on the CN phone, and then the time Jim called and said you had taken off in the middle of the night and no one saw you the next day. *loud*, *noisy*, *animated*, *rowdy*, *unruly*, *energetic*, *animated*, *rambunctious*, *unrestrained*, *etc*.
- 5. I answered in a very <u>monotone</u> voice, "I put on a girl's dress and went to Savant Lake with Charlotte and her mother." *colourless, dull, routine, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, etc.*
- 6. The teapot clanged against the can and a **billow** of steam and ashes erupted from the fire as I swung the snowshoe again. *swell, surge, wave, tide, cloud, puff, swirl, etc.*
- 7. I heard him yelling behind me and I <u>instinctively</u> ran as fast as I could. *automatically, intuitively, naturally, etc.*

Chapter Questions (Handout 2)

- 1. What does Danny learn from Ol' Jim about his father? How does he react? Danny learns that his father is coming to Ol' Jim's tent to see Danny. He does not want to see his father; he does not want his father at Ol' Jim's place. It is beautiful and peaceful and Danny's father will bring ugliness.
- 2. What is our first real clue that Ol' Jim is sick? How does Ol' Jim deflect Danny's concern? Danny finds Ol' Jim slumped over a chair breathing funny. Ol' Jim says he has heartburn again.
- 3. What does Ol' Jim give Danny to give to the wolves? Why? Ol' Jim gives Danny some tobacco to give to the wolves, to thank them for protecting him after he fell off the snowmobile.
- 4. How does Danny handle Ol' Jim's death? Danny is heartbroken over Ol' Jim's death. He struggles to get Ol' Jim into the cabin and then realizes that he is not breathing. He knows that he must keep the cabin warm through the night so he chops wood and brings it in. He sleeps finally until the plane wakes him.
- 5. What are Danny's choices when his dad arrives? Why is he angry about this? Danny knows he really has no choice but to go with his father and this makes him angry. His father says he can stay and wait for Billy or go with him. He can't believe that his father would allow him to stay and wait for Billy. They have no idea when Billy will arrive. He can't believe that his father would leave him at Ol' Jim's tent on his own to wait for Billy.
- 6. What does Danny leave for Ol' Jim? Danny leaves Ol' Jim a pinch of tobacco to help his journey.
- 7. Danny's father tells Danny that he has people waiting for him in Whitewater Lake. Who does Danny think is waiting? *He automatically thinks that the "witch" is waiting for them—meaning his stepmother.*
- 8. What does Daniel tell Danny about Sarah? *She is now living with someone else and the baby was not even his.*

Chapter 20

- 9. How does Daniel know where Danny has been the whole time he was away? How does Danny feel about this? Danny learns that his father knew where he was the whole time he was gone. Most of the people that Danny stayed with were friends or relatives of the family. Danny is surprised and very angry that his father knew where he was the whole time.
- 10. What does Danny learn about Jim and Norma? *Danny learns that they are having a baby in the spring*.
- 11. What does Danny find out about his mother? How does he react? Danny learns that his mother died of cancer last fall. He feels lots of different emotions; anger, grief, and despair. He also can't believe that no one told him about his mother. He feels betrayed.
- 12. What happens at the end of the chapter? Danny and his father reach Whitewater Lake. Danny thinks he sees Sarah in one of the cabins, so he runs away and hides in another cabin. He hears his father come up the steps and he finds a loaded shotgun. When the door opens all he can see is red hair just like Sarah's. The gun goes off and he realizes that the woman only had a red hat on.

Fact or Opinion (Handout 4)

Part 1: Look at the statements below. Decide if each statement is a fact or opinion. Some of them are tricky and might cause discussion.

1.	Danny's father wants the best for Danny.	Fact or Opinion
2.	Billy wants the best for Danny.	Fact or Opinion
3.	Ol' Jim knows he is dying.	Fact or Opinion
4.	The wolves protect Danny.	Fact or Opinion
5.	Danny does not trust his father.	Fact or Opinion
6.	Danny is a good bush man now.	Fact or Opinion

Fact or **Opinion** 7. Life is hard sometimes. 8. Charlotte is a feisty young woman. Fact or **Opinion** 9. Danny is Ojibway. Fact or Opinion 10. Ol' Jim is an Elder. **Fact** or Opinion 11. Billy is a funny guy. Fact or **Opinion** Fact or Opinion 12. Danny does not want to go home to his father. 13. The book is set in northern Ontario in the 1960s. Fact or Opinion 14. Danny and Ol' Jim laugh a lot on their trip. Fact or Opinion 15. Ol' Jim is an excellent teacher of traditional ways. Fact or **Opinion** 16. Ol' Jim teaches Danny about Ojibway culture. Fact or Opinion 17. Danny's mother died of cancer. **Fact** or Opinion 18. Danny's mother should have found Danny before Fact or **Opinion** she died.

More on Fact or Opinion (Handout 5)

Directions: Read each statement and then circle whether it is a fact or opinion. Explain your answer.

1.	Eating fast food is okay if you eat it once a week.	Fact or	Opinion
2.	The winter is cold in the NWT.	Fact or	Opinion
3.	Skateboarding downtown is against the law.	Fact or	Opinion
4.	Copying homework assignments is wrong.	Fact or	Opinion
5.	Living off the land is better than living in town.	Fact or	Opinion
6.	Polar bears are the most aggressive bear.	Fact or	Opinion
7.	Aboriginal languages are being lost in he NWT.	Fact or	Opinion

8. Parenting is a tough job.

Fact or **Opinion**

9. Yellowknife is the capital of the NWT.

Fact or Opinion

10. On average, college graduates earn more money in their lifetime than high school graduates. Fact or Opinion



Activity 1—Epilogue Questions (Handout 1)

Learners answer questions on the handout.

Activity 2—Reflection and Journal Writing (Handout 2)

Learners choose one of the following topics to write about in their journals. There is a handout with these topics listed for learners.

- How do you feel about the ending of *Silent Words*? Do you like the ending? Does it surprise you?
- Did you like this book? Why or why not?
- Danny seems to live in a community where family and friends work and live together. Does this kind of living appeal to you? Why or why not?
- What did you learn from this book?

Activity 3—Group Discussion

Have a group discussion on the novel. Some discussion topics are:

- What was the novel's theme? What did we learn from this novel? A novel's theme is the main idea that the writer expresses. We can also define theme as the underlying meaning of the story. What was the underlying theme of Silent Words? How is the title important to this theme? See the Answer Key for details about the theme and the novel's name.
- Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Activity 4—Looking at the Characters

- Ask learners to list the characters in the book in their order of preference. Make sure they give clear reasons for each character's place in the line.
- Ask learners: Which character did you like most and dislike most in the book? Why?

Activity 5—Complete the Timeline

Ask learners to complete their timeline.

Activity 6—Novel Review (Handout 3)

Ask learners to choose one of the following as a final assignment to the novel study:

- Pretend you are Ruby Slipperjack and you just finished writing *Silent Words*. Write a letter to a publisher to explain what the book is about and why they should publish it.
- Write a one-page review of *Silent Words*. A book review describes and evaluates a book. Like a book report, it summarizes the content and analyzes the structure. You also assess the book's value and recommend it to other readers, or not. Include the following in your book review:
 - Background information
 - o Classification (fiction, non-fiction, etc)
 - o Summary
 - Author's purpose for writing the book
 - Recommendation or not
- Write a one-page summary on the overall theme or underlying meaning of *Silent Words*.



Epilogue Questions

Answer the following questions on the Epilogue in sentence form.

1.	When does the epilogue take place?
2.	Why is this a special day?
3.	What happens to Daniel? Why is this so tragic for both Danny and Daniel?
4.	How does Danny deal with this tragedy?

What is Danny's life like now?					



Reflection and Journal Writing

Write about one of these topics in your journal. Share your thoughts and ideas with others in your class.

- How do you feel about the ending of *Silent Words*? Do you like the ending? Does it surprise you?
- Did you like this book? Why or why not?
- Danny seems to live in a community where family and friends work and live together. Does this kind of living appeal to you? Why or why not?
- What did you learn from this book?



Novel Review

Choose one of the following:

- Pretend you are Ruby Slipperjack and you just finished writing *Silent Words*. Write a letter to a publisher to explain what the book is about and why they should publish it.
- Write a one-page review of *Silent Words*. A book review describes and evaluates a book. Like a book report, it summarizes the content and analyzes the structure. You also assess the book's value and recommend it to other readers, or not. Include the following in your book review:
 - o Background information
 - Classification (fiction, non-fiction, etc)
 - o Summary
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 - Recommendation or not
- Write a one-page summary on the overall theme or underlying meaning of *Silent Words*.



Epilogue and Review Answer Key

Epilogue Questions (Handout 1)

- 1. When does the epilogue take place? The epilogue takes place July 11, 1979—10 years after Danny runs away from home.
- 2. Why is this a special day? Danny and Charlotte are getting married.
- 3. What happens to Daniel? Why is this so tragic for both Danny and Daniel? Daniel survives but is never able to walk again. Daniel was just getting his life back together and wanted to live off the land and take care of Danny. Danny was very young when he shot his father and it affected his whole life.
- 4. How does Danny deal with this tragedy? Danny vows to take care of his father for as long as he lives.
- 5. What is Danny's life like now? Danny seems to have friends and family all living nearby. He builds a cabin for him and Charlotte and says that he never works alone. He lives in a community that works and lives together.

Group Discussion Silent Words Theme⁷

Within this First Nations context, Slipperjack conveys the multiple meanings of silences. She alludes to the ways that colonizers have silenced First Nations people. Danny's silences signal not only his loss of his language but also his loss for words. The narrative illustrates some of the ways that colonizers attempted to silence and eradicate First Nations and their cultures. Danny lives between two worlds—his Ojibway community

⁷ http://journals.hil.unb.ca/index.php/scl/article/view/12865/13914

and the dominant society. While the narrative alludes to the impact of colonization, the focus is on the daily activities of Ojibway and other First Nations people.

Ol' Jim, for example, demonstrates the inadequacy of spoken and written words, and suggests that we need to learn how to listen—to pay attention to the world around us and to our inner feelings, thoughts, and memories. From him, Danny learns that words can become a source of meaningless distraction—white noise. Ol' Jim teaches Danny how to cultivate his senses and feelings to raise his level of awareness. When they reach a clearing, he asks Danny to "tell me what you see" (123). Still wearing cultural blinders, Danny interprets the word "see" literally and relies on visual clues instead of using all of his senses and faculties to decipher the signs. Danny is unable to make deductions from his observations because he is only partially aware; his vision is limited. Ol' Jim is silent, but "rolled his eyes in exasperation" (123). This gesture encourages Danny to heighten his awareness and to deduce signs of former human habitation. Ol' Jim later draws Danny's attention to the fact that he relies too much on visual stimuli: "You are getting better at noticing things, but let your eyes tell you all of what they see" (143).

Through non-verbal communication, Ol' Jim encourages Danny to cultivate his awareness. Unlike verbal language, the language of silence is non-intrusive, non-directive, and non-authoritarian. He often does not tell Danny how to interpret these lessons, but allows him to discover their meaning for himself.

To read more about the theme of *Silent Words* go to http://journals.hil.unb.ca/index.php/scl/article/view/12865/13914