

By the Great Horn Spoon!

by Sid Fleishman

AR level 5.1
ISBN 978-0316286121



Prepare your notebook

The first page of your notebook gets lots of wear & tear, so go to the 2nd page and start numbering the pages, including the backs. Number them up to page 6. The 1st numbered page will be your title page.

Table of contents

Go to page number 3 and label it, "Table of Contents." As you answer questions and do activities in this web search, continue to number the pages in your notebook and add them to your table of contents.

Map it out

Download and print the [map of North and South America](#). You'll be labeling places mentioned throughout the book on this map. Tape or glue the map to page 6.

Glossary

There will be words throughout the book you'll be adding to a glossary. You'll also look up the definitions of those words. Go to the back of your notebook and count inward 5 pages. Label this page, "Glossary." Use a post-it note to make a tab for this page so it's easy to find. You'll be numbering these pages and adding them to your table of contents last.



Whenever you can, buy a copy of any book you're reading for an assignment. That way, you can highlight important parts and write notes in the margins.

Words and phrases throughout this web search that are written in blue and underlined are links to documents or webpages. Just click on them!

YOU CAN LOOK UP WORDS FOR YOUR GLOSSARY AT WWW.DICTIONARY.COM BOOKMARK THIS SITE. *LOOK FOR THE MEANING USED IN THE BOOK—IT MAY NOT BE THE 1ST MEANING LISTED!

THIS BOOK IS ABOUT FICTIONAL PEOPLE, BUT REAL EVENTS FROM HISTORY. THAT'S KNOWN AS HISTORICAL FICTION

A horn spoon



A sidewheel steamer

As you work along in your notebook, label the pages, i.e., Chapters 1 & 2, and be sure to number the pages and add them to your table of contents.

activities and questions

1. Go to the [Gold Rush site by Idaho State University](#), the [Sacramento Bee](#) website (under Part 1, read the following sections: The Road West; The Journey by Land; and The Journey by Sea), and [PBS Kids](#) website and read about the ways people traveled to California. Describe the 3 main routes from the East Coast.
2. How long were they?
3. What hazards were faced on each one?
4. Use 3 different colors to mark the routes on your map of the Americas. Be sure to make a key.
5. Which do you think you would have chosen? Why?
6. [Take this quiz](#) and record how much money you won in your notebook. If you didn't get all the answers correct, which question(s) did you miss? What is/are the correct answer(s)?
7. Mark The Horn, San Francisco, and Boston on your map.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

SLAKE, LURCH, FRAY,
IMPERATIVE, DIRE,
ARGONAUT, UNDAUNTED,
DESPICABLE

AUTHORS CHOOSE CHARACTER'S NAMES VERY CAREFULLY. THE BUTLER'S NAME— PRAISEWORTHY, TELLS YOU SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

A "stowaway" is a person who hides aboard a ship or airplane to avoid paying for transportation.

Lines to love! ❤️

"...her smokestack stained the frozen winter sky like ink."
"A patch of hair fell across his forehead in a yellow scribble."



Aunt Arabella
 Boston, Massachusetts

Jack

activities and questions

1. Jack and Praiseworthy use the sky as “their textbook.” The author mentions the [Southern Cross constellation](#) (you’ll need to enter the name in the search box). Name the 4 stars that make up this constellation. What is its proper name? Find another constellation you’ve heard of and name the stars that make it up. Draw the constellation in your notebook.
2. Mark the locations of Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans on your map of the Americas.
3. As the Lady Wilma nears the equator, she is forced to use steam power and not her sails. Captain Swain says, “There’s not enough breeze in these latitudes to snuff out a candle.” Conduct the [Blow, Wind, Blow!](#) experiment to see how wind affects weather patterns.
4. Print out this [map](#). Go to the [Global Wind Patterns](#) page and follow the directions. Be sure to create a colored legend or key. After completing the map, glue or tape it into your notebook.
5. What are you discovering about Praiseworthy’s character? What three words would you use to describe him?

ADD THIS WORD AND ITS
 DEFINITION TO YOUR
 GLOSSARY:

DISPEL

A “hawser” is a heavy
 rope.

Lines to love! ❤️
 “The two gold ships, linked together like sausages, went lumbering through the sea.”

activities and questions

1. In 1847 Stephen Foster wrote a song called Oh! Susanna that became quite famous. Argonauts heading for California changed the words and renamed it Oh! California. Read the [lyrics to the original song](#) and listen to it by clicking on the arrow under "Play Song Clip" on the right sidebar. Listen for [contradictions](#) in the lyrics. Write the contradictory lines from the song in your notebook. Now [listen to the newer version](#) and write down the differences you find.
2. Why does Captain Swain agree to help the square-rigger?
3. Why do you think Jack keeps asking Praiseworthy to call him Jack instead of Master Jack?

The "stern" of a ship is the back of it.

BECOME A NATIONAL PARKS JUNIOR WEBRANGER. WRITE DOWN YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD ON THE INSIDE COVER OF YOUR NOTEBOOK. LOG IN TO YOUR RANGER STATION AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITY:

CLICK ON FIND ACTIVITIES! AT THE LEFT AND CHOOSE WHALING ADVENTURE IN THE HISTORY SECTION.



A mouth organ or a harmonica

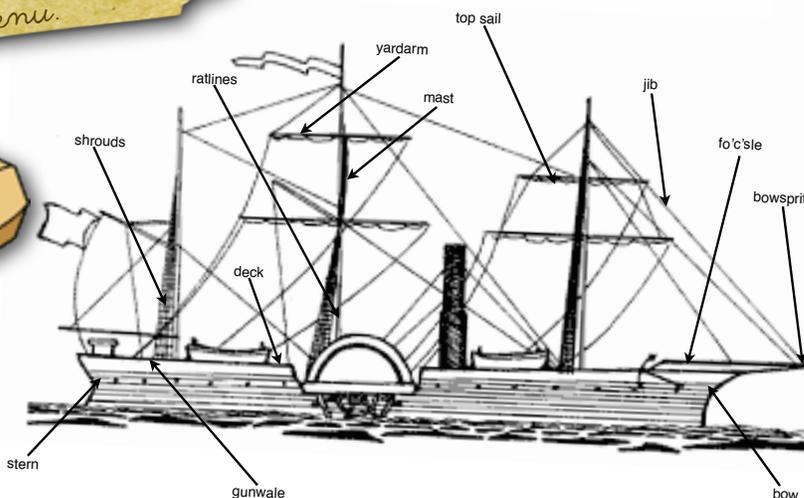
What was it like during the Gold Rush? Find out by watching this [video](#).

activities and questions

1. The author, Sid Fleischman, uses many similes and metaphors as good writers do. Write at least 5 examples of [similes](#) from these chapters (I found 15).
2. In one of the last paragraphs of the chapter, Fleischman describes how they discover the Sea Raven gaining on them. Instead of just saying, "The Sea Raven was gaining on them," he shows you through words how the action plays out. Reread the last few paragraphs of chapter 6 beginning with, "Hanging to the yardarm..." and then look at these [Gold Rush works of art](#). Choose one. Write a paragraph describing the action you **think** has occurred in your choice. Be sure to show, not tell, what is happening. **Include the title of the artwork on the top of the page.**
3. Why are the days growing shorter?
4. Mark [Patagonia](#), the Strait of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, and Callao, Peru on your map of the Americas.



You may need to use the zoom in feature on your computer to see this letter. It should be under the view menu.



ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:
 INCREMENT, GALE, STALLWART

Lines to love! ❤️
 "Dark cliffs seemed to hang like draperies from the misty sky..."
 "A thought bolted through him like lightning."



Galápagos Island tortoises

The "boatswain" is the person on a ship in charge of rigging, anchors, cables, etc.

activities and questions

1. The Lady Wilma stops just briefly in the Galápagos to search for fuel. Had they stayed, they would have seen an amazing array of endemic animals. Define endemic (add it to your glossary), name 3 [animals endemic to the Galápagos](#) and describe what is unique about your favorite. [See great photos of the Galápagos animals.](#)
2. Mark the Galápagos Islands on your map of the Americas.
3. Praiseworthy's hat blew off into the ocean and sank. This is known as symbolism. Why do you think Fleischman included this in the story?
4. Shipping, aircraft, gps, and google earth rely on the use of latitude and longitude to find a specific location on the earth. [Learn about latitude and longitude.](#) Take the pretest and record your percentage correct. Once you've gone through the website, take the quiz at the end and print page 1 of the Score Summary page.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

AGRICULTURAL, ENDEMIC

WHENEVER YOU TALK ABOUT SOMEONE IN WRITING, YOU USE THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME THE FIRST TIME YOU MENTION THEM. AFTER THAT, YOU USE ONLY THEIR LAST NAME, NEVER THEIR FIRST NAME.



See a cool kid [video](#) about the Gold Rush.

activities and questions

1. Much of *The Great Horn Spoon* is written as if it were a tall tale, but some of the wild stories are true. Search online and see if you can find which of these Gold Rush stories you think are true and which do you think are a tall tale:

- \$10 to take a bath (\$254 today)
- \$25 passage on a riverboat (\$637 today)
- Sending clothes to China to be washed
- Getting gold out of miners' hair
- Marrying someone you've never met
- Selling a pick and shovel for \$100 (\$2,547 today)
- Towns named Hangtown, Rough and Ready, etc.
- A Chinese laundryman wearing his hair in a pigtail

2. Jack's admiration for Praiseworthy grows daily. List 2 things Praiseworthy has done that have surprised and impressed Jack.

3. Mark Sacramento and Panama on your map of the Americas.

A "ragamuffin" is a child in ragged, ill-fitting, dirty clothes.

An "undertaker" is a person who takes care of dead people and prepares funerals

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

FIANCEE, SHORN, ASSAY, DELICACY



Ships left abandoned in San Francisco Bay



Lines to love! ❤️
"...the masts as thick as a pine forest."
"Quartz Jackson's face began to appear, snip by snip, like a statue being chipped out of stone."

Miner using a sluice box or Long Tom



activities and questions

1. Why does Praiseworthy say to Cut-eye or “Doc” Higgins, “A man in your line of work, sir, never knows when he’ll need the services of a good undertaker.”
2. Why do you think Praiseworthy brought along a picture of Aunt Arabella?
3. Watch this [video](#). The man interviewed says, “Mining is an industrial activity and it’s a violent industrial activity.” Why? What damage did mining cause in California?
4. What year was California admitted to the United States? (You’ll need to find this online)
5. How would you have fared in the Gold Rush? Try this [game](#) to find out.



a carpetbag

ADD THIS WORD AND ITS
DEFINITION TO YOUR
GLOSSARY:

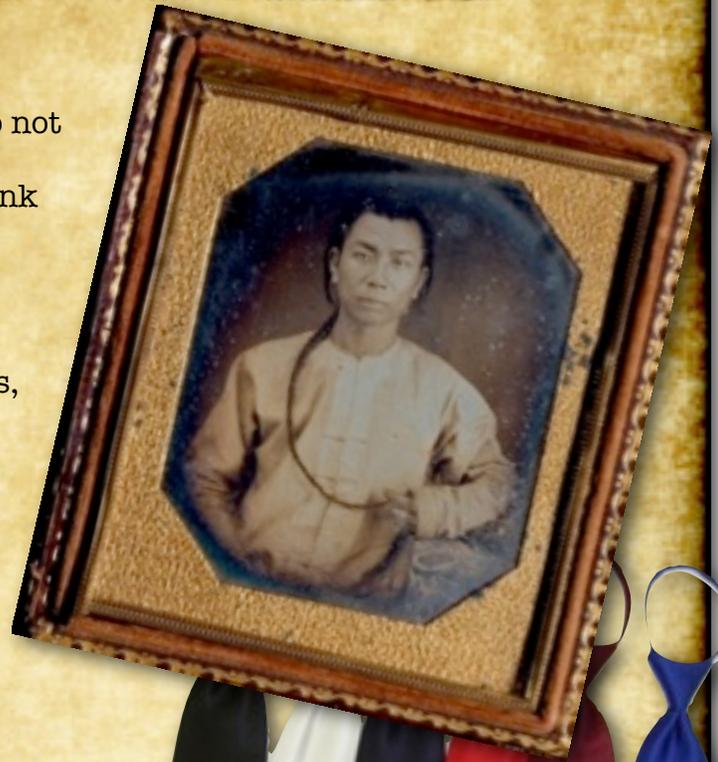
ROGUE

IN HANGTOWN THEY SAW
BLINDFOLDED MULES BEING
LOADED—THEY WERE
BLINDFOLDED BECAUSE THEY
WERE TRAVELING STEEP,
TREACHEROUS TRAILS THE
MULES WOULD NOT TRAVEL IF
THEY COULD SEE.

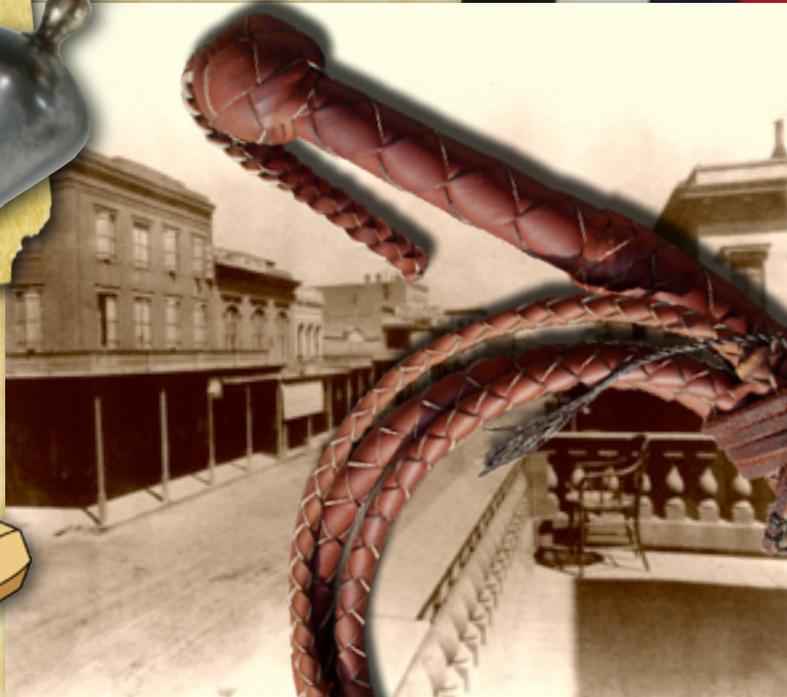
Lines to love! ❤️
“I’ll thank you to return her picture to my bag,” he warned, stamping each word out of cold steel.”

activities and questions

1. How do you think it changed Praiseworthy to not have anyone even know what a butler was?
2. What else changed Praiseworthy? Do you think he enjoyed his new status? Give a specific example from the book that supports this.
3. How does Praiseworthy get the nickname, "Bullwhip"?
4. When Jack is tricked into buying the neckties, Pitch-pine Billy tells him, "I'd rather see you break your leg than your word, boy." Why do you think keeping your word was so important then? Do you think being honest and trustworthy is as important today as it was then? Why or why not?
5. What is the true name of the Sandwich Islands? Mark them on your map of the Americas.



A "plummet" is also known as a plumb bob. It is a metal weight that hangs from a string to keep it straight.



Sacramento St. in in 1866

ADD THIS WORD AND ITS DEFINITION TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

NOTORIETY

Lines to love! ❤️
"Jack basked in reflected glory."

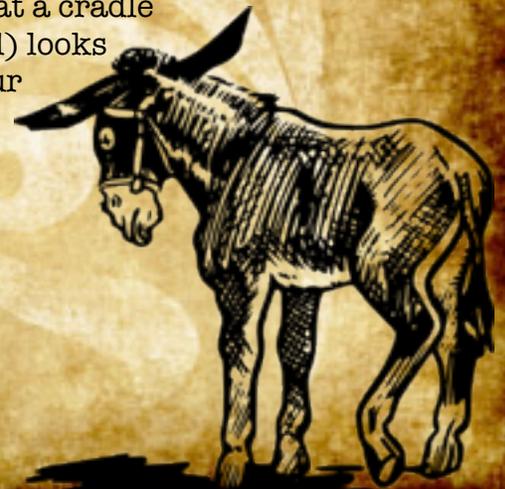


activities and questions

1. A prospector told Jack and Praiseworthy that the ladies had “calico fever,” the men “serape fever,” and “red sash fever.” What did he mean? What type of figurative language is this?
2. Although Fleischman talks about Jack’s back and arms getting stronger and Praiseworthy looking more rugged, he doesn’t truly explain the difficulty of doing this type of work. Imagine you have been at the “diggings.” Write a paragraph to describe how you look and feel. What do your hands look like? Your face? How does your body feel? What about your feet? Use descriptive language and include details!
3. Look online to see what a cradle (used for hunting gold) looks like and draw it in your notebook.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR
DEFINITIONS TO YOUR
GLOSSARY:

HAUGHTY, VARMINTS,
DISDAIN, ELUDED



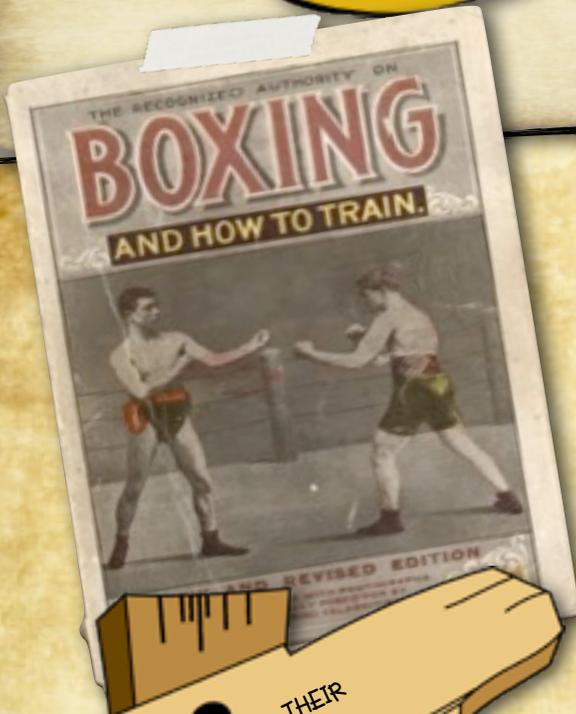
Lines to love! ❤️
“The men could be found on almost every claim rocking the cradle, like grizzled nursemaids.”

4th of July bunting

activities and questions



1. Watch this [video](#). Who are the 3 men most responsible for the California Gold Rush? What part did each play?
2. Why couldn't they hang Cut-Eye Higgins?
3. Why did the author choose to have Praiseworthy pound his umbrella into the ground for the first corner post of their claim? What does it signify?
4. The author, Sid Fleischman, uses many similes and metaphors. Write as many examples of metaphors as you can from these chapters (I found 7).



ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

PAUNCHY, HEINOUS, BELLOWED,
DISPATCH, GANTANKEROUS,
EXUBERANCE, MUSED,
INVINCIBLE, LITHE, PROBOSCIS,
KEELED

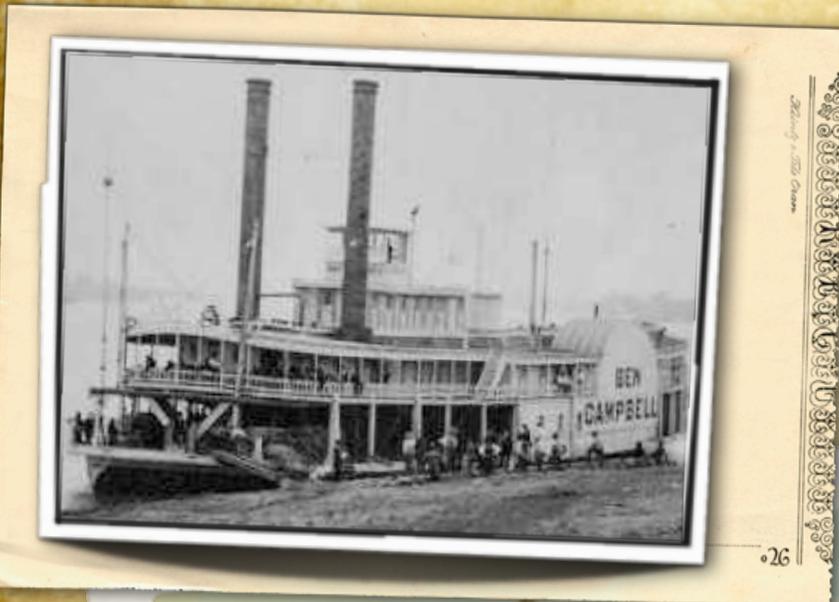


James Marshall at Sutter Mill, 1850

By the Great Horn Spoon!

activities and questions

1. Choose a simile or metaphor from the book and draw it out literally. For example draw "A thought bolted through him like lightning" as an actual lightning bolt shooting through a boy. Be sure to write down the sentence too.
2. This book doesn't tell much of the story of the Gold Rush. Look up the word [extermination](#) then watch this [video](#) to learn what the Gold Rush did to California's Native Americans. What happened to them?
3. Good authors don't just tell you a character's traits, they show you by what the character says and does. Print out this [character trait worksheet](#) and complete it. Then glue or tape it into your notebook.



Why all the fuss about gold? See why by watching this [video](#).



To "light-finger" something means to steal it.

San Francisco in 1851



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