

Lesson Plan Title

Snow Bound – Teenagers & Survival

Developed by: Terrie Hanke 2006 TOTT™ and Raina Pfundheller, Language Arts, North High School

Discipline: English and Language Arts

Topic: Survival, adventure, personality traits, cooperation, choice / consequences, and teen/parent conflicts,

Grade Level: Late middle school or early high school (8th – 10th grade)

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

Snow Bound by Harry Mazer

Adventure & Survival Books: www.walingford.lioninc.org/survival_&_adventure_books.htm

Author information: www.writersblock.ca/summer1998/interv.htm

Book Review: www.adrienne wolrter.com/misc/bookrv-snowbound.htm

Lesson Summary: Students will read and discuss *Snow Bound* by Harry Mazer an award winning adolescent author. *Snow Bound* lends itself to many activities and projects to further student understanding of a variety of topics. *Snow Bound* is easy reading and short enough for younger readers but freshmen or sophomores in high school can best relate to the 15-year-old protagonist's actions and feelings.

Standard's Addressed: National Counsel of Teachers of English (NCTE)

Std 1) Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of themselves; cultures of the US and the world; acquire new information, and personal fulfillment.

Std 2) Students read a wide range of literature form many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimension of human experience.

Std 3) Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies and their understanding of textual features.

Std 6) Students apply knowledge structure, language convention, media techniques, figurative language and genre to create critique and discuss print and non-print texts.

Std 9) Students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions and social roles.

Learning objectives:

- 1) To accompany and support the Iditarod educational theme by reading and discussing a novel with an adventure/survival story line in a harsh winter setting.
- 2) Students will carefully read, analyze and interpret young adult literature.
- 3) Students will apply their reading to various themes – survival, adventure, friendship, family relationships and nature vs. humans or animals.
- 4) Provide students with an easy, fast-paced, entertaining novel to build reading confidence and encourage reading for pleasure.
- 5) To introduce an award winning adolescent novelist and to encourage reading more of his novels as well as novels with a similar story line.

Assessment:

- Content quizzes
- Discussion
- Essay responses
- Study guides

Procedural Activities:

Pre-Reading: Discuss the Iditarod, both historically and currently and encourage students to follow the race on a regular basis. Discuss the impact of personal choices upon outcomes or consequences.

Reading: Assign *Snow Bound* by Harry Mezer. Read and discuss significant passages each day. Analyze characters and other literary elements such as setting, theme, irony and plot structure. Discussion topics -

- Choices teens make and consequences
- Child behavior
- Parenting choices and consequential child behavior
- Tony's and Cindy's personality traits
- How behaviors affect circumstances

Procedural Activities - continued

Post-Reading: Individually or in groups, students could read an additional novel with a similar theme or could be by the same author. Students could form book groups for discussion. Students could write a short book then create a title page by scanning the cover of the book and a picture of themselves. The teacher could incorporate all the reviews into a booklet for a classroom set of novels. Other post reading activities –

- Create a winter survival kit to be carried in the family vehicle
- Research the current theories on dressing for extreme winter conditions
- Research the many types of technical clothing available for survival in extreme winter climates
- Dress a musher for the harsh weather conditions experienced during the Iditarod.
- Create a budget using a spreadsheet for clothes that mushers would need to survive the
- Compare and contrast the clothing and equipment Cindy and Tony had to what a well prepared winter enthusiast would have had. Create a new ending to the story.

Materials Students Need:

Snow Bound by Harry Mazer
Internet access to follow the Iditarod

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Follow Iditarod using www.iditarod.com; www.cabelasiditarod.com; www.ramybrooks.com and other musher web sites. Use the internet for research, author information, book lists and review of novels.

Other Information: If students enjoyed this book, also consider

White Fang by Jack London. Part wolf and part dog, White Fang is trained as a sled dog by his first owner then his life changes dramatically.

Dog Song by Gary Paulsen. Russell, an Alaskan native sleds through the wilderness alone with his dogs. On the trail he learns about himself and his culture.

Race Across Alaska by Libby Riddles and Tim Jones. Riddles is the first woman ever to win the Iditarod. Experience the blinding blizzards, freezing winds and paralyzing cold temperatures faced on the 1,100-mile trail.

Bright Dawn, Black Star by Scott O'Dell. A teenage Eskimo girl and her lead dog were a team about to run the Iditarod. Little did they know of the unforeseen hazards along the trail. Portrays Eskimo culture.

Woodsong by Gary Paulson. Traveling with his dog team, Paulson is up against the most unforgiving side of nature. A man against nature adventure that is true.

Iditarod Classics by Lew Freedman. A collection of stories – in their own words – of men and women who challenge the elements of the Iditarod across the nations most forbidden, demanding and dangerous territory.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

Because the novel is easy to read, the book will be appropriate for reluctant or basic readers or can be read to students not able to read.

Notes: Events of the Iditarod are captured each year in a documentary video. Videos are available from www.iditarod.com under merchandise. Stories of interior Alaska, views of the checkpoints, challenges faced by the dog teams and mushers, trail conditions and weather that make each race unique are shared on the video. The videos are usually less than 90 minutes in length and are available for a reasonable price. Students will enjoy the in depth look at the race.