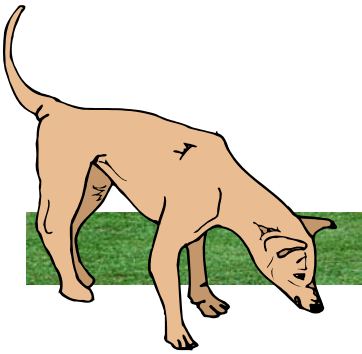
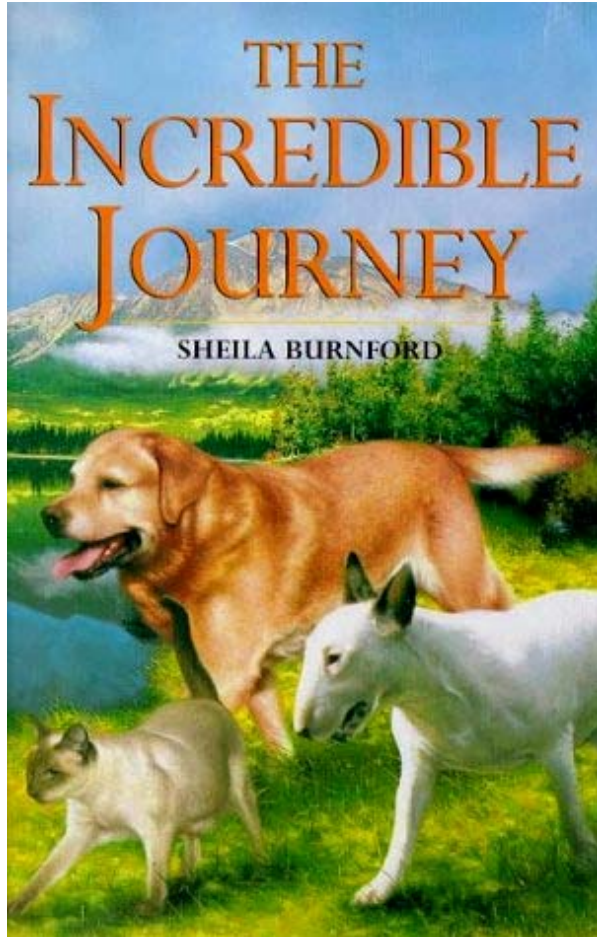


# The Incredible Journey

Sheila Burnford



Literature Packet Created By:  
Hannah, Kristen, and Jillian  
Kyrene De Las Brisas  
May 2004



# Incredible Journey Journal Questions

- 1: Based on the dogs' appearances and their health conditions, would you say that Longridge takes care of them? Support your answer.
- 2: After reading chapter five, do you think the animals will end up turning back? Make a prediction.
- 3: In your opinion, will Mrs. Oakes figure out what happened to the animals?
- 4: Why do you think Tao hesitated before joining his companions on their journey?
- 5: When Bodger collapsed, do you think it was right for the terrier's companion to do what they did when he was hurt?
- 6: Would some people think it was wrong of the dogs to run away? Do you? Support your answer.
- 7: Why do you think Luath avoided the Indians?
- 8: Why didn't Tao hunt for Luath?
- 9: Why do you think the baby cub was so interested in the wounded Bodger?
- 10: Why didn't Tao leave Bodger when he collapsed?
- 11: Over all, do you think that the animals adapted to the surrounding well?
- 12: How did Tao, Bodger, and Luath change throughout the story?
- 13: Why do you think the three pets survived so well?
- 14: Should Tao have stayed with her family after they nursed him?
- 15: What do you think is different about Sheila Burnford from all the other authors you have read?
- 16: How would the dogs have benefited if a human were with them?
- 17: How would you think the animals feel after this long journey?
- 18: How would you judge the decision that the dogs made when they left their house?
- 19: Would you recommend this book for other children? Why or why not.
- 20: What is the theme of the book and why.

## End of Book

### Writing Assignment #1:

Pretend you are going on a spontaneous trip around the world. Write three detailed paragraphs on what you should, and why each item is significant. In a fourth paragraph, write strategies you would use to survive.

### Writing Assignment #2:

Make up a headline news article about the three pets and their journey home. Then, write about everything they have experienced.

### Writing Assignment #3:

Make believe you are one of the pets in the book. Write a diary entry on what you have been through, and how you handle it.

# Incredible Journey Starters

## Poem Idea

Imagine you are a dog or cat traveling through the wilderness. Describe what you see, smell, and feel. Are there animals with you? Write a poem about your incredible journey. (Remember, your poem doesn't have to rhyme, some of the greatest poems don't have a single rhyme in them!)

## Example

Running  
Across the plains  
Through the wilderness  
Smelling the water in the air  
Feeling the pain of hunger  
But I move on  
I the dog  
My faithful companion the cat  
Searching for our humans  
Written By: Kristen

## Story Idea

Can you name a time in your life where things happened and you went through changes, like getting a new baby sister, losing a friend, or having a family member pass away? Write a short story with you as the character about the experiences and emotions you went through. (Make sure to have a beginning, middle, and end,) and "Ta Da!" you have your own personal incredible journey.

# Incredible Journey Fact And Opinion Sheet

Look at the sentences and determine whether they are fact or opinion. Put down an **F** for fact or an **O** for opinion.

1. The animals were smart to run away \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mrs. Oakes was going to take care of the animals \_\_\_\_\_
3. The animals lived in Canada \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tao was the best animal \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Indians were superstitious \_\_\_\_\_
6. The bear was a pain \_\_\_\_\_
7. Longridge missed the animals \_\_\_\_\_
8. Mrs. Oakes was stupid \_\_\_\_\_
9. The animals were smart to survive so well \_\_\_\_\_

## Incredible Journey Main Idea

Directions: The main idea is basically the plot of the story, but on this page, you will only use chapters 5-9. Finding too broad is finding something that doesn't only cover your story, but it covers a lot of other stories too. Narrow is something that

Many miles down stream on the side to which the dogs had crossed, a small cabin stood near the bank of the river, surrounded by three or four acres of cleared land, its solid, uncompromising appearance lightened only by the scarlet geraniums at the window sills and a bright blue door. A log barn stood back from it, and a steam-bath house at the side nearer to the river. The patch of vegetable garden, the young orchard and the neatly fenced fields, each with their piles of cleared boulders and stumps, were small orderly miracles of victory won from the dark encroaching forest that surrounded them.

- A) Many things were seen by the dogs
- B) The two dogs saw a window sills
- C) Dogs see lots of things
- D) As the two dogs crossed the stream they saw many things such as a vegetable garden.

## Drawing Conclusions

Directions: Read the passage, then choose the letter that you think best draws a conclusion.

1) In the cold hour before dawn, the bull terrier woke, and then staggered painfully to his feet. Her was trembling with cold and was extremely hungry and thirsty. He walked stiffly in the direction of the pool nearby, passing on his way the cat, who was crouched over something held between his paws. The terrier heard a crunching sound as the cat's jaws moved, and, wagging his tail in interest, moved over to investigate. The cat regarded him distantly, then stalked away, leaving the carcass; but to the terrier it was a disappointing mess of feathers only. He drank long and deeply at the pool and on his return tried the feathers again, for he was ravenous; but they stuck in his gullet and he retched them out. He nibbled at some stalks of grass, then, delicately, his lips rolled back over his teeth, picked a few overripe raspberries from a low bush. He had always liked to eat domestic raspberries this way, and although the taste was reassuringly familiar, it did nothing to appease his hunger. He was pleased to see the young dog appear presently; he wagged his tail and licked the other's face, then

followed resignedly when a move was made towards the direction of the rode. They were followed a few moments later by the cat who was still licking his lips after his feathery breakfast.

- A. The animals will continue to look for food suiting to them.
- B. The animals are going to die if they don't find food soon.
- C. The animals' journey will continue to get rougher.
- D. The animals want to go home.

(2) Many miles downstream on the side to which the dogs had crossed, a small cabin stood near the bank of the river, surrounded by three acres of cleared land, its solid, uncompromising appearance lightened only by the scarlet geraniums at the window sills and a bright blue door. A log barn stood back from it, and a steam-bath house at the side nearer the river. The patch of vegetable, the young orchard and the neatly fenced fields, each with their pales of cleared boulders and stumps, were small orderly miracles of surrounded them.

- A. The animals will stay at the house nearby the garden because they think that is pretty.
- B. The animals might wonder if there are humans around who would be willing to feed them.
- C. Although they saw no one the animals might think that there are people there taking care of the land.
- D. All of the buildings on the land were built at different times.

3) Over two-hundred miles now lay behind them, and as a group they were whole and intact, but of the three only the cat remained unscathed. The old dog, however, still plodded cheerfully and uncomplainingly along. It was the Labrador who was in really poor condition: his once beautiful coat was harsh and staring now, grotesquely swollen in contrast to this infected jaw made it almost impossible for him to open his mouth, so that he was virtually starving. The killing and the bleeding animal provided by the cat, and he lived solely on the fresh blood that could be licked from the carcass.

- A. The animals will keep pushing their journey farther trying to find food and nourishment.
- B. The Labrador will die if they go any farther.
- C. The animals will find lots of good food to eat.
- D. The Labrador will get lost.

4) Pieces of a jigsaw puzzle were gradually joining together, and the picture was taking shape in eastern Canada a liner was steaming up the St. Lawrence River, the height of Quebec receding in the distance as she made her way up to Montreal. Leaning against the railing on the upper deck, watching the panorama of the river, were the Hunters, returning from their long stay in England.

- A. The animals will have the Hunters as their new family.
- B. The facts about where the animals are will continue to pull together, Longridge will be able to locate them.
- C. The animals will go home right now.

5) The animals will get board and fall asleep Longridge said, "Be good, Mrs. Oakes will be here soon, good bye Luath." You can conclude that

- A. Longridge is leaving
- B. Longridge is sick
- C. Longridge is gone

6) The Indian woman stroked him gently in reward. You can conclude that

- A. He is dead
- B. He did something bad
- C. He did something good

7) Gradually, the old dog fell further and further behind. You can conclude that

- A. He is stopping to smell the flowers
- B. He was slowing down
- C. He got lost

8) The cat alone was a swift and efficient traveler. You can conclude that

- A. The cat was injured
- B. The cat was a fast traveler
- C. The cat was big

9) P. 106 The young dog offered no further resistance. His whole head was throbbing violently with the pain of infection from the quills, and more than anything, he wanted

time to *scratch and scratch*, to rub the burning cheek along the ground. You can conclude:

- A. The dog likes to scratch.
- B. The dog is in deep pain.
- C. The dog gives up easily.

10) P. 54 The rabbits and weasels had changed to their white winter coats; a few snow buntings had appeared, and several times they had heard the wild, free, exultant calling of the wild geese, and had looked up to see the long black v-shaped skeins passing overhead on the long journey southwards. The visitors to the northlands were leaving, and those who remained were preparing themselves for the long winter that lay ahead. Soon the whole tempo, the very pulse of the North, would beat slower and slower until the snow fell like a soft coverlet; then, snug and warm beneath in dens and burrows and hollows, the hibernating animals would sleep, scarcely breathing in their deep unconsciousness, until the spring.

You can conclude:

- A. Many animals are preparing for the long winter.
- B. The animals are sleeping and are very tired
- C. Visitors are very worried and are leaving the northlands

11) P. 66 They spent that night where they were, by the bank of the river, peaceful at last after the violence of the afternoon. They lay curled closely together for comfort and warmth, and when a thin, cold rain fell as the wind rose, they moved under the spreading branches of an old spruce for shelter.

You can conclude:

- A. The dogs' friendship is strong.
- B. The rain frightened the dogs.
- C. The weather is cold and scary.

12) P. 73 Within another half-hour the little Finnish girl held in her lap a sleek, purring, Siamese cat, who had already finished two saucers of milk (which normally he detested, drinking only water), and who had groomed himself from head to foot. By the time the Nurmi family were eating their supper around the scrubbed pine table, he had finished a bowl of chopped meat, and was weaving his way around the table legs, begging in his plaintive, odd voice for more food, his eyes crossed intently, his kinked tail held straight in the air like a banner. Helvi was fascinated by him, and by his gentleness when she picked him up. You can conclude:

- A. The Siamese cat being treated very well.

- B. Helvi enjoys the cat's company.
- C. The Nurmi family enjoy feeding him.

# Vocabulary

Use for chapters 4-9 Write the meaning of the word in bold.

1. Lena and I got in a fight at school, so because of the **Incident**, I lost my recess for a week.

2. Traveling through the forest took great **Endurance** since they did get out alive.

3. He hadn't eaten for months so when he finally arrived, he was very **Lean**.

4. When we were pretending to be stone, we had to be **Stolid**.

5. I was hungry and had nowhere to go so I **Foraged** to find left over food.

6. I left my bike outside, and then the next day I saw an ad for an **Abandoned** bike.

7. I thought that I bought too much food, but as it turns out we had an **Adequate** amount so it worked out perfectly.

8. I watched my plant grow every single day for a whole month, and when it had fully grown, I thought it had **Flourished**.

9. We had to take a huge test on Wednesday, but I was **Complacent** and didn't think I needed to study.

10. When I heard the wonderful news I was **Exultant** and I could not wait!

11. There were **Scarcely** any cookies left, so I ended up sharing with someone.

12. When someone told me that I had won the sports competition, I was **Stunned** and I thought it was too good to be true.

13. Haley and I jumped **Simultaneously** into the pool, and since we didn't jump in separately it caused twice the splash.

14. It was unfortunate to **Encounter** such a rude person.

16. I sat at the dinner table envying everything, and in the end I ended up **Savoring** every bite.

17. Expectation, **Anticipation**, and eagerness, are the things you need in order to be ready for any thing that may come up.

# **Incredible Journey**

## *Events in order*

Bodger Collapses .

Tao falls into the river.

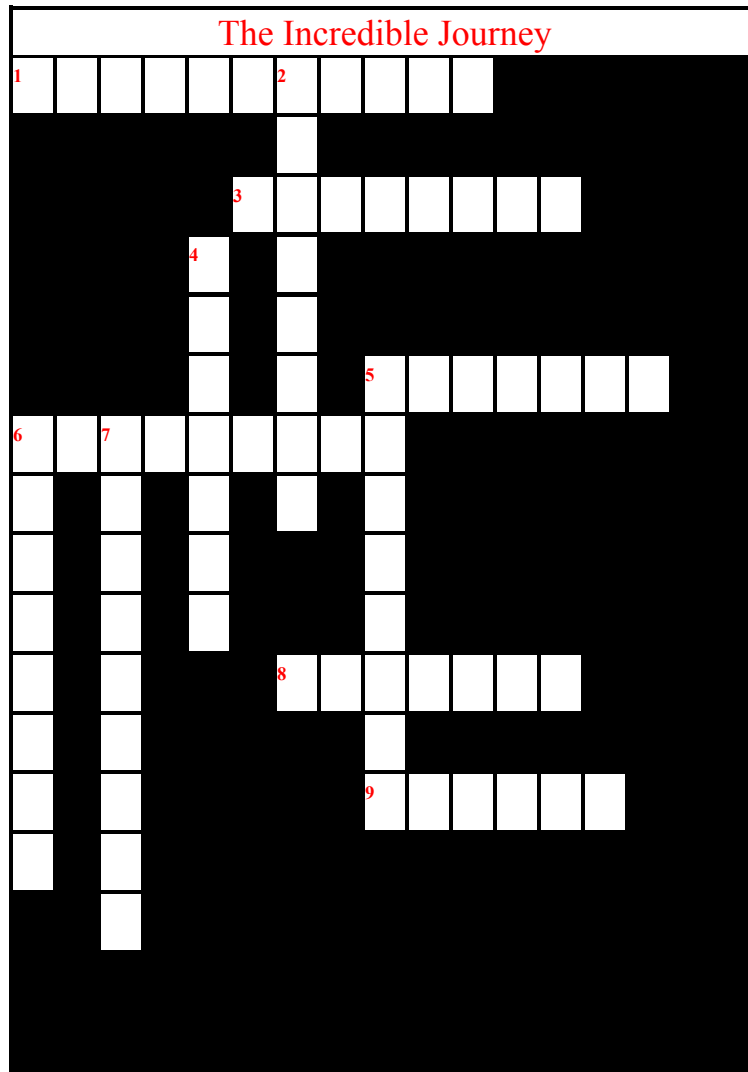
The dogs fall into the arms of the Indians  
for one night.

Longridge leaves on a trip.

Helvi nurses Tao back to health.

Longridge reunites with his pets.

The dogs leave.



Across

- 1: not lived in
- 3: trouble, danger
- 5: honorable quality, worthiness
- 6: a daring hazardous, undertaking experience
- 8: frail
- 9: to tolerate or to bear

Down

- 2: peaceful, content
- 4: thrust or thrown suddenly
- 5: easily damaged, breakable
- 6: crowd who watches
- 7: forcefully



# Incredible Journey Fact And Opinion Sheet

Look at the sentences and determine whether they are fact or opinion. Put down an **F** for fact or an **O** for opinion.

1. The animals were smart to run away \_\_O\_\_
2. Mrs. Oakes was going to take care of the animals \_\_F\_\_
3. The animals lived in Canada \_\_F\_\_
4. Tao was the best animal \_\_O\_\_
5. The Indians were superstitious \_\_O\_\_
6. The bear was a pain \_\_O\_\_
7. Longridge missed the animals \_\_F\_\_
8. Mrs. Oakes was stupid \_\_O\_\_
9. The animals were smart to survive so well \_O\_

# **Incredible Journey**

## *Events in order*

**4**

Bodger Collapses .

**5**

Tao falls into the river.

**3**

The dogs fall into the arms of the Indians  
for one night.

**1**

Longridge leaves on a trip.

**6**

Helvi nurses Tao back to health.

**7**

Longridge reunites with his pets.

**2**

The dogs leave.

# Drawing Conclusions

- 1) A. The animals will continue to look for food suiting to them.
- 2) B. Although they saw no one, the animals might think that there are people there taking care of the land.
- 3) A. The animals will keep pushing their journey farther trying to find food and nourishment
- 4) B. The facts about where the animals are will continue to pull together, Longridge will be able to locate them
- 5) A. Longridge is leaving
- 6) C. He did something good
- 7) B. He was slowing down
- 8) B. The cat was a fast traveler
- 9) B. The dog is in deep pain.
- 10) A. Many animals are preparing for the long winter.
- 11) A. The dogs' friendship is strong
- 12) B. Helvi enjoys the cat's company.