

SERIES 4 TEACHER'S RESOURCE GUIDE

The Barge Ghost

Beasts

Blood and Basketball

Bus 99

The Dark Lady

Dimes to Dollars

Read my Lips

Ruby's Terrible Secret

Student Bodies

Tough Girl



QUICKREADS

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TEACHER'S NOTES

At just 32 pages each, Saddleback's new QUICKREADS have been especially designed for students who don't yet equate "reading" with "enjoyment." The compelling plots and colorful young-adult characters will be highly motivating to all the students in your class. Short sentences and paragraphs, along with extensive use of dialogue, are further enticements to a surprisingly enjoyable reading experience. Before they know it, even your most reluctant readers will be finishing their first QUICKREAD and demanding another.

The handy reproducibles in this guide are the perfect accompaniment to Saddleback's new super-short, super-accessible QUICKREADS. Four activity pages correlate with each QUICKREAD title. The *Pre-Reading Warm-Up* exercise previews challenging vocabulary your students will meet in the story and introduces the book's major themes with intriguing questions to help students relate story situations to their personal lives. The *Who, What, When, Where, Why?* exercise builds a range of comprehension skills—such as character interpretation, sequence of events, cause and effect, and noting details. The *Focus on Words* exercise teaches and tests word-analysis skills such as recognizing compound words and figurative language as well as synonyms and antonyms. As its name implies, the *After-Reading Wrap-Up* exercise presents guided questions to help students summarize their own responses to the story they've just read. The generic *Book Report* exercise on the last page can be used with all the QUICKREADS in the series.

PRE-READING WARM-UP

Are you ready to read a good story? The following questions introduce some ideas, themes, and situations you will meet in *The Barge Ghost*. Draw on your own imagination, experiences, and opinions to answer the questions.

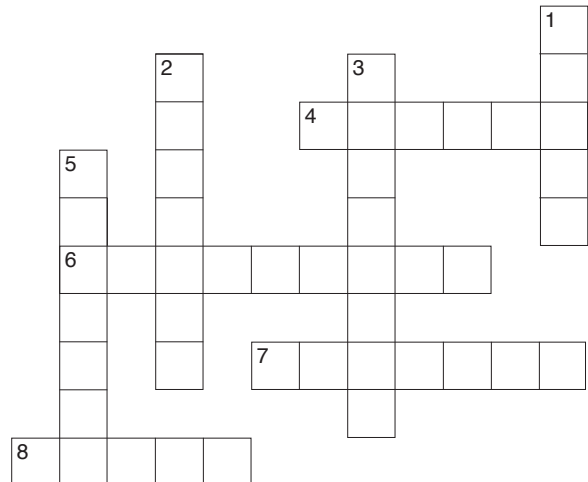
A. THEMES (Write your answers on the back of this sheet.)

1. Do you believe in supernatural beings or events? What evidence could convince you that the appearance of a ghost, for example, was real instead of fake?
2. Characters in this story get summer jobs in a distant state. In what faraway place would *you* like to live for a few months? Why would you want to go there?
3. A character in this story gets valuable information by doing research on the Internet. Give two reasons why online research might be more productive than looking something up in print resources (encyclopedias, for example).
4. Three characters agree that their workplace is a “rumor mill.” What does that mean? Give an example.

B. VOCABULARY

Use the definitions of some words from the story to help you solve the crossword puzzle. Answers are the words in the box. Check a dictionary if you need help.

shift	beseech
felon	awesome
vessel	scoundrel
pension	membrane



ACROSS

4. a ship or large boat for carrying people or freight over water
6. a bad or dishonest person; villain
7. money regularly paid by an employer to a retired person
8. an employee’s daily time at work

DOWN

1. person convicted of a serious crime
2. describes something that inspires deep respect and wonder
3. thin, soft layer of tissue covering part of a plant or animal
5. to beg or plead with someone to do something

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY?

A. CHARACTER STUDY

Write a character's name to answer each question.

1. Who suggested that a séance be held? _____
2. Who researched the *Aleutian Sun's* history on the Internet? _____
3. Who was accused of stealing \$50,000? _____
4. Who hated it when anyone badmouthed her friends? _____
5. Who told the girls that the barge had once been a fishermen's morgue? _____
6. Who told Sunni there was probably a ghost in the ship's hold? _____

B. RECALLING DETAILS

Circle the words that correctly complete the sentences.

1. The *Aleutian Sun's* former name was the (*Tropical Queen* / *Alaskan Midnight*).
2. Hassan often called family members in (Senegal / Somalia) and New York.
3. The *Aleutian Sun* was anchored in an inlet near (Nome / Sitka).
4. (Jules / Denny) was thrilled to see a humpback whale breach.
5. Sunni and Bree were college students in (Seattle / Olympia).

C. FINDING REASONS

1. Why was the hold the coldest part of the ship?

2. Why was Sam Goodman tried *in absentia*?

FOCUS ON WORDS**A. SYNONYMS**

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning. Write a synonym from the box next to each **boldface** word from the story. Hint: You will *not* use all the words in the box.

hold	kitchen	eagerly	bathroom	restored
proof	corpses	changed	exhilarating	exhausting

1. Neptune Seafoods **converted** _____ the barge into a fish-processing vessel.
2. Phyllis, the cook, worked in the ship's **galley** _____.
3. Because of a lack of **evidence** _____, the mystery had gone unsolved for nearly 50 years.
4. "That's plenty to get me started," Val said **enthusiastically** _____.
5. At one time, the barge had been used to transport soldiers' **bodies** _____.
6. The workers' 16-hour shifts were **grueling** _____.

B. ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. After each sentence from the story, circle the antonym of the **boldface** word.

1. The sac of salmon eggs felt cold and **slimy**. (dry / gritty / wet)
2. **Stinky** clothes were a fact of life on the barge. (disgusting / fragrant / smelly)
3. Goodman's wife died brokenhearted and **penniless**. (poor / sad / wealthy)
4. Sam Goodman was **convicted** of the crime. (exonerated / tried / charged)
5. Both girls finally drifted into an **uneasy** sleep. (restless / fitful / serene)