

# By The Great Horn Spoon

by Sid Fleischman

## Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Ann Plevyak Raiford

A Perma-Bound Production

### Synopsis

Jack Flagg and his butler, Praiseworthy, end up as stowaways when their tickets are stolen. Their attempts to find the thief once they announce their presence are hindered by the job they undertook to pay their passage and the bet the Captain has with another ship also headed for San Francisco. With the help of a pig, the thief is discovered. Unfortunately, the man, Higgins, makes off with a map to a gold strike when the ship makes port.

The ship wins the bet and Jack and Praiseworthy make enough money for fare to a gold mining camp. One of the other passengers on their stagecoach is Higgins and, when they are held up, the map is stolen again.

When Praiseworthy and Jack reach their destination they learn mining from a new friend. Through many lucky deals, Praiseworthy makes money for them.

They again cross paths with Higgins but, when told to prepare his grave, they strike it rich. A mishap on the steamboat back to San Francisco causes them to leave their gold at the bottom of the bay. Another deal involving cats to catch rats makes them enough money to go home, but they meet up with Jack's aunt and sisters on the wharf. There Praiseworthy asks Jack's aunt to be his wife. When she accepts they all look forward to becoming a family.

### Biographical Sketch

Albert Sidney Fleischman was born March 16, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York, but grew up in San Diego, California. After he finished high school, he traveled throughout the United States and performed as a magician in vaudeville and night clubs. He wrote a book on sleight-of-hand tricks for magicians that was published when he was only 17. From 1941 to 1945 he served in the United States Naval Reserve. From 1945 to 1949, he attended San Diego State College after which he was a reporter and rewrite man for the San Diego *Daily Journal*.

Fleischman has written novels for adults, screenplays for movies and television, riddle books and fictional books for children. When traveling with his magic show, he had gone through California gold country and tried to pan for gold, but was not successful. From this experience, he wrote *By The Great Horn Spoon!* in 1963. He earned four different awards for this book.

This is what Fleischman says about his writing:

"Since I don't plot my stories in advance, the experience of writing a book is, for me, very much the same as reading a book. I rarely know what is going to happen next and have to sit at the typewriter to find out. My starting point is almost always a background, such as the California gold rush in *By The Great Horn Spoon!*"

He married Betty Taylor in 1942 and has three children. He now lives in Santa Monica, California.

### Instructional Objectives

After reading the book and participating in answering discussion questions and the suggested activities, the student will:

1. have an understanding of the structure of a two-masted sidewheeler and what life aboard a ship was like in 1849.
2. gain knowledge about events that led to the California gold rush.
3. have an understanding about what life in a gold mining camp was like.
4. be able to describe at least three methods that the 49er's used to find gold.
5. understand that this story is classified as historical fiction which is a form of adventure tale given structure by real, but past historical events, persons and setting.
6. be able to identify the series of cause and effect events throughout the book.
7. be able to identify the author's use of similes.
8. evaluate character traits and feelings based on their actions and relationships with other characters.
9. understand how the economic principle of supply and demand affected the prices of goods in San Francisco and the mining camps.

### Critic's Corner

"*By the Great Horn Spoon!* moves from one delightful scene to another aided and abetted by some wonderfully witty line drawings. And whether Mr. Fleischman is telling us how it was to round the Horn in an old steam and sailing vessel or what San Francisco and

the rough mining camps were like, the reader can only rejoice in a continuously enjoyable word picture. Some of the adjectives this book deserves are adventurous, truly humorous and original." Marian Sorenson, *The Christian Science Monitor*, 1963.

"Sid Fleischman's *By The Great Horn Spoon!* is decidedly flippant. A mock-heroic tale of the 1849 gold-rush, it is decorated by Eric von Schmidt with the sort of scratchy drawings that seem aimed at the sophisticated reviewer rather than at the child reader . . . This is a spirited story which contrives to surprise until the end, and is both exciting and amusing." *The Time Literary Supplement*, 1965

"Sid Fleischman is an author with a talent for turning matter of fact situation into uproarious fun. *By The Great Horn Spoon* with its offbeat characters and unusual setting, reaffirms the author's ability and with Eric von Schmidt's line drawings is all great merriment." Dorothy M. Broderick, *The New York Times Book Review*, 1963.

Information from: *Children's Literature Review*

### Suggestions For Instruction

1. Make a large map of North and South America and put it on a bulletin board. As your students read the story, use yarn or string to indicate where Jack and Praiseworthy are in their voyage. Using maps with scales, have them try to calculate the distance from Boston to San Francisco going around Cape Horn.
2. Make two charts on which to record vocabulary words that pertain to each of these areas: Nautical Terms and Miner's Words. Have your students record words from the story after reading each chapter.
3. After reading Chapter 13, discuss the economic principle of supply and demand and how it affected prices in San Francisco and the mining camps. Also discuss how supply and demand affects prices today.

### Chapter 1 - The Stowaways

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **around the Horn (pg. 3)** - around Cape Horn on the southern tip of South America
2. **stowaways (pg. 3)** - a person who hides aboard a ship, airplane, etc. to get free passage
3. **clamoring (pg. 3)** - demanding loudly
4. **California fever (pg. 3)** - With the discovery of gold in California in 1848, thousands of people flocked to California by land and sea to try their luck at finding gold. This desire to go to California was then called California fever or gold fever.
5. like a **heady wind (pg. 3)** - reckless and forceful wind
6. **slake (pg. 5)** - to relieve or satisfy with water or liquid; quench
7. **impression (pg. 5)** - idea
8. **accommodations (pg. 5)** - a room; place to stay; lodgings
9. **dire accounts (pg. 6)** - terrible reports
10. **lurch (pg. 6)** - a sudden roll of a ship to one side

11. **Old Scratch (pg. 6 and 156)** - the Devil
12. **carpetbags (pg. 6)** - a traveling bag or suitcase made out of carpeting
13. **grape cuttings (pg. 6)** - a section of a grape plant or vine that has been cut and can be replanted to start a new plant
14. **lanky (pg. 7)** - tall and thin
15. **dandies (pg. 7)** - a man who pays too much attention to his clothes
16. **pantaloon (pg. 7)** - long tight pants
17. **frock-coated (pg. 8)** - wearing a man's double breasted dress coat with a full skirt reaching to the knees both in front and in back
18. **oilskins (pg. 8)** - a garment or outfit made from a cloth treated with oil to make it waterproof
19. **fury (pg. 10)** - violent anger; wild rage
20. **mere jib of a boy (pg. 11)** - a young boy
21. **defraud (pg. 11)** - cheat
22. **plague (pg. 11)** - a contagious disease
23. **Argonauts (pg. 12)** - a person who went to California to hunt for gold in 1948-49. It is from the Greek legend of the men who sailed with Jason in the ship "Argo" in quest of the Golden Fleece.
24. **cholera (pg. 12)** - an intestinal disease marked by severe vomiting and diarrhea
25. **pooling savings (pg. 13)** - combining or putting their money together
26. **tarnation (pg. 14)** - an expression of anger or annoyance
27. **berth (pg. 15)** - job
28. **imposed (pg. 16)** - placed; set
29. **cut-purse (pg. 16)** - thief; robber

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 1

1. Where are Jack and Praiseworthy going and why?  
(They are going to California to find gold so they can help Aunt Arabella out of her financial problems.)
2. What is the relationship between Jack and Praiseworthy?  
(Praiseworthy is a butler for Jack's guardian Aunt Arabella.)
3. Why do Jack and his sisters live with Aunt Arabella?  
(Their parents died of cholera when they were very young.)
4. Where were the potato barrels and why were they in them?  
(The barrels are in the cargo hold of a ship, the Lady Wilma. They had to stowaway on the ship when their money was stolen.)
5. What are the starting and ending points of this voyage and what route is going to be taken? How long do you think it will take?  
(Boston to San Francisco going around Cape Horn on the tip of South America. Answers will vary to the second question.)

6. Is Praiseworthy honest? Support your answer.  
*(Yes, because he insists on telling the captain the truth and agrees to work off his passage.)*
7. What other name is Captain Swain called? Do you think it fits him? Explain your answer.  
*(He was called "the wild bull of the seas." Answers will vary to the second question, but he was understanding and helped Jack and Praiseworthy, so it would seem the captain isn't as fierce as the name would have you believe.)*
8. Why is this voyage so important to Captain Swain?  
*(He is having a race with a ship called the Sea Raven and the winner gets command of a brand new clipper ship.)*
9. What did Jack do that took a lot of courage?  
*(He made the decision to join the gold rush to help Aunt Arabella. He was a stowaway. He told Captain Swain he would rather work with Praiseworthy shoveling coal than be ship's boy.)*
10. Have you ever felt as frightened as Jack when he went to see Captain Swain? Share your experience.
11. What do Jack and Praiseworthy want to do during this voyage?  
*(find the thief who stole their money)*
12. What advantage do Praiseworthy and Jack end up having over the other passengers?  
*(They are nice and warm in the coal bunkers while the others are trying to stay warm in the main saloon by two pot-bellied stoves.)*
13. What names are given to the people going to find gold in California?  
*(gold-seekers and Argonauts)*

## Chapter 2 - How to Catch a Thief

### Vocabulary Study

1. **forged (pg. 18)** - made; shaped
2. **infernal firebox (pg. 19)** - the place for the fire in the engine that is very hot
3. **rogue (pg. 19)** - a worthless, dishonest person; scoundrel
4. **undaunted (pg. 19)** - not afraid or discouraged
5. **Southern Cross (pg. 20)** - a small southern constellation whose four brightest stars appear like tips of a cross
6. **plum duff (pg. 20)** - a kind of plum pudding. It was originally called plum dough. The word dough used to rhyme with rough and tough. The spelling was changed to match the pronunciation.
7. **sow (pg. 21)** - an adult female hog or pig
8. **intruders (pg. 22)** - people or things that force themselves on others without an invitation
9. **imposter (pg. 26)** - a person who cheats or deceives others by pretending to be someone he is not
10. **Hades (pg. 28)** - the home of the dead beneath the earth; hell

## Comprehension Study - Chapter 2

1. Why aren't the passengers wearing coats?  
*(The weather is getting warmer the further south they sail.)*
2. Why is Praiseworthy eager to find the thief who took their money?  
*(It is getting very hot in the boiler room and if they get their money back, they won't have to work off their passage.)*
3. Why did Jack decide to go to California by sea?  
*(It took the ox drawn wagons up to a year to get there by land and Jack is in a hurry.)*
4. In his letter to his Aunt and sisters, Jack tells about a new friend. Who is it and how did she help Jack?  
*(It was a pig who he named Good Luck. The pig gave Praiseworthy the idea of how to catch the thief.)*
5. What words are used in this chapter to describe the person who stole their money?  
*(cut-purse, scamp, despicable thief, rogue, thieving scoundrel)*
6. How did the plan to catch the thief work?  
*(They put coal dust on a pig. They told the passenger it was a smart pig and would squeal if a dishonest man touched her. Everyone who touched the pig had a black smudge from the coal dust, but the thief's finger was clean.)*
7. Who was the thief?  
*(Cut-Eye Higgins was his real name. He was posing as a judge.)*
8. Did they get their money back yet? Do you think they will find it? Where would you hide money on a ship?  
*(No. Answers will vary.)*
9. What were some of the punishments suggested for Higgins? What did the captain decide to do with Higgins?  
*(String him up, put him in irons and throw him overboard. The captain sent him back to work in the coal bunkers.)*
10. What do you think they'll do with Higgins when they get to San Francisco?  
*(Answers will vary.)*

## Chapter 3 - News of the Sea Raven

### Vocabulary Study

1. **bayonet (pg. 29)** - a dagger-like blade on the end of a rifle that is removable
2. **unwittingly (pg. 31)** - not knowing or aware; unconscious
3. **dispirited (pg. 31)** - sad; discouraged, inactive
4. **meat cleaver (pg. 32)** - a heavy cutting tool with a broad almost rectangular blade used by butchers
5. **molting chicken (pg. 32)** - a chicken that is losing or shedding its feathers
6. **Rio de Janeiro (pg. 33)** - a seaport in southeastern Brazil on the Atlantic Ocean

7. **becalmed** (pg. 34) - brought to a stop by lack of winds
8. **hailing distance** (pg. 34) - close enough to hear someone on a passing ship
9. **catch a wind** (pg. 35) - until the wind begins to blow and fills their sails and they can move on their own
10. **constellations** (pg. 36) - a number of fixed stars considered as a group usually named after an object, animal or mythological being
11. **lumbering** (pg. 37) - moving clumsily

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 3

1. Which of the passengers in their cabin unknowingly helped Jack and Praiseworthy to stowaway?  
(*Azariah Jones was the owner of the potato barrels that they hid in*)
2. Which character do you think is the most peculiar? Explain your answer.  
(*Answers will vary.*)
3. Why did Dr. Buckbee carry an alarm trumpet?  
(*He had a special map of a gold mine. He was going to blow the trumpet if anyone tried to steal his map.*)
4. How did the *Lady Wilma* save fuel?  
(*Opened up the sails when a good wind was blowing.*)
5. Does Jack want his relationship with Good Luck to change? Why or why not?  
(*Yes, he doesn't want to get too fond of Good Luck because the cook will be killing it to use for a dinner.*)
6. What tough decision does Captain Swain have to make in this chapter?  
(*He has to decide whether or not to give the square-rigger a tow. If he does, it will slow him down and he may not win the race.*)
7. What problems is the square-rigger having?  
(*There is no wind so they haven't moved in a week and people are starting to get sick.*)
8. How far behind the *Sea Raven* is the *Lady Wilma*?  
(*One day behind, because the captain of the square-rigger said the *Sea Raven* came by a day ago.*)
9. How does Jack want his relationship with Praiseworthy to change and what does Praiseworthy think about it?  
(*Jack says that since they are partners, Praiseworthy should call him just Jack instead of Master Jack. Praiseworthy says it wouldn't be proper because he is and will always be a butler.*)
10. How long did the *Lady Wilma* tow the square-rigger?  
(*Five days*)
11. What words would you use to describe Captain Swain's feelings when he was able to throw off the tow lines and get back in the race?  
(*Answers will vary.*)

## Chapter 4 - The Pig Hunt

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **rough homespuns** (pg. 40) - clothes made out of cloth and yarn that was spun at home
2. **monsieur** (pg. 40) - French word meaning "mister"
3. **oui** (pg. 40) - French word meaning "yes"
4. **endearment** (pg. 41) - showing affection or that one is well liked
5. **Jack's breath caught** (pg. 41) - he gasped
6. **genuine** (pg. 43) - real
7. **accompaniment** (pg. 43) - in music, an instrumental part together with a main part, in this case Jack's singing
8. **fortress guns** (pg. 45) - a fort protects the harbor and is equipped with guns for protection
9. **banshees** (pg. 46) - a female fairy; a beautiful woman, though sometimes a hag, whose appearance foretells the death of someone close to one's family
10. **Capitan** (pg. 47) - Spanish for "captain"
11. **tarry** (pg. 47) - stay for a time; delay
12. **provisions** (pg. 47) - food, supplies and equipment for future use
13. **posted** (pg. 47) - mailed
14. **daresay** (pg. 48) - to think likely; suppose

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 4

1. What are most of the passengers looking for and why?  
(*They are looking for the pig, Good Luck, because they want to eat some fresh pork.*)
2. What three people helped Good Luck and how did each help?  
(*a. Jack took him from the pen and hid him first in the captain's cabin, then stuffed him in the porthole out of the cook's view, sang loudly when the cook walked by so he would not hear the pig under the barrel, and put him in the lifeboat in which he escaped for good.*  
*b. Praiseworthy opened his umbrella to hide the pig stuck in the porthole from the cook.*  
*c. Mountain Jim pulled the pig from the porthole and put him under a barrel. He played the harmonica so the cook would not hear the pig under the barrel.*)
3. Why was Good Luck an appropriate name for this pig?  
(*He gave Praiseworthy the idea of how to catch the thief and he was able to escape from the cook with Jack's help.*)
4. Who else had good luck in this chapter? Explain your answer.  
(*Cut-Eye Higgins was able to escape without anyone seeing him.*)
5. What did the passengers get to do in this chapter for the first time since leaving Boston?  
(*They got to go ashore and walk on land in Rio de Janeiro.*)



6. When and why did Dr. Buckbee use his alarm trumpet?  
(He used it two times. First when Good Luck woke him up and he thought it was someone trying to steal his map. The second time was when he discovered his map was missing.)
7. How do they know who took the map?  
(They know it was Cut-Eye Higgins because he is missing and so is the lifeboat.)
8. Besides his concern for Good Luck, something else in this chapter upset Jack. What is it?  
(When Praiseworthy tells Jack they can turn back, Jack thinks Praiseworthy doesn't want him as a partner anymore.)
3. Describe how you would feel as a passenger on the *Lady Wilma* during the stormy weather.  
(Answers will vary.)
4. What weather words do you find in this chapter?  
(gale, squall, fog, headwinds, storm, shrieking winds, hailstones)
5. What has happened to make Captain Swain feel great?  
(They are now in front of the Sea Raven.)
6. How did the *Lady Wilma* manage to get ahead of the *Sea Raven*?  
(Captain Swain went through the Strait of Magellan which took hundreds of miles off of the trip.)

## Chapter 5 - Land of Fire

### Vocabulary Study

1. **Patagonia (pg. 50)** - a dry grassy region in southern South America east of the Andes Mountains including parts of Chile and Argentina
2. **impending (pg. 50)** - to be about to happen
3. **sea yarns (pg. 50)** - sea stories and tales that often seem hard to believe
4. **vile-tempered (pg. 51)** - in a wicked, angry, very bad state
5. **Strait of Magellan (pg. 51)** - a channel between the mainland tip of South America and Tierra del Fuego islands that links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is named after Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan representing Spain whose journey was the first to circumnavigate the world.
6. **inclement (pg. 51)** - rough; severe; stormy
7. **to the furious tip of the continent (pg. 51)** - to the stormy waters and bad weather of Cape Horn
8. **notorious (pg. 52)** - widely but unfavorably known or talked about
9. **Tierra del Fuego (pg. 52)** - a group of islands at the tip of South America which are divided between Argentina and Chile and separated from the mainland by the Strait of Magellan
10. **troughs (pg. 53)** - the low, long narrow bottom part between waves
11. **battening the hatches (pg. 53)** - fasten canvas over the hatches of a ship especially in preparing for a storm
12. **gale (pg. 54)** - a strong wind from 32 to 63 miles per hour
13. **mite (pg. 55)** - little
14. **the furies of the past 37 days (pg. 57)** - the violence and fierceness of the weather

### Comprehension Study - Chapter 5

1. Why is this chapter called "The Land of Fire"?  
(The natives of Tierra del Fuego built large fires to keep themselves and their sheep from freezing. These fires were visible to ships as they passed Cape Horn.)
2. What is happening to the weather and why?  
(It is getting colder again because they are moving further away from the equator.)

## Chapter 6 - Spoiled Potatoes

### Vocabulary Study

1. **Chile (pg. 59)** - a country on the southwestern coast of South America
2. **sapling (pg. 59)** - a young tree
3. **monotony (pg. 60)** - tiresome sameness
4. **shucked (pg. 61)** - to take off; remove
5. **hemp (pg. 61)** - the fiber of a tall Asiatic plant used to make rope
6. **ceased (pg. 62)** - stopped
7. **rationed (pg. 62)** - to distribute fixed amounts of something in times of scarcity
8. **languished (pg. 62)** - continue in a state of suffering
9. **solemnly (pg. 62)** - seriously
10. **stalwart (pg. 62)** - brave and strong
11. **Callao (pg. 64)** - a seaport in western Peru
12. **agriculture (pg. 65)** - the science and art of farming and raising livestock
13. **notion (pg. 65)** - idea
14. **aspect (pg. 67)** - appearance
15. **bantam (pg. 67)** - a small but aggressive person

### Comprehension Study - Chapter 6

1. In the beginning of this chapter, where is the *Sea Raven* and why?  
(The *Sea Raven* is behind the *Lady Wilma* because they ran out of coal. They used up more coal by sailing around the Cape.)
2. What entertained some of the passengers?  
(They watched Praiseworthy give Jack a haircut.)

3. What problem does the *Lady Wilma* have?  
(*They run out of coal, the wind dies down and they sit in the same place for three weeks. They are running low on fresh water, so the captain rations it for drinking water only.*)
4. Who is Jack worried about and why?  
(*He is worried about Aunt Arabella. He thinks she might be an old maid. He thinks she may not have gotten married because of him and his sisters.*)
5. What does Praiseworthy do every time Jack talks about Aunt Arabella?  
(*He changes the subject.*)
6. Which two passengers are particularly upset and why?  
(*Azariah Jones' potatoes are rotting and he has spent all of his money on them. Monsieur Gaunt's grape cuttings are drying up because the captain will not let him use any fresh water.*)
7. How does Jack help Azariah Jones and Monsieur Gaunt?  
(*He remembers when he stowed away, he sucked on a potato to quench his thirst. The potatoes are juicy even though they are rotting. He tells Gaunt to buy Jones' potatoes and poke a grape cutting into each potato. The men agree and both are saved.*)
8. At the end of the chapter, what is happening in the race and why?  
(*The Sea Raven goes ahead because their cargo isn't as heavy as the cargo of the Lady Wilma.*)

### Chapter 7 - End of the Race

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **skedaddled** (pg. 70) - leave in a hurry
2. **thronged** (pg. 70) - crowded into
3. **Andes** (pg. 70) - a mountain system extending the length of western South America
4. **voila** (pg. 71) - French word meaning "there it is"
5. **gratitude** (pg. 71) - thankfulness; appreciation
6. **Peruvian** (pg. 74) - belonging to or from Peru
7. **Galapagos** (pg. 75) - group of islands in the Pacific Ocean on the equator that belong to the country of Ecuador
8. **cords of wood** (pg. 75) - a measure of cut wood arranged in a pile 8 feet long, 4 feet high and 4 feet wide
9. **barren** (pg. 75) - land with little or no vegetation
10. **wily** (pg. 77) - sly; crafty
11. **sidearms** (pg. 78) - weapons that can be worn at the side or waist as a pistol
12. **four-shooters** (pg. 78) - a revolver with four chambers, each holding one bullet
13. **musket** (pg. 78) - a long barreled firearm, fired from the shoulder, came before the invention of the rifle
14. **bountiful** (pg. 78) - plentiful

15. **Sandwich Islands** (pg. 78) - the former name of the Hawaiian Islands
16. **account** (p.g 79) - money set aside for a specific purpose
17. **pea jacket** (pg. 79) - a short, double breasted coat of thick woolen material, worn by sailors in severe weather
18. **Golden Gate** (pg. 80) - a strait or channel between the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 7

1. Why couldn't Captain Swain get any coal in Callao?  
(*The Sea Raven had taken all of the coal.*)
2. How do you know that Azariah Jones and Monsieur Gaunt are grateful for Jack's and Praiseworthy's help?  
(*They each bought a shovel, pick and washpan for Jack and Praiseworthy.*)
3. What new passengers came aboard in Callao and why?  
(*The cats came aboard because they were following the smell of fresh kidney that Praiseworthy bought for Captain Swain.*)
4. What happened in this chapter that upset Praiseworthy?  
(*His hat blew overboard. He missed his hat and did not feel like a butler without it.*)
5. How did the *Lady Wilma* manage to win the race even though they did not have any coal?  
(*Praiseworthy told Captain Swain to buy the lumber in the cargo hold and use it as fuel. This made the paddlewheels turn. By burning the lumber, they were also lighter in the water. The Sea Raven was loaded down with all of the extra coal they took onboard and the Lady Wilma sailed right past them.*)
6. How long did the voyage take? How does this compare with the prediction you made after reading Chapter 1?  
(*Five months*)
7. How do you think Jack feels now that they have arrived in San Francisco?  
(*Answers will vary.*)
8. Even though you have never met the captain of the *Sea Raven*, what do you think about him based on how he behaved during the race?  
(*Answers will vary. He certainly isn't very kind as he refused to help the square-rigger when it was in trouble. He also didn't race fairly when he took all of the coal from Callao just to make sure Captain Swain couldn't have any.*)

### Chapter 8 - Saved by a Whisker

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **hawkers** (pg. 83) - a peddler, especially one who sells by calling on private homes
2. **horn spoons** (pg. 83) - a spoon carved from an ox horn that was in common use during the gold rush
3. **serapes** (pg. 83) - a woolen blanket, often brightly colored, used as an outer-garment by men in Spanish-American countries

4. **mule skimmers (pg. 83)** - a person who drives a team of mules
5. **jackboots (pg. 83)** - a heavy boot of stiff leather from the ankle to the knee
6. **sand dredger (pg. 83)** - a machine that scoops or sucks up sand to clear channels or harbors
7. **Panama (pg. 83)** - a country in Central America on the Isthmus of Panama
8. **cheroots (pg. 84)** - a cigar with both ends cut off
9. **calomel pills (pg. 84)** - pills made of a white tasteless powder used as a laxative or for intestinal worms. They also contain mercury which can be used to draw out gold.
10. **castor oil (pg. 84)** - a colorless or yellowish oil from castor beans used as a laxative
11. **mutton (pg. 84)** - the meat from a sheep
12. **lure (pg. 86)** - the power of attracting or tempting
13. **barrel staves (pg. 86)** - a thin, shaped strip of wood
14. **chestnut hair (pg. 86)** - reddish-brown hair
15. **ruination (pg. 86)** - an expression that shows one is ruined or destroyed
16. **calico (pg. 87)** - a cotton cloth
17. **China matting (pg. 87)** - a fabric made of woven grass and straw used as a floor covering and made in China
18. **ragamuffin (pg. 88)** - a dirty, ragged person or child
19. **ambled (pg. 88)** - walk in a leisurely manner; unhurriedly
20. **typhoon (pg. 89)** - a violent windstorm with whirling movements originating in the west Pacific especially from the South China Sea
21. **fiancee (pg. 90)** - a person to whom one is engaged to marry
22. **Cheap Johns (pg. 91)** - auctioneers. A person whose work is selling things at an auction. In an auction, items are sold one by one to the people who bid and will pay the highest.
23. **obliged (pg. 92)** - indebted for a kindness or favor
24. **lunatic (pg. 92)** - a crazy person
25. **shorn locks (pg. 92)** - locks or strands of hair that have been cut off
26. **Hangtown (pg. 93)** - the name of a real mining camp during the gold rush. The official name was Placerville and had also been called Dry Diggings. It received the name of Hangtown after a judge and angry crowd sentenced three men to hang who were accused of attempted robbery and attempted murder. The men spoke very little English and because they had already been tried and whipped for another crime, they were not physically able to attend their own trial.
27. **buckskin (pg. 94)** - a soft yellowish-gray leather made from the skins of deer or sheep
28. **residue (pg. 94)** - that which is left over after part is taken away; remainder

### Comprehension Study - Chapter 8

1. How did the haircut Praiseworthy gave to Jack while on the *Lady Wilma* help them get passage on the riverboat?  
(*Quartz Jackson noticed the haircut and asked where he had it done. After Praiseworthy cuts his hair, Jackson showed them how to work a pan using the hair that had been cut off and there was gold in it. This gave Praiseworthy the idea to offer free haircuts to miners. With the gold dust they collected from the hair, they paid for their passage on the riverboat.*)
2. Why did Quartz Jackson need a haircut?  
(*His hair and beard were very long. His fiancée was coming to town that day and he didn't want his appearance to frighten her away.*)
3. What were most of the miners wearing?  
(*red flannel shirts and jackboots*)
4. What things shocked Praiseworthy and Jack in San Francisco?  
(*a bath that would cost \$10; \$25 for riverboat passage; 3 months to get their laundry back*)
5. Why was laundry sent all the way to China?  
(*The price of water in San Francisco was \$1 a bucket, so it was cheaper to send the laundry to China.*)
6. How could you get to "the diggings" from San Francisco?  
(*Take the riverboat to Sacramento, and then go by stagecoach, mule or foot to the mining camps.*)

### Chapter 9 - The Man in the Jipijapa Hat

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **jipijapa (pg. 96)** - a Spanish word meaning a fine woven straw hat
2. **bandied (pg. 97)** - talked about freely and carelessly
3. **steward (pg. 98)** - an attendant, as on a ship or plane, employed to look after the passengers' comfort
4. **delicacy (pg. 98)** - a choice and tasty food
5. **anvil (pg. 98)** - an iron or steel block on which metal objects are hammered into shape
6. **grubstake (pg. 99)** - the mining supplies needed by a prospector. They were often supplied by a sponsor who shared in the findings.
7. **bandy-legged man (pg. 99)** - bowlegged; having the legs shaped for greater comfort in riding a horse
8. **droned (pg. 99)** - to talk on and on in a dull, monotonous way
9. **butt of a dueling pistol (pg. 100)** - the thick end of the pistol

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 9

1. Which mining camp do Jack and Praiseworthy decide to go to? Why?  
(*Hangtown. Answers will vary as to why. However, Quartz Jackson was from Hangtown which may have influenced Jack's decision.*)
2. Why did Dr. Buckbee stay in San Francisco?  
(*He was going to wait for Cut-Eye Higgins to show up so he could get his map back.*)

3. How did helping Azariah Jones and Monsieur Gaunt pay off in this chapter?  
*(Praiseworthy and Jack were able to sell a pick and shovel [given to them by Jones and Gaunt] for \$200 which paid for the stagecoach to Hangtown.)*
4. Where did Praiseworthy store their extra gold dust?  
*(in the fingertips of his left glove)*
5. Which passenger on the stagecoach is from Hangtown and what is his occupation?  
*(Jonas T. Fletcher is an undertaker in Hangtown.)*
6. What unexpected passenger was also on the stagecoach?  
*(Cut-Eye Higgins)*
7. What do you think Praiseworthy will try to do to Cut-Eye Higgins?  
*(Answers will vary. But Praiseworthy will probably try to get Dr. Buckbee's map from Higgins.)*
2. How did Higgins react when Praiseworthy mentioned the map?  
*(He pretended he did not know what Praiseworthy was talking about.)*
3. How does Higgins introduce himself to Fletcher?  
*(as Doc Higgins, a dentist)*
4. On pp. 101-103, why is Praiseworthy hesitant about trying to get Dr. Buckbee's map away from Higgins?  
*(Higgins had a gun and he did not.)*
5. Why did Higgins fire his gun?  
*(The stagecoach was being held up by road agents [robbers] and Higgins shot at them.)*
6. How did storing the gold in the fingertips of his glove help Praiseworthy?  
*(First, the robbers did not look in the glove, so the gold was saved from the robbers. Second, it helped Praiseworthy knock out the robber who was trying to take Aunt Arabella's picture.)*

## Chapter 10 - The Rogue Out-Rogued

### Vocabulary Study

1. **Isthmus (pg. 101)** - a narrow strip of land having water on each side and connecting two larger bodies of land. The Isthmus of Panama connects North and South America.
2. **bongo boat (pg. 101)** - Spanish word meaning a flat boat or small barge
3. **relay station (pg. 102)** - a station where horses are changed on a stagecoach
4. **wager (pg. 103)** - bet
5. **rely on our wits (pg. 103)** - depend on their own powers of thinking and reasoning
6. **road agents (pg. 104)** - a robber, usually a robber of stagecoaches
7. **bandanas (pg. 104)** - a cowboy's neckerchief, usually brightly colored. It had many uses: to wipe sweat and dust from the face; as a sieve in panning for gold; to hold a hat on in a storm; to hide faces of robbers.
8. **detain (pg. 104)** - to keep from going on
9. **highwayman (pg. 105)** - a man on horseback who robbed travelers
10. **ruffian (pg. 106)** - a violent, lawless person
11. **tintype (pg. 106)** - a photograph positive taken on a thin iron plate
12. **awe (pg. 106)** - a mixed feeling of reverence, fear and wonder
13. **brute (pg. 108)** - a cruel, violent person
14. **booty (pg. 109)** - prize; a rich gain
7. How do you think Praiseworthy feels about Aunt Arabella? Explain your answer.  
*(He likes her very much or loves her because he has carried a picture of her all the way to California.)*
8. What was the last thing the robbers took and why?  
*(They took the passengers' coats because there might be gold sewn into the linings.)*
9. What things does Praiseworthy still have that make him feel like a butler?  
*(his umbrella and gloves)*
10. What happened when Praiseworthy told Higgins to give him the map?  
*(Higgins told him that the map was in the lining of his coat which the robbers now have.)*

## Chapter 11 - Jamoka Jack

### Vocabulary Study

1. **skewer them (pg. 110)** - a skewer is a large pin used to hold meat while cooking. Jack thought if they fell on the pine trees, they would be pierced just like meat on a skewer.
2. **whittling (pg. 111)** - to cut thin shavings from wood with a knife
3. **fidgiting (pg. 111)** - moving about in a restless way
4. **marvel (pg. 112)** - wonder
5. **sowbelly (pg. 112)** - salt pork; pork from the belly of a pig
6. **grub (pg. 112)** - food
7. **general merchandise store (pg. 112)** - a store that sells a large variety of items from food and clothing to tools and furniture
8. **slouch hat (pg. 114)** - in the 18th and 19th centuries, a hat with a flopping or uncocked brim
9. **lop off (pg. 114)** - cut off

### Comprehension Study

1. How did Higgins get to California?  
*(He went from Rio de Janeiro to Panama and crossed the Isthmus of Panama by bongo boat and muleback to the Pacific Ocean.)*

10. **crimped** (pg. 106) - squinted
11. **hospitality** (pg. 116) - friendliness and kindness to guests
12. **forged** (pg. 117) - made or shaped of hot metal
13. **squatters** (pg. 17) - a person who settles on land belonging to someone else
14. **claim jumpers** (pg. 117-118) - in mining, people who illegally take over another person's mining area
15. **spangles** (pg. 119) - pieces or particles of gold
16. **Sonorians** (pg. 119) - people from Sonora, Mexico
17. **prospectin'** - **prospecting** (pg. 122) - to explore or search for something

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 11

1. What was Jack anxious to do?  
*(go to the diggings)*
2. What did Praiseworthy and Jack do before going to the diggings?  
*(They registered at the hotel; washed up; wrote a letter to Dr. Buckbee about Higgins and the map; ate lunch and bought two buckskin pouches.)*
3. On the top of pg. 113, what were they having trouble finding and why?  
*(They couldn't find a place along the river to dig because it had already been claimed by other miners.)*
4. How did Jack save Praiseworthy from the miner who shot the washpan from Praiseworthy's hands?  
*(He found the miner's washpan near a pile of wet rocks.)*
5. What things does Pitch-pine Billy do to show he's sorry for shooting the washpan?  
*(He offers them coffee; tells them how to stake a claim legally; shows them places to look for gold; shows them how to dry wash and how to use a pan; shows Praiseworthy how to use his umbrella to find gold; invites them to stay for dinner; invites them to work on his claim.)*
6. Why do they need jackboots?  
*(to keep their feet dry when panning for gold in the icy cold waters of the mountain streams)*
7. Why does Jack want to drink coffee?  
*(To win the nickname that Billy gave him--Jamoka Jack.)*

#### Chapter 12 - Bullwhip

##### Vocabulary Study

1. **elated** (pg. 125) - happy; joyful
2. **tatters** (pg. 125) - ripped; torn; shredded
3. **concertina** (pg. 126) - a musical instrument similar to an accordion, but smaller and with buttons instead of a keyboard
4. **fancies** (pg. 127) - imaginary thoughts
5. **resumed** (pg. 127) - started again; continued
6. **assay office** (pg. 128) - a place where miners could take their gold to have it tested and analyzed for purity

7. **a grossly exaggerated account** (pg. 129) - a report in which the facts have been overly magnified
8. **cud** of tobacco (pg. 129) - a mouthful of tobacco that has been chewed

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 12

1. What three things do Jack and Praiseworthy talk about buying in this chapter?  
*(boots, a tent and a burro)*
2. What do they discuss that embarrasses Praiseworthy?  
*(Jack asks about the picture of Aunt Arabella and he tells Praiseworthy that he thinks Aunt Arabella would marry him if he asked her.)*
3. How does Praiseworthy get the nickname "Bullwhip?"  
*(The miners heard from Fletcher how far the robber fell back when Jack hit him. One miner said that Praiseworthy's fighting arm must be like "the butt end of a bullwhip." The other miners picked up on it and started calling him Bullwhip.)*
4. Why doesn't Praiseworthy tell the miners the truth about the gold in his glove?  
*(It appears that the miners prefer to hear a tall tale rather than the truth.)*

#### Chapter 13 - A Bushel of Neckties

##### Vocabulary Study

1. **reputation** (pg. 130) - the public or community view of a person which can be favorable or unfavorable
2. **someone of consequence** (pg. 130) - a person of importance
3. **basked** (pg. 130) - enjoyed a warm pleasant feeling
4. **notoriety** (pg. 130) - well known
5. **salt pork** (pg. 132) - pork cured in salt, especially their fatty parts from the back, side or belly of a hog
6. **slabber** (pg. 132) - same as slobber; let saliva run from the mouth
7. **ravine** (pg. 133) - a long, deep hollow in the earth's surface, especially one worn by the action of a stream
8. **stubble** (pg. 134) - the short, bristly growth of a beard
9. **Kanakas** (pg. 136) - kanakas is a Polynesian word for man and refers to a Hawaiian or South Sea Islander.
10. **garrisons** (pg. 136) - forts
11. **paunchy** (pg. 136) - having a large, protruding belly; potbelly
12. **plug hat** (pg. 136) - a man's high silk hat
13. **Dos pesos** (pg. 136) - Spanish word for "two dollars"
14. **coyote hole** (pg. 139) - in mining, a hole dug straight down in the ground trying to reach bedrock
15. **coyote-ing** (pg. 139) - a method of mining for gold by digging holes and washing the dirt from the holes to find gold
16. **bedrock** - any solid rock beneath dirt and gravel

17. **Long Tom (pg. 139)** — a wooden trough with a bottom and two sides from 12 to 25 feet long. At one end it was wider and had an iron plate with holes in it. Under that was a flat “ripple box” several inches deep with riffles across the bottom of it. The Long Tom was set as a slant and arranged so that water flowed through it continuously. It was a two-man operation with one man shoveling in dirt and the other to keep things moving so it went through the trough. The sand, gold and water would drop through the holes in the first iron plates and get caught in the riffles below it. The sand and gold from the “ripple box” were then separated by panning.
18. **iron riffles (pg. 140)** - grooves, channels or wire screens in a Long Tom to catch the gold
19. **delegation (pg. 140)** - a group of people sent to speak and act for others
20. **reach (pg. 141)** - the length of a person’s extended arm
21. **last will and testament (pg. 142)** - a legal statement of a person’s wishes concerning the distribution of his property after death
22. **plummet (pg. 144)** - a lead weight hung on a line to determine how deep water is or whether a wall, door, etc. is vertical
8. Why are all of the miners suddenly interested in buying a necktie?  
*(Quartz Jackson and his wife are in Hangtown and everyone is getting all cleaned up to see her. When they see Jack and Praiseworthy with neckties on, they all want to buy one.)*
9. Who is the Mountain Ox and what does he want to do?  
*(He is a big man from Grizzly Flats who heard about “Bullwhip” and thinks he can beat him. He challenges Bullwhip to a fight.)*

## Chapter 14 - The Prospectors

### Vocabulary Study

1. **disdain (pg. 146)** - contempt; dislike; scorn
2. **tentatively (pg. 148)** - with uncertainty or hesitancy
3. **cinched (pg. 148)** - tightened the band or strap around the belly of an animal to hold a pack or saddle on
4. **squirrel gun (pg. 149)** - a light gauge shotgun that shoots very small shot (pellets). It has to be reloaded after every firing.
5. **humiliated (pg. 150)** - feeling foolish; with hurt pride
6. **brawler (pg. 150)** - a rough fighter

### Comprehension Study - Chapter 14

1. Why did Jack collect four tin cans?  
*(He would need them to stake a claim and made it legal.)*
2. Where are Jack and Praiseworthy staying?  
*(They bought a tent and put it next to Pitch-pine Billy’s.)*
3. Why was the gold worth more in San Francisco than at the diggings?  
*(Gold was plentiful at the diggings, but supplies and food were not plentiful. Gold was not plentiful in San Francisco, so people would pay more for it and you could buy more with the gold.)*  
\*\*This would be a good time to discuss the principle of supply and demand and how it affects prices.\*\*
4. Today we use sprays to kill fleas. How did the miners get rid of fleas?  
*(They filled a washpan with soapy water and put a lit candle near it. The candle would make the fleas jump and they would land in the water and drown.)*
5. What did one miner do that earned him \$4,000?  
*(He brought a jar of raisins and the other miners, who had not had raisins in a very long time, paid high prices for them.)*
6. What does Jack buy at the auction and why?  
*(He buys a bushel of neckties. It was a misunderstanding--when Jack said “ate” the auctioneer thought he meant “eight” dollars and Jack was forced to carve off some of his nugget to pay for the ties.)*
7. How did Jack feel when he found the nugget? How did he feel when he had to carve the nugget to buy the neckties?  
*(Answers will vary.)*
1. What does Pitch-pine Billy do to Stubbs and why?  
*(He blindfolds him with a bandana so Stubbs will hold still when Jack gets on him.)*
2. Where are Jack and Praiseworthy going?  
*(They are going to find their own claim.)*
3. Why does Praiseworthy think he can beat the Mountain Ox?  
*(He read a book on boxing and sees no reason why he can’t outwit and outbox the Mountain Ox.)*
4. Do you think Praiseworthy can beat the Mountain Ox? Explain your answer.  
*(Answers will vary.)*

## Chapter 15 - The Man Who Couldn’t Sit Down

### Vocabulary Study

1. **poppies (pg. 152)** - a plant that has flowers in a variety of colors and a capsule containing many small seeds
2. **fools’ gold (pg. 152)** - a pyrite rock, a sulphide of iron that people mistook for gold
3. **eluded (pg. 152)** - escaped notice or detection
4. **rockers (pg. 153)** - also called cradles. It consisted of a wooden box or hollow log, open at one end and mounted on rockers. A mixture of earth and water was poured into the top. A perforated plate sorted out the bigger rocks and gravel and only the finer dirt sank to the bottom where there were a series of “riffles” which slowed down the heavier particles and caught the gold dust. It could be worked by one person and didn’t require as much water as the Long Tom.
5. **feint (pg. 154)** - a pretended blow or attack intended to distract the opponent and catch him off guard
6. **petrified (pg. 155)** - paralyzed with fear; unable to move

7. **reformed (pg. 158)** - improvement in what was bad or corrupt
8. **benefactor (pg. 158)** - a person who has given help
9. **halter (pg. 158)** - a rope or strap for tying or leading an animal
10. **hombre (pg. 159)** - a southwestern cowboy's name for a man, usually a man of low character
11. **deceived (pg. 159)** - tricked; fooled

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 15

1. What do they find out about Cut-Eye Higgins in this chapter?  
*(That he is in Shirt-tail Camp and must still have Dr. Buckbee's map. They deduct that Higgins still has not located the mine on the map otherwise he wouldn't still be pulling teeth.)*
2. How did Jack fall down the coyote hole?  
*(He was backing away from a grizzly bear and fell in.)*
3. How did Jack get out of the hole?  
*(A stranger heard him and pulled him out with a rope.)*
4. Who is the "man who couldn't sit down?"  
*(He is one of the robbers that held up the stagecoach. He can't sit down because he was shot in the rear with a load of buckshot.)*
5. How did Jack know that the stranger was one of the robbers?  
*(He was wearing the coat he took from Cut-Eye Higgins.)*
6. How do you know that the robber was really reformed?  
*(He pulled Jack out of the hole. He gave Jack the jacket even though he knew Jack did not reload the gun. He also wished Jack good luck.)*

### Chapter 16 - The Gravediggers

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **Old Cap Sutter's sawmill (pg. 160)** - This is the real place where the gold rush started and is located on the American River at a place called Coloma. The events described on pages 160-161 about John Marshall and the discovery of gold are factual.
2. **tailrace (pg. 160)** - the ditch that leads water away from the mill wheel
3. **bonanza (pg. 161)** - in mining, a large body of paying ore, like gold; a very rich gold find
4. **heinous (pg. 163)** - evil; wicked; outrageous
5. **doggone (pg. 163)** - the British used "a dog on it" as a form of a mild oath. Doggone is a misspelling of this.
6. **forceps (pg. 164)** - small tongs or pincers used by dentists for grasping and pulling
7. **reprieve (pg. 167)** - to postpone the punishment of
8. **cantankerous (pg. 168)** - quarrelsome; disputing
9. **contempt of court (pg. 168)** - showing disrespect to the judge in court

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 16

1. How and where was the gold discovered that started the California gold rush?  
*(A carpenter named John Marshall was building a sawmill for Captain John Sutter in Coloma Valley on the American River. Marshall saw something glittering in the tailrace and discovered it was gold.)*
2. How did they test to see if it was really gold?  
*(pound it to see if it flattens out; weigh it underwater against another metal to see if it is heavier; put acid on it to see if it corrodes)*
3. Why did Jack and Praiseworthy hurry to Shirt-tail Camp after talking to the miner?  
*(He told them they might get there in time to see Doc Higgins hang for stealing a horse. They had to get there before Higgins died if they were going to get the map.)*
4. Why did Praiseworthy make Jack pretend to have a toothache?  
*(So he could have a chance to talk to Higgins and get the map.)*
5. How did Praiseworthy feel when Higgins gave him the map and why?  
*(He was angry because the map was of Shirt-tail Camp and it was already being mined. Higgins had tricked him again.)*
6. How and why did Praiseworthy help Higgins?  
*(He told him if he got the map, he would try to get Higgins out of the hanging. So Praiseworthy gave a speech about how Higgins couldn't help anyone if he was dead. After hearing the speech, the Justice of the Peace said they would delay the hanging until another dentist came to camp.)*
7. How did Higgins help Jack and Praiseworthy?  
*(The Justice of the Peace made them dig a hole 6 feet deep to prepare for Higgins' burial. When digging, they struck gold.)*

### Chapter 17 - The Fifteenth of August

#### Vocabulary Study

1. **oblong (pg. 169)** - longer in one direction than in the other with parallel sides; rectangular
2. **boomed (pg. 162)** - a sudden increase in business activity
3. **boomers (pg. 172)** - a participant in a land rush to find gold. They worked for a few days and then quit.
4. **shooting irons (pg. 172)** - a pistol; a revolver
5. **invincible (pg. 173)** - unbeatable
6. **gladiators (pg. 175)** - a person engaged in a fierce fight
7. **vigilant (pg. 176)** - staying watchful and alert to danger
8. **haymaker (pg. 176)** - a violent blow in fighting
9. **lithe (pg. 176)** - flexible; bending easily



10. **proboscis** (pg. 177) - a person's nose
11. **bout** (pg. 178) - a boxing match or contest
12. **dispatch** a left jab (pg. 178) - to send off or out promptly
13. **keeled over** (pg. 179) - to fall over suddenly, as in a faint

#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 17

1. How does the relationship between Jack and Praiseworthy change?  
*(Praiseworthy calls him Jack instead of Master Jack.)*
2. What did they do as soon as they struck gold?  
*(They staked out the claim legally by putting four corner stakes in the ground with a tin can on each.)*
3. Why did Praiseworthy buy a Long Tom?  
*(They could wash more pay dirt using a Long Tom than just washing it in a pan.)*
4. What name was given to the place where they struck gold and why?  
*(It was called Gravediggers' Hill because Jack and Praiseworthy were digging Higgins' grave when they struck gold.)*
5. Praiseworthy is having an inner conflict. What is it all about?  
*(He loves Aunt Arabella, but if he goes back to Boston he will have to return to his life as a butler and can't possibly marry her.)*
6. What has happened to Doc Higgins?  
*(He has escaped from Shirt-tail Camp.)*  
What do you think will happen to him?  
*(Answers will vary.)*
7. How long did Jack and Praiseworthy work their claim?  
*(for two weeks)*
8. Why did they sell Stubbs and their mining equipment?  
*(They didn't need them anymore because they had made their fortune in gold and are returning to Boston.)*
9. Why did they go back to Hangtown?  
*(Praiseworthy said he would fight the Mountain Ox.)*
10. Who won the fight and how did he do it?  
*(Praiseworthy won the fight. He managed to dodge and duck all the punches that the Mountain Ox swung. Meanwhile, Praiseworthy kept jabbing away at the Ox's nose as the Ox was getting more and more tired. With one last right cross punch, Praiseworthy knocked him out.)*
11. Why did Praiseworthy want to win this fight?  
*(To save the name of Hangtown and to back up his reputation fairly without using a heavy gold filled glove.)*

#### Chapter 18 - Arrival at the Long Wharf

##### Vocabulary Study

1. **rousing send off** (pg. 181) - very active; lively
2. **rheumatism** (pg. 183) - a painful condition of the joints and muscles, usually with stiffness

3. **mused** (pg. 186) - to think deeply and at length
4. **ratting cats** (pg. 188) - cats that chased, caught and killed rats
5. **musty** (pg. 189) - smelling of damp and decay
6. **cured salmon** (pg. 191) - a type of fish preserved by salting or smoking it
7. **vices** (pg. 191) - bad habits

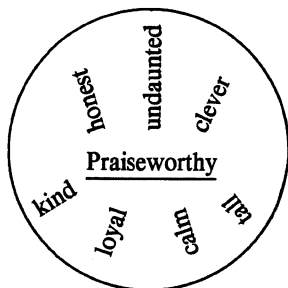
#### Comprehension Study - Chapter 18

1. How did Jack and Praiseworthy end up in the waters of the San Francisco Bay?  
*(The boiler on the stern-wheeler exploded and sent them into the water.)*
2. What did Jack and Praiseworthy have to do to save their lives?  
*(They had to unbuckle their belts and drop their gold to save themselves from drowning.)*
3. Why do you think Praiseworthy didn't show any disappointment?  
*(Answers will vary. He probably wanted to be strong for Jack.)*
4. Why couldn't they get passage home on the *Lady Wilma*?  
*(Captain Swain went home and left the ship deserted in the harbor when his crew ran off to join the gold rush and he couldn't hire anyone to unload the cargo.)*
5. How did buying fresh kidney in Callao, Peru help Jack and Praiseworthy in this chapter?  
*(Peruvian cats followed the kidney smell and came aboard the ship in Callao. The cats have multiplied and are living on the deserted ship. Praiseworthy and Jack took some cats off of the ship and Azariah Jones sold them. They made \$400.)*
6. Why do the people in San Francisco need cats?  
*(The city is overrun with rats which are eating food and destroying things.)*
7. Who do Jack and Praiseworthy see coming ashore?  
*(Aunt Arabella and Jack's sisters)*
8. What does Praiseworthy do that delights Jack and his sisters?  
*(He asks Aunt Arabella to marry him.)*
9. What did Aunt Arabella say that gave Praiseworthy the courage to ask her to marry him?  
*(She said she wasn't going back to Boston. If they stay in California no one would think their marriage was improper because no one thought of Praiseworthy as only a butler.)*
10. What occupation does Praiseworthy say he may take up?  
*(He may become a lawyer.)*
11. Where do you think they will live?  
*(In a cabin, near a river close to the diggings.)*
12. What happened that was more important to Jack and Praiseworthy than finding a fortune in gold?  
*(Aunt Arabella has agreed to marry Praiseworthy and now Jack and his sisters will have a father and be a real family.)*

13. Which character in the story changed the most?  
(Praiseworthy)
14. Why is Praiseworthy a good name for this man?  
(Answers will vary.)

### Student Involvement Activities

1. Draw a map of Jack and Praiseworthy's journey and label these locations: Boston, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Cape Horn, the Strait of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, Chile, Callao, Peru, Galapagos, Mexico, Panama, the Sandwich Islands, the equator and San Francisco.
2. Read the story about Jason and the Argonauts. Compare them to the gold-seekers of the California gold rush.
3. Write a story about the adventures of Cut-Eye Higgins after he escapes from the jail in Shirt-tail Camp.
4. Write a one sentence caption describing each illustration in the book.
5. Sid Fleischman uses similes repeatedly to make you see, feel or hear something he is describing more clearly. A simile compares two things using the words *like* or *as*. See how many similes you can find--there are at least 60 similes in this book.
6. Write a different ending to the story. What if Jack and Praiseworthy didn't lose their gold and returned to Boston?
7. Use reference materials and other books to read more about the California gold rush. Determine which events in the story were factual. These books may be helpful:  
Seidman, Laurence I. *The Fools of '49: The California Gold Rush 1848-1856*. Knopf, 1976 (Gr. 6-8)  
Stein, R. Conrad *The Story of the Gold at Sutter's Mill*, Children's Press, 1981 (Gr. 3-5)
8. Make an "adjective wheel" for each character in the book. Write a character's name in the center of a circle and write adjectives that describe that person on lines like "spokes" going from the center to the circle. Here is an example:



9. Read other stories by Sid Fleischman. There is a list of his books on one of the front pages of your book.

10. Read historical books by other authors. You might want to try these:  
Beatty, Patricia. *Melinda Takes a Hand*. William Morrow, 1973.  
Flory, Jane. *The Gold Adventure*. Houghton, 1976. This is a story about Minnie who stows away in her father's wagon which is heading west from Missouri to join the California gold rush. She has adventures of her own in San Francisco while her father is looking for gold.
11. Make your own dictionary for words that are introduced and defined in the book. Here are some examples:  
pg. 121 - slickens: Mud with the gold worked out of it.  
pg. 164 - ivories: teeth  
See how many you can find.
12. There are many events that occur that have effects on later parts of the story. Here is an example of a chain or series of cause and effect events:
  - a. Jack sucks on a potato to quench his thirst.
  - b. Jack remembers this and it helps him to solve Azariah Jones' and Monsieur Gaunt's problems.
  - c. The grateful men buy Jack and Praiseworthy a pick, shovel, and washpan.
  - d. In Sacramento, they sell a pick and shovel for \$200 to pay for the stagecoach ride to Hangtown.

See how many chains of events you can find. Use each of the following as a starting point:

- Jack buys a bushel full of neckties.
- Aunt Arabella asks Praiseworthy to throw away a book on boxing.
- Jack makes friends with a pig, naming it Good Luck.
- Praiseworthy bought fresh kidney in Callao, Peru.
- Aunt Arabella gave Praiseworthy a picture of her.
- Praiseworthy gave Jack a haircut.

### By the Great Horn Spoon!

Sid Fleischman writes in the front of the book that *By the Great Horn Spoon!* is a favorite saying of the forty-niners. The origin of this saying is not really known. Here are some theories about how it started.

1. The first time it appears in print is in 1842 as a part of a song:  
"He vow'd by the great horn spoon,  
He'd give them a licking, and that pretty soon."
2. Some land at Cape Horn was called the "great horn spoon" because of its shape.
3. New England wives gave their sailor husbands medicines out of great horn spoons before they went to sea.

Captain Swain constantly used the words "By grabs." "By grab" was an expression used on the Erie Canal as an exclamation.

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## TEST

### Vocabulary

Match each underlined word with a definition from below. Write the letter of the correct definition in the space by the sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When the *Lady Wilma* ran out of coal, they sat becalmed in the water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It was imperative for Jack to make a fortune in California.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The stagecoach passengers were in awe of Praiseworthy after he knocked the road agent out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. As the ship gave a lurch, Jack stood still.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The dispirited miners did not find any gold.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Jack climbed up the ratlines to the crow's nest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Praiseworthy's assurance helped Jack to continue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Praiseworthy remained undaunted by problems and mishaps.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Watching Jack get a haircut broke the monotony of the voyage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. They wanted to find the rogue who stole their money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Monsieur Gaunt, who was an immigrant, was worried about his grape cuttings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Quartz Jackson said he would be obliged if Praiseworthy would cut his hair.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. They worked hard to get together a grubstake so they could go to find their own claim.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. All of the miners were prospecting for gold.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Jack didn't want to see the captain because of the terrible accounts he had heard about the treatment of stowaways.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Captain Swain used money from his fuel account to buy the lumber he was carrying in the cargo hold.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Praiseworthy's reputation earned him the name "Bullwhip."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Jack and Praiseworthy were stowaways on the *Lady Wilma*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Cut-Eye Higgins' clean finger showed that he was an imposter and a thief.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. When they ripped the lining out of the coat, they knew that Cut-Eye Higgins had deceived them.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. confidence; the state of being sure or certain                       | k. necessary; important   |
| b. brought to a stop by lack of winds                                   | l. not afraid or discouraged  |
| c. a mixed feeling of reverence, fear and wonder                        | m. a report   |
| d. a worthless, dishonest person; scoundrel                             | n. the public or community view of a person which can be favorable or unfavorable                                       |
| e. indebted for a kindness or favor                                     | o. a person who cheats or deceives others by pretending to be someone he is not   |
| f. a sudden roll of a ship to one side                                  | p. tiresome sameness  |
| g. tricked; fooled  | q. light tarred lines secured horizontally across the shrouds at regular intervals to serve as ladders into the rigging |
| h. a person who hides aboard a ship, airplane, etc. to get free passage | r. the mining supplies needed by a prospector   |
| i. to explore or search for something                                   | s. a person who comes to a new country or region  |
| j. sad; discouraged, inactive   | t. money set aside for a specific purpose   |

## Comprehension Test

### Part I: True/False (20 points - 2 points each)

Write a T in front of the statement if it is true. Write an F if any part of it is false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ It was Praiseworthy's idea to try to strike it rich in California.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Captain Swain wanted to win the race with *Sea Raven* so he could earn the prize of a new steamboat.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Jack and Praiseworthy worked in the coal bunkers to help pay for their passage aboard the *Lady Wilma*.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Pitch-pine Billy told Jack and Praiseworthy that they could work on his claim.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ It was Jack's idea that saved Azariah Jones and Monsieur Gaunt.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The road agents took the passengers' coats because they thought there might be gold sewn into the linings.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Praiseworthy lost his hat in a coyote hole.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Buckbee blew his alarm trumpet when he discovered his map was missing.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Captain Swain helped the square-rigger and he lost the race.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The road agents found the gold dust that Praiseworthy had put in the fingertips of his white glove.

### Part II: Sequencing (20 points - 2 points each)

A. Number the events from 1 to 5 to show the order of what happened.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Someone steals Jack and Praiseworthy's money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They work off their passage working in the coal bunkers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A pig helps them to catch the thief.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jack wants to help Aunt Arabella with her money problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jack and Praiseworthy stowaway in potato barrels.

B. Number the events from 1 to 5 to show the order of what happened.

- \_\_\_\_\_ On the stagecoach to Hangtown Jack and Praiseworthy meet Cut-Eye Higgins posing as a dentist.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Captain Swain takes a shortcut through the Strait of Magellan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jack and Praiseworthy give free haircuts to miners to earn money for riverboat passage to Sacramento.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cut-Eye Higgins escapes in Rio de Janiero.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The *Lady Wilma* wins the race by being the first ship to sail into the Golden Gate.

**Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points - 2 points each)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Praiseworthy knocked out the road agent when he tried to take his \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. glove  
b. gold dust  
c. picture of Aunt Arabella  
d. umbrella
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of the following is NOT a method for finding gold?  
a. using a Long Tom  
b. dry washing  
c. panning  
d. clamoring
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following is NOT a way that Praiseworthy used his umbrella?  
a. as a stake for their claim  
b. as a weapon  
c. to pan for gold  
d. to hide a pig
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In order to live up to the nickname, Jamoka Jack, he would have to like \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. coffee  
b. sowbelly  
c. prospecting  
d. bear meat
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of the following is NOT another word for a thief?  
a. gunwale  
b. cut-purse  
c. highwayman  
d. road agent
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Where did Cut-Eye Higgins hide the money he stole?  
a. in his coat lining  
b. in his hat  
c. in his boot  
d. in a cigar
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Where did Jack and Praiseworthy get money to pay for the riverboat passage from San Francisco to Sacramento?  
a. by doing laundry  
b. by selling a pick and shovel  
c. by giving free haircuts  
d. by selling cats
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. What route did Captain Swain take that took hundreds of miles off of the voyage?  
a. around Cape Horn  
b. the Isthmus of Panama  
c. the Strait of Magellan  
d. through the Golden Gate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Why did the square-rigger ask for a tow?  
a. They ran out of coal.  
b. They were becalmed.  
c. The paddlewheel broke.  
d. They had no water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which mining camp did Jack and Praiseworthy live in?  
a. Angel's Camp  
b. Hangtown  
b. Grizzly Flats  
d. Shirt-tail Camp

**Part IV: Character Match (20 points - 2 points each)**

Find the letter of the description that matches each character. Write the letter on the line in front of the name.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ Praiseworthy            | a. stole money and a map   |
| 2. _____ Jack                    | b. a one legged horse doctor who wore an alarm trumpet around his neck |
| 3. _____ Captain Swain           | c. was in danger of losing the family home                             |
| 4. _____ Dr. Buckbee             | d. the original owner of 18 barrels of potatoes                        |
| 5. _____ Azariah Jones           | e. a butler who turned into a miner                                    |
| 6. _____ Quartz Jackson          | f. known as "the wild bull of the seas"                                |
| 7. _____ Cut-Eye Higgins         | g. he loved animals and stuffed a pig in a porthole                    |
| 8. _____ Pitch-pine Billy Pierce | h. needed a haircut to impress his fiancée                             |
| 9. _____ Aunt Arabella           | i. a miner who showed Jack and Praiseworthy three ways to find gold    |
| 10. _____ Mountain Jim           | j. helped save a pig by putting it under a barrel                      |

**Part V: Essay Questions (20 points - 4 points each)**

1. Explain how Jack and Praiseworthy exposed Cut-Eye Higgins as the thief.
2. How did Aunt Arabella help Praiseworthy to beat the Mountain Ox?
3. Why was the race with the *Sea Raven* so important to Captain Swain?
4. How did Cut-Eye Higgins help Jack and Praiseworthy to strike gold?
5. List at least 2 ideas that Jack and Praiseworthy came up with that helped themselves or others while on board the *Lady Wilma*.



## ANSWER KEY

### Vocabulary

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 1. b  | 11. s |
| 2. k  | 12. e |
| 3. c  | 13. r |
| 4. f  | 14. i |
| 5. j  | 15. m |
| 6. q  | 16. t |
| 7. a  | 17. n |
| 8. l  | 18. h |
| 9. p  | 19. o |
| 10. d | 20. g |

### Comprehension

#### Part I: True/False

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T  |
| 2. F | 7. F  |
| 3. T | 8. T  |
| 4. T | 9. F  |
| 5. T | 10. F |

#### Part II: Sequencing

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| A. 2 | B. 5 |
| 4    | 2    |
| 5    | 4    |
| 1    | 1    |
| 3    | 3    |

#### Part III: Multiple Choice

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. d  |
| 2. d | 7. c  |
| 3. b | 8. c  |
| 4. a | 9. b  |
| 5. a | 10. b |

#### Part IV: Character Match

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. h  |
| 2. g | 7. a  |
| 3. f | 8. i  |
| 4. b | 9. c  |
| 5. d | 10. j |

### Part V: Essay Questions

1. They covered a pig with coal dust and told the passengers that the pig would squeal if a dishonest man touched it. All of the passengers that touched the pig had black smudges on their fingers, but the thief's finger was clean because he didn't touch the pig fearing it would squeal.
2. Aunt Arabella gave Praiseworthy a book on boxing that she asked him to destroy because she didn't want Jack to find it. Instead of throwing it away, Praiseworthy read it and used the directions from the book to defeat the Mountain Ox.
3. The winner of the race got command of a brand new clipper ship that was being built in Boston and Captain Swain wanted to command the clipper ship.
4. To get the map from Cut-Eye Higgins, Praiseworthy had to promise to get Higgins out of the hanging. Praiseworthy was able to convince the Justice of the Peace to give Higgins a reprieve. However, since Praiseworthy acted as counsel for the defense, the Justice of the Peace told him he had to dig a hole 6 feet deep to prepare for Higgins' burial. When Jack and Praiseworthy were digging the hole, they struck gold.
5. — They thought of how to use a coal dust-covered pig to catch the thief.  
— They thought of how to save Azariah Jones from losing all of his money because of rotting potatoes and how to save Monsieur Gaunt's grape cutting from drying up.  
— Praiseworthy told Captain Swain to use the money in his fuel account to buy the lumber in the cargo hold and burn it in the furnace.



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