By the great horn spoon

Chapter 1

Vocabulary:

Slake (5)

Dire (6)

Lurch (6)

Plump (9)

Stowaways (10)

Clamor (11)

Defraud (11)

Cut-purse (16)

Questions:

1. What does the Author mean by “California Fever,” (pg 3)
2. Who do you think is the narrator? Who is telling the story? (pg 4)
3. Why did Jack say that the gold fields were no place for women and children? (pg 7)
4. Why would the author start the book still on the ship? Why wouldn’t the author have started the story with the characters already in California?
5. What changed the captain’s mind? Why did he let Jack and Praiseworthy stay on the ship?
6. What can you infer about Praiseworthy’s personality?
7. What race is Captain Swain determined to win and why?

Activities:

1. Make a bubble map describing the captain of the ship (can add to it throughout the book)
2. Flow map for chapter

Chapter 2:

Balmy(20)

Despicable (22)

Expose(22)

Baffled (24)

Imposter (26)

Questions:

1. Why did Jack want to find gold?
2. How did Jack portray his life on the ship to his Aunt Arabella in the letter? Was it accurate?
3. Describe how Praiseworthy’s plan worked to catch the thief.

Activities:

1. Multi-flow map : event, finding the thief
2. Flow map for chapter

Chapter 3:

Canvas (31)

Yardarms (31)

Scoundrel (33)

Becalmed (35)

Dispel (37)

Questions:

1. What does the author mean by “square-rigger”?
2. What do you think the “Sea Raven” is and why does the captain want to find it?
3. How long has the ship been traveling so far?
4. Where did they start their journey?
5. What did Jack mean at the end of the chapter by the ship was “back in the race,”?
6. How does Good Luck act around Jack?
7. What change does Jack suggest to Praiseworthy about their formal relationship and how does Praiseworthy react?

Activities:

1. Make a brace map of the Lady Wilma Ship (physical parts of the ship)
2. Flow map for chapter

Chapter 4:

Dread (39)

Cleaver(39)

Bee-line(41)

Tarry(47)

Exotic(47)

Questions:

1. Why did Jack want to save Good Luck the pig?
2. Why do you think Praiseworthy and Mountain Jim help Jack hide Good Luck?
3. Describe Praiseworthy’s and Jack’s relationship. Why would Praiseworthy go with Jack to California?
4. Jack experiences a conflict in this chapter, what is it?
5. What is Dr. Buckbee trying to protect?As

Activities:

1. bubble map of Jack
2. flow map for chapter

Chapter 5:

Impending (50)

Inclement (51)

Battening (53)

Afterdeck (57)

Questions:

1. As the Lady Wilma moved further south to the tip of South America, why did the weather turn colder? What were the clues that told you that it was turning colder?
2. What secret did Captain Swain keep from the passengers and crew?
3. What was Captain Swain so happy about at the end of the chapter?
4. Do you think Captain Swain would have kept it a secret if Jack had not figured it out?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 6:

Sapling (59)

Monotony (60)

Rationed (62)

Old maid (62)

Aspect (67)

Questions:

1. Why did Praiseworthy tell Jack that he was sure they would strike it rich is Praiseworthy wasn’t so sure?
2. What is Jack’s concern on page 62? What is Praiseworthy’s response?

Activities:

1. Make another flow map of Jack, has he started to change? How? Appearance and characteristics. Compare to the flow map from the beginning of the book.
2. Have students write a letter as if they were Jack to Aunt Arabella. Have students write about Jack’s experiences on his journey thus far.
3. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 7:

Gratitude (71)

Aboard (73)

Galley (76)

Headwinds (79)

Questions:

1. What do you think was going through Jack’s mind when he could not find Praiseworthy?
2. What do you think Praiseworthy’s hat meant to him?
3. How did Praiseworthy’s suggestion help lady Wilma win the race?
4. Was Jack and Praiseworthy’s journey easy thus far? Why or why not?
5. Make a prediction. What will happen now that the passengers and crew have arrived to California.

Activities:

1. Draw a picture of Jack’s view of what California would be like. Use Jack’s thoughts from the chapter to help
2. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 8

Gazed (86)

Dilemma (88)

Color (93)

Forthcoming (93)

Questions:

1. What problem does Praiseworthy become aware of when he first arrives in San Francisco?
2. What other problems start to arise? Why can’t Jack and Praiseworthy go straight to Sacramento?
3. Why does Praiseworthy decide to cut gold miner’s hair for free?

Activities:

1. Bubble map of San Francisco. Use adjectives to describe San Francisco and evidence from the story.
2. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 9:

Dreadful (97)

Grubstake (99)

Undertaker (99)

Questions:

1. Was Praiseworthy’s hair cutting business successful? Why or why not?
2. Who was the man in the stagecoach with the hat and ruby ring?
3. Prediction. What will happen now that Praiseworthy and Jack have discovered the other passenger on the stagecoach?

Chapter 10:

Extracting (102)

Bandanas (104)

Rogue (105)

Fury (106)

Deprived (109)

Questions:

1. Who stopped the stagecoach? What were they looking for?
2. We saw a new characteristic of Praiseworthy in this chapter. What was it? Why did Praiseworthy show a different side of himself?
3. What profession does Cut-Eye Higgins now claim he does?
4. What does the road agent take that Praiseworthy will miss?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 11:

Shouldered (111)

Exasperation (112)

Buckskin (112)

Jamoka (116)

Hospitality (116)

Furious (117)

Slickens (121)

Questions:

1. What do you think the author meant by the miner’s were “assaulting the earth” on page 113?
2. Why do you think Pitch-Pine Billy helped Praiseworthy and Jack?
3. What was a new way for Praiseworthy to use his umbrella?

Activities:

1. Have the students write another letter to Aunt Arabella about his adventures now that he is off the ship and on California soil.
2. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 12:

Elated (125)

Mountain canary (125)

Whittle (127)

Fancy (129)

Questions:

1. Jack begins to talk a little about his family. Why do you think Jack lived with his Aunt and not a mother and father?
2. Why do you think Jack corrected Praiseworthy when he did not call him Jamoka Jack? Do you think Jack enjoyed the nick name?
3. What is Praiseworthy’s new nickname and how does he get it?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 13:

Notoriety (130)

Delicacy (136)

Bedrock (139)

Bright (141)

 Questions:

1. How are Praiseworthy’s and Jack’s appearances changing? Do you think that is the only part of them that is changing?
2. Pitch-Pine Billy said the title of the book once he saw Hanna. Does this give you any clue as to why the book was given that title? Why do you think the title is By The Great Horn Spoon?

Activities:

1. Make a bubble map or tree map of the life during the gold rush from the miner’s point of view, or from a historian’s point of view.
2. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 14:

Tentatively (148)

Fascinating (150)

Recite (150)

Outwit (150)

Questions:

1. If you could choose one word to describe Praiseworthy, what would it be and why?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 15:

Current (151)

Varmints (151)

Labor (153)

Petrified (155)

Obliged (156)

Benefactor (159)

Questions:

1. What do you think was going through Jack’s mind when he saw the bear?
2. Why do you think Cut-Eye Higgins deceived Jack and Praiseworthy?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 16:

Yarns (160)

Heinous (163)

Reprieve (167)

Cantankerous (168)

Questions:

1. How can metal be tested to see if it is gold?
2. What are Praiseworthy and Jack ordered to do at the end of the chapter, and what is the result?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 17:

Exuberance (169)

Invincible (173)

Vigilant (176)

Questions:

1. What is the significance of Praiseworthy calling Jack by his name without saying Master? Why do you think Praiseworthy did not say Master?
2. Why do you think Praiseworthy won the fight against the Mountain Ox? What advantage did he have?
3. What are Praiseworthy and Jack worried about on their journey back to Hangtown? What precautions do they take?

Activities:

1. Flow map from the chapter

Chapter 18:

Pitched (183)

Ruination (184)

Undaunted (185)

Abandoned (186)

Deserted (187)

Flustered (192)

Questions:

1. When Jack thought he was going to leave California, what do you think he would miss?
2. How does the story end?

Activities:

1. Prediction, what will their lives be like now that they are a family?
2. Cause and a effect, make up a different ending. How would this affect the story and the characters?
3. Make one last bubble map of Jack for the end of the book, then look at all 3 bubble maps that the students have made for Jack and write a response of how his character changed throughout the story?
4. Finish the flow map for the whole book

End of the book Activities:

1. Compare and contrast the book to actual events of the Gold Rush
2. List of problems that Jack and Praiseworthy faced and the solutions.
3. Illustration of the book cover and create a different and new title
4. Write a summary of the story
5. The theme of the story. Make a partial multi-flow map with the theme in the middle, and the justifications and reasons to the left of the theme
6. Analyze the characters, why did the author choose Praiseworthy and Jack to be the main characters?
7. Draw a picture of Praiseworthy and Jack in the beginning, middle, and end of story to discuss how their appearances changed.
8. Letter to the Author