

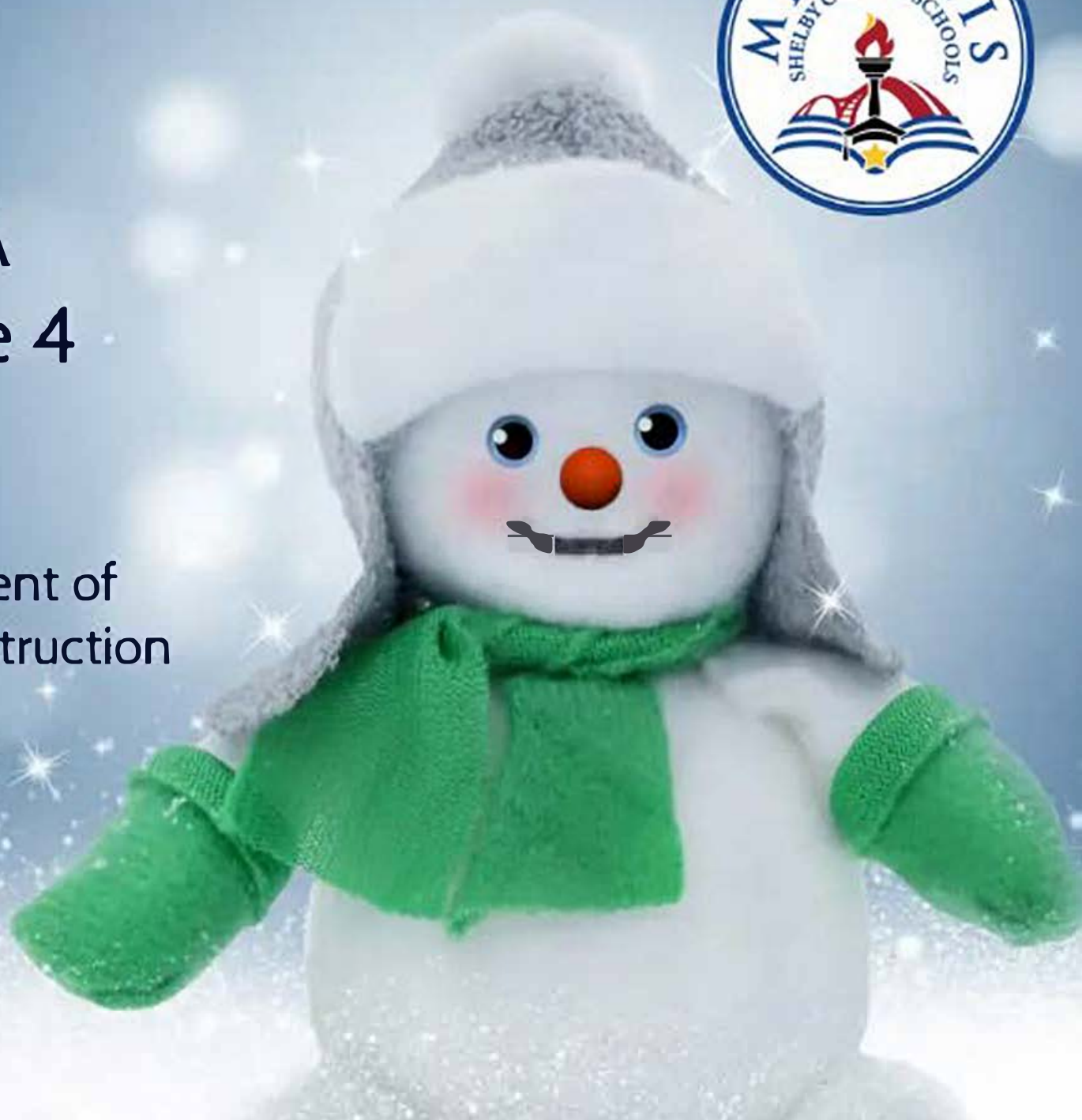
Inclement Weather

RESOURCES



ELA
Grade 4

The Department of
Curriculum & Instruction



Inclement Weather Resource

Trail Into Darkness

by Brad Robie 2017



In this section of the Inclement Weather Support Guide, we're reading "Trail into Darkness" by Brad Robie. In Brad Robie's short story "Trail into Darkness," a boy gets lost while snowshoeing with his family.

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Paired Text

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Ways to Support your Child

1. Ask your child about the literary text, What was "Trail into Darkness " and the paired informational text, "Excerpt from Inuit" about?
2. **Parent Answer Keys**-Review written responses together.

Related Media

1. Watch the following clips with your child at home:
 - ['Family Buried in Snow for Days: How to Survive'](#)
 - ['How do glaciers shape the landscape? Animation from geog.1 Kerboodle'](#)
 - ['The Inuit Way of Life'](#)
 - ['How To Build An Igloo | A Boy Among Polar Bears | BBC'](#)

ANCHOR TEXT



Name: _____

Class: _____

Trail into Darkness

By Brad Robie

2017

Brad Robie has written for Highlights. In this short story, a boy gets lost while snowshoeing with his family. As you read, take notes on how Luke responds to being lost.

- [1] *A boulder as big as a house.* That's how the guide book described Giant Rock. Dad said it was carried here by a glacier¹ millions of years ago.

I was finally going to see it, on snowshoes, with my three older cousins, my dad, and my uncle Don. I'd been snowshoeing before, and I liked the adventure of trekking through deep snow alongside wild-animal tracks.

At the parking area, after putting on our snowshoes, we studied the map in the information kiosk. "We start here," Dad said, "on the red trail. Then we turn left onto the purple loop. That's where Giant Rock is."

"Remember to stick together, guys," Uncle Don said.

- [5] The trail ran uphill alongside a stone wall. It was easy to follow because red markers were nailed to the trees and the snow had been packed down by other hikers. At the top of the hill, we turned onto the purple trail, which wound back and forth, traversing² the hills and gullies.³ We settled into a rhythm, with Dad and everyone else in front and me in the back, *crunch-crunch-crunching* through the snow. My cousins were faster than I was, but I managed to keep up.

The late afternoon sun felt warm, although it was already sinking lower. I saw lots of animal tracks — mostly deer, squirrel, and rabbit prints, which I recognized from my field guide.⁴ As



"Where is everyone?" by Melissa Manwill is used with permission.

1. a slow-moving mass of ice formed over many years
2. to travel across or through something
3. a small valley worn away by running water

the trail zigzagged on, my cousin Andrew said what I'd been thinking: "Will we *ever* reach Giant Rock?"

My cousin Aiden smiled and turned to me. "Luke, do you think your dad invented the idea of Giant Rock just to get us away from the TV for a while?"

I laughed. "You never know."

Finally, we crested a hill and saw the massive boulder sitting alone in the forest. "It really is as big as a house!" my cousin Josh said, gazing up.

[10] My cousins and I high-fived each other and jogged down the slope until we stood at the base, breathless.

Standing in the boulder's giant shadow, I noticed the sun had dipped even lower.

"Let's head back," Dad said after a few minutes.

Soon we were *crunch-crunch-crunching* our way home.

I was a little behind the group when I noticed a set of animal tracks I didn't recognize. They were hard to see among the snowshoe prints, so I followed them off the trail for a closer look. There were no claw marks, which meant they didn't belong to a dog or a fox. Instead, they looked like tiny handprints and footprints. *Must be a raccoon*, I thought, matching them to prints in my guide.

[15] I looked up when I suddenly realized how quiet it had gotten. I was totally alone. "Hey!" I shouted. "Where is everyone?"

Nothing. Just the sound of my own breathing and the hammering of a woodpecker echoing in the bare woods. *They couldn't have gone far*, I thought, stepping back onto the trail. *I'll catch up to them if I hurry.*

I came to a junction where I could turn left or go straight, but both trails had purple markers. The path to the left looked familiar. But when I stepped over a log I thought I'd seen before, something told me I was going the wrong way. So I reversed direction. My mind started to race. Soon it might be too dark to tell what color the markers were. And I couldn't just follow my own footsteps because there were so many tracks from other hikers.

It seemed to grow darker by the second. I had no flashlight. No phone. I began running. What if I couldn't find my way back? I started tearing through the woods in a panic, watching as the sun

4. a book for identifying things in nature

disappeared behind the trees.

Then I came to a crossroads. Which way should I turn?

[20] *Stop*, I told myself. *Think*. I pictured the map again. To get to Giant Rock we had turned left onto the purple loop. To get back, I needed to do the opposite and turn right onto the red trail.

If this didn't work, I'd do what I had always heard you should do in a situation like this: stay put, and let your group find you.

I heard voices, someone calling. Then I noticed the stone wall, the trail running alongside it. This *had* to be right. I plunged⁵ downhill in giant steps.

And then, the best sight ever: the parking lot — and my family! I shouted as I ran toward them.

"Luke? Are you OK?" Dad's voice was urgent.⁶ He shined a flashlight in my direction.

[25] I'd only been lost for minutes, but it had felt like forever. Now all I wanted was a bear hug from Dad and to make tracks for home.

5. **Plunge** (*verb*) to jump or dive quickly and with energy

6. **Urgent** (*adjective*) calling for immediate attention

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence best describes the theme of the short story?
 - A. It's important to have proper supplies before you go outdoors.
 - B. Outdoor activities in the snow are too dangerous for kids.
 - C. The beauty of nature can often be distracting.
 - D. It's important to stay calm in an emergency situation.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "I'd been snowshoeing before, and I liked the adventure of trekking through deep snow alongside wild-animal tracks." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "The late afternoon sun felt warm, although it was already sinking lower. I saw lots of animal tracks — mostly deer, squirrel, and rabbit prints, which I recognized from my field guide." (Paragraph 6)
 - C. "I looked up when I suddenly realized how quiet it had gotten. I was totally alone. 'Hey!' I shouted. 'Where is everyone?'" (Paragraph 15)
 - D. "Stop, I told myself. Think. I pictured the map again. To get to Giant Rock we had turned left onto the purple loop." (Paragraph 20)

3. What does it mean when Luke describes his mind as "racing" in paragraph 17?
 - A. He is thinking many thoughts very quickly.
 - B. He is imagining himself running very fast.
 - C. He is smarter than the average person.
 - D. He is trying not to think about his situation.

4. How does paragraph 17 contribute to the text?
 - A. It suggests that Luke will never go home.
 - B. It reveals that Luke knows what to do.
 - C. It shows that Luke is in serious trouble.
 - D. It stresses how poorly marked the path is.

5. How does Luke react to not being able to find his family?

Open Ended Written Response

Directions: Write your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas.

1. In the story, Luke is scared to be lost in nature. What dangers does he face out in nature? Describe a time you were scared by something in nature.

2. When Luke gets separated from his family, he is fearful. How do you think Luke's fear affects him while he's lost? Does it help him act and find his family or distract him? Describe a time that your fear has driven you to act, or kept you from acting.

3. How does Luke act bravely when he gets separated from his family? Describe a time when you had to be brave, despite being afraid.

PAIRED TEXT



Name: _____

Class: _____

Excerpt from "Inuit"

By Carol White

2013

The Inuit are a group of people who have lived in the Arctic regions of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska for over a thousand years. In this excerpt from "Inuit," Carol White describes the Inuit people's way of life. As you read, take notes on how the Inuit survive in their cold environment.

[1] In one of the most remote¹ places in the world, the Canadian Arctic, a people have survived over a thousand years. They are the Inuit. For the Inuit, the Arctic is a place teeming with life. Depending on how far north they live, the Inuit find everything from caribou² herds and polar bears to beluga whales. The Inuit have adapted³ themselves to the various regions they inhabit. At one time they were considered to be among the healthiest people in the world. This is no longer the case; the Inuit lifestyle has changed dramatically over the past decades. The arrival of southerners and modern technology resulted in big changes to the Inuit diet and way of life.



"Dog Sledding in Uummannaq, Greenland" by United Nations Photo is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in a modern world.

Way of Life

When you live in an environment that has few plants, there is a very good chance you will become a hunter. The Inuit pride themselves on being great hunters. The Inuit had lots of sea and land animals to hunt. The most important of these were the caribou and the seal. These two animals provided the Inuit with food. Their skin was used for clothing, blankets, tents and

1. **Remote** (*adjective*) located far away; distant
2. a large type of deer
3. **Adapt** (*verb*) to change to meet a new situation

boats and their oil was used for cooking and lamps. Bones, ivory and wood were used to make tools. Other animals the Inuit hunted were the walrus, whale, polar bear, musk ox, fox and wolf.

Food

Because edible⁴ plants are scarce⁵ in the Arctic, the Inuit ate mostly meat they got from hunting. They ate animals such as caribou, seals, walruses, polar bears, arctic hares, musk oxen, birds such as ptarmigan, and fish such as arctic char, salmon and whitefish. In the summer they also gathered berries and other edible plants.

Clothing

- [5] Seal or walrus intestine is waterproof, and the Inuit scraped, cleaned, soaked and dried the intestines to make waterproof clothing. This kept the people dry, which was important since water freezes quickly in the North. People can get into a lot of trouble if they get wet in the Arctic and then freeze. Besides waterproof clothing, the Inuit also made parkas⁶ of caribou fur to wear in the cold winter.

At one point, scientists in Canada did a study to find out what the warmest winter clothes were. This included clothes that were sewn out of cloth, wool and other fabrics. The caribou jacket was the warmest by far. Even in winter, Inuit could not sleep with their jackets on because they got so hot that they would sweat. Sweat is dangerous in a cold climate because, like water, it freezes.

Shelter

At one time the Inuit had a summer home and a winter home. In the summer, the Inuit often lived in tents that they made from caribou hides with wooden frames. In the winter many Inuit lived in sod⁷ homes. They would dig a hole in the ground and pile rocks and sod all around the outside to make walls. Pieces of wood or whalebone were used as a frame for the roof, which the Inuit then covered with sod. In both the tents and the sod houses the Inuit built raised platforms at the back for sleeping.

The Inuit are famous for their igloos. An igloo is built of blocks of snow shaped into a dome. They were mostly used as temporary⁸ shelter during winter hunting trips. The igloo is one of

-
4. able to eat
 5. **Scarce** (*adjective*) very small in amount or number
 6. a large windproof jacket
 7. the upper layer of soil that is covered in grass and filled with roots

the Inuit's best inventions. It is warm and easy to construct. Most Inuit today have settled in villages and live in houses.

8. lasting for a limited time

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What does the word "teeming" suggest as it is used in paragraph 1 of "Inuit"?
 - A. challenging
 - B. abandoned
 - C. plenty
 - D. modern

2. PART B: Which TWO sentences from the article help readers understand the meaning of the word "teeming" as it is used in paragraph 1?
 - A. "In one of the most remote places in the world, the Canadian Arctic, a people have survived over a thousand of years." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "Depending on how far north they live, the Inuit find everything from caribou herds and polar bears to beluga whales." (Paragraph 1)
 - C. "At one time they were considered to be among the healthiest people in the world." (Paragraph 1)
 - D. "Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in a modern world." (Paragraph 2)
 - E. "They ate animals such as caribou, seals, walruses, polar bears, arctic hares, musk oxen, birds such as ptarmigan, and fish such as arctic char, salmon and whitefish." (Paragraph 4)
 - F. "In the summer, they also gathered berries and other edible plants." (Paragraph 4)

3. PART A: What is the main idea of the passage from "Inuit"?
 - A. The Inuit are an ancient people living in a remote region.
 - B. The Inuit are skilled at surviving with only what nature provides.
 - C. The Inuit spend all of their time hunting animals in order to survive.
 - D. The Inuit have become dependent on modern conveniences in the past few years.

4. PART B: Which sentence from the passage supports the answer to Part A?
- A. "For the Inuit, the Arctic is a place teeming with life." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "The arrival of southerners and modern technology resulted in big changes to the Inuit diet and way of life." (Paragraph 1)
 - C. "Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in the modern world." (Paragraph 2)
 - D. "In the summer, the Inuit often lived in tents that they made from caribou hides with wooden frames." (Paragraph 7)

Open Ended Written Response

Directions: Write your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas.

1. In the text, the author discusses what the Inuit eat and how they stay warm. Are there reasons that you eat the food that you do? Do you think you could survive in the arctic like the Inuit do? Why or why not?

2. In the text, the author discusses the Inuit's way of life. How do the Inuit's way of life compare to how you live your life? Why do you think it's important to learn about different cultures and lifestyles?

3. In the text, the author discusses how the Inuit rely a lot on meat. What kind of relationship do you think they have with animals and the environment? Besides food, what else do you think they need animals for? Do you think the Inuit could survive without animals? Why or why not?

ANSWER KEYS



Answer key > Trail into Darkness

by Brad Robie ● 2017

1. PART A: Which sentence best describes the theme of the short story? **4.RL.KID.2**

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem and explain how it is conveyed through details in the text; summarize the text.

- A. It's important to have proper supplies before you go outdoors.
- B. Outdoor activities in the snow are too dangerous for kids.
- C. The beauty of nature can often be distracting.
- D. **It's important to stay calm in an emergency situation.**

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A? **4.RL.KID.1**

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly; refer to details and examples in a text when drawing inferences from the text.

- A. "I'd been snowshoeing before, and I liked the adventure of trekking through deep snow alongside wild-animal tracks." (Paragraph 2)
- B. "The late afternoon sun felt warm, although it was already sinking lower. I saw lots of animal tracks – mostly deer, squirrel, and rabbit prints, which I recognized from my field guide." (Paragraph 6)
- C. "I looked up when I suddenly realized how quiet it had gotten. I was totally alone. 'Hey!' I shouted. 'Where is everyone?'" (Paragraph 15)
- D. **"Stop, I told myself. Think. I pictured the map again. To get to Giant Rock we had turned left onto the purple loop." (Paragraph 20)**

3. What does it mean when Luke describes his mind as "racing" in paragraph 17? **4.RL.CS.4**

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that refer to significant characters and situations found in literature and history.

- A. **He is thinking many thoughts very quickly.**
- B. He is imagining himself running very fast.
- C. He is smarter than the average person.
- D. He is trying not to think about his situation.

4. How does paragraph 17 contribute to the text?

4.RL.CS.5

Explain major differences between poems, drama, and stories, and refer to the structural elements when writing or speaking about a text.

- A. It suggests that Luke will never go home.
- B. It reveals that Luke knows what to do.
- C. It shows that Luke is in serious trouble.**
- D. It stresses how poorly marked the path is.

5. How does Luke react to not being able to find his family?

4.RL.KID.3

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in a text, such as a character's thoughts, words, or actions.

Answers will vary; students should discuss how panicked Luke is when he first realizes that he doesn't know where his family is or how to get back. For example, when Luke sees that it's getting darker, his mind starts to "race." Additionally, he realizes that he won't be able to see the markers properly when it is completely dark (Paragraph 17). His thoughts become fearful and frantic as he wonders, "What if I couldn't find my way back?" (Paragraph 18). However, after a few moments he is able to calm his thoughts and think logically, eventually finding his way back to his family.

Answer key > Excerpt from "Inuit"

by Carol White ● 2013

1. PART A: What does the word "teeming" suggest as it is used in paragraph 1 of "Inuit"? **4.RI.CS.4**

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

- A. challenging
- B. abandoned
- C. **plenty**
- D. modern

2. PART B: Which TWO sentences from the article help readers understand the meaning of the word "teeming" as it is used in paragraph 1? **4.RI.KID.1**

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

- A. "In one of the most remote places in the world, the Canadian Arctic, a people have survived over a thousand of years." (Paragraph 1)
- B. **"Depending on how far north they live, the Inuit find everything from caribou herds and polar bears to beluga whales." (Paragraph 1)**
- C. "At one time they were considered to be among the healthiest people in the world." (Paragraph 1)
- D. "Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in a modern world." (Paragraph 2)
- E. **"They ate animals such as caribou, seals, walruses, polar bears, arctic hares, musk oxen, birds such as ptarmigan, and fish such as arctic char, salmon and whitefish." (Paragraph 4)**
- F. "In the summer, they also gathered berries and other edible plants." (Paragraph 4)

3. PART A: What is the main idea of the passage from "Inuit"? **4.RI.KID.2**

Determine the central idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

- A. The Inuit are an ancient people living in a remote region.

- B. **The Inuit are skilled at surviving with only what nature provides.**
- C. The Inuit spend all of their time hunting animals in order to survive.
- D. The Inuit have become dependent on modern conveniences in the past few years.

4. PART B: Which sentence from the passage supports the answer to Part A? **4.RI.KID.1**

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

- A. "For the Inuit, the Arctic is a place teeming with life." (Paragraph 1)
- B. "The arrival of southerners and modern technology resulted in big changes to the Inuit diet and way of life." (Paragraph 1)
- C. "Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in the modern world." (Paragraph 2)
- D. **"In the summer, the Inuit often lived in tents that they made from caribou hides with wooden frames." (Paragraph 7)**