

“IN WHICH I Get Started on This Venture”

Student Directives

1. List the possessions Sam had when he left New York.
2. Describe Sam’s transportation from New York to the Catskill Mountains.
3. Describe that first night in the Catskills.
4. Discuss Sam’s search that first morning—what he learned about tinder.

Vocabulary

venture (n)	an action or plan involving chance, risk, or danger
tinder	a material that burns easily and can be used as kindling
congregate	to come together into a group or crowd

Summary

Sam Gribble (we don't learn his first name until the end of this chapter) detailed the few possessions he took when he left home. These included an ax, some flint, steel, and some tinder. In order to get to the Catskills, Sam hitched a ride from a truck driver. He described his first cold, lonely, frightening night in the Catskills. After finally succeeding in catching trout for his dinner, Sam told about his futile attempt to get a fire burning. He went to bed hungry, making yet another mistake by camping on the windiest side of the mountain. In the morning Sam set out to find some help. Fortunately, he found a house with an old man (Bill) inside who taught him how to keep tinder glowing by adding fine dry needles one by one—all the while blowing lightly, steadily, and evenly. Making fire, Sam discovered, is a vital skill for conquering the Catskills.

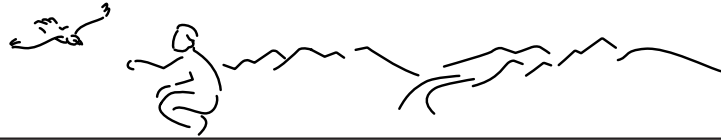


From
Discovering Literature Series:
My Side of the Mountain

GP-076
ISBN 0-931993-76-8

WRITER'S
FORUM

My Side
of the
Mountain



A Presentation

Name _____

Directions:

Choose one of the following suggestions.

Develop it so that you can make a presentation to your class.



1. Write a letter to Sam Gribley telling him your reactions to his successes in wilderness survival.
2. Pretend that you are an editor of a New York newspaper. Compose an editorial comment about Sam's parents' responsibility to provide food and shelter for him. You will remember that the newspaper editorials made Sam's mother feel that she was not meeting her motherly responsibilities.
3. Pretend that you are an investigative reporter sent to interview Sam about his life in the Catskills. Write an article for your paper about Sam. (Be sure to answer all of the reporter questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?)
4. Pretend that you are a hiker lost in the Catskill Mountains and you encounter Sam in the wilderness. Write a dialogue between you and Sam that could have taken place while you were lost. (Remember that a dialogue is composed entirely of direct quotes.)
5. Pretend that you are Sam Gribley and you have been invited to give a talk about wilderness survival to your class. Dress up like Sam. (You may want to use brown mailing paper and/or brown grocery bags to construct your "deer-skin" suit.) Give a presentation to your class about some important elements of wilderness survival.
6. Research and make a chart (with diagrams) of edible plants that could be safely eaten in the wilderness.
7. Write a short narrative of your own (fact or fiction) and tell about a wilderness or camping experience.
8. Pretend that you are Sam and you are keeping a daily journal of your experiences with wilderness survival. Write a number of journal entries. (You may want to write your entries on "birch bark" the way Sam did. Use brown wrapping paper or construction paper.)





From
Discovering Literature Series:
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
GP-094
ISBN 0-931993-94-6



TEST

Chapters 4-6, Page 1

Name _____

Multiple Choice

Directions:
Circle the letter of the
correct answer.



1. Big Ma and Mama think there is something wrong with Cassie because
 - A. she is restless in her sleep and stays indoors a lot.
 - B. her head is hot.
 - C. she starts to cry when the dish breaks.
2. The Logan land was once
 - A. owned by a Louisiana family.
 - B. worked by the Simms.
 - C. Granger land.
3. Instead of whipping her children for going to the Wallace store, Mrs. Logan
 - A. sends them to bed without dinner.
 - B. wakes them early on Saturday to do extra work.
 - C. takes them to see the man whom the Wallaces burned.
4. Stacey and Cassie are allowed to go to market because
 - A. Big Ma needs their help.
 - B. they will keep T.J. from bothering Big Ma.
 - C. they have raised the eggs that will be sold.
5. At market, Big Ma parks the wagon at the back of the field because
 - A. only men are allowed at the front.
 - B. only people selling meat and vegetables are allowed at the front.
 - C. only whites are allowed at the front.
6. Cassie reminds Mr. Barnett that he isn't finished with T.J.'s order
 - A. because she thinks he's forgotten about them.
 - B. in a rude manner.
 - C. by stepping in front of the girl he was waiting on.

