

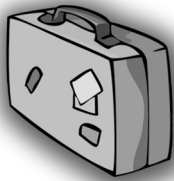


*The*  
**Great  
Train**

*Mystery*

**Teacher's Guide**

by  
**Carole Marsh**



Editorial Assistant: Gabrielle Humphrey • Art & Design: Randolyn Friedlander

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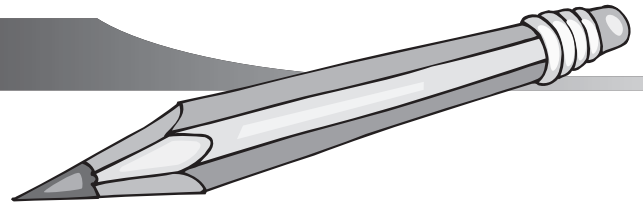
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INTERNATIONAL



## A Word from the Author



### Dear Teacher,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic—and not-so-historic—locales, primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children (and now grandchildren!) than to visit a fascinating tourist destination.

In this book, I set the stage not in one destination, but on an iconic steam engine train traveling across America. Traveling across the country in a real steam train was nothing short of an adventure—an experience of a lifetime! If you ever have the opportunity to travel by steam train, I highly recommend it! And these days, planning an old-fashioned steam train excursion is only a click away. Now, isn't that ironic? Seriously, there really is no experience like it.

I love so many things about train travel. First, you can truly enjoy the scenery as it unfolds around you! You're not driving, so you can just drink it in! Second, I love the sounds of the train—the clickety-clack of the wheels on the rails and the piercing, yet comforting, sound of the steam locomotive whistle. Third, I love to think about those who traveled before me, who blazed the trails the railroads followed. And last, it humbles me to remember the thousands of workers who performed the back-breaking work to construct the first railroad across the United States. Their effort truly changed America!

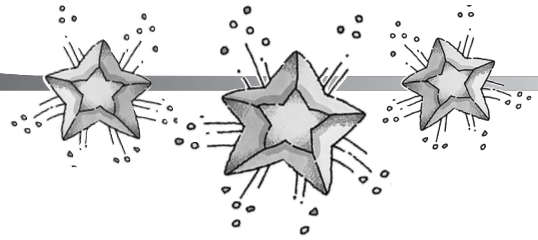
It is my hope that your students' interest will be piqued about the places they visit in the mystery. I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the sites and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? Everything! Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about. And sometimes, a carefree vacation trip might be the spark that leads to a lifelong interest!

All Aboard!

*Carole Marsh*



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# Page-by-Page Guide

| <i>Page #</i> | <i>Subject</i>  | <u><b>EXPLORE!</b></u>   |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| 11            | Imagery         | As Christina gets irritated by her brother, the air conditioner turns on as it “senses” the rising temperature. Can you imagine an emotion that might cause the opposite reaction? |
| 12            | Humor           | How does Grant lighten the mood when Christina gets annoyed? Do you think this is an effective tool in a story?  |
| 12            | Vocabulary      | If you break up the word <i>adjoining</i> into two parts, you get <i>ad</i> (meaning “to”) and <i>joining</i> . What do you think the two mean together?                           |
| 14            | Innovation      | Barbed wire changed the face of the Great Plains, where trees were scarce. How do you think it helped settlers?  |
| 16            | Language        | A collector of old steam engines was <i>after</i> Mr. Goodfellow for years. What do you think this means?  |
| 17            | Math            | If Papa gave a 10 percent tip (\$5), how much was the original bill for the dinner?  |
| 17            | Vocabulary      | Papa says that steam trains weren’t <i>practical</i> for going long distances. He is saying that steam trains were not an efficient way to travel a long distance.                 |
| 19            | Imagery         | What image comes to mind when you read <i>shadowing</i> to describe the porter?  |
| 19            | Fashion         | A <i>Stetson</i> is a general name for a cowboy hat. Stetson cowboy hats are manufactured by the John B. Stetson Company of St. Joseph, Missouri.                                  |
| 20            | Vocabulary      | To <i>feign</i> disinterest is to pretend that you’re not interested. Why would the porter do this?  |
| 21            | Imagery         | What kind of image does <i>a sea of commuters</i> give you?  |
| 21            | Personification | Giving human qualities to inanimate objects is called personification. How are the American flags personified?   |

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 22 Body Language Why do you think Papa gave Mimi the *thumbs up*? In what situations has someone given you that sign?
- 23 Vocabulary To be at the *zenith* of one's career is to be on top and very successful.
- 24 Vocabulary To *vow* is to promise, but stronger. Have you ever vowed to do something—no matter what?
- 24 Language To *change hands* is to change owners. Try to think of one store in your area that you think has changed hands. Is the store a better establishment because of the change?
- 24 Emotion What emotion is Grant portraying by turning *sheet white*?
- 24 Fashion Do you think the man's old-fashioned clothes led the children to misinterpret the man's identity?
- 25 Language Have you ever had a *change of heart* and decided to go back on a decision you made?
- 25 Language *Not a chance* is a fun way to express "no." If you were in a race and someone asked you if you were giving up, a good response would be *not a chance!*
- 25 Behavior How does Mr. Goodfellow show his age through his behavior?
- 27 Architecture *Stained-glass* is glass that has been colored by adding metallic salts and arranging the pieces of glass in patterns. They are held together with strips of lead and framed.
- 27 Vocabulary To *resonate* is to kind of echo.
- 28 Behavior Papa *patted* Grant on the back for a job well done. What are other ways to show pride in someone else's accomplishments?
- 28 Imagery Christina feared that the glass dome would shatter and the pieces would come *raining down* on them. Using words like "rain down" is a great use of imagery.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 29      Analogy      Papa’s suitcase was lying there *like an oyster split wide open*. Comparing the suitcase with an oyster and using “like” helps us imagine what it must have looked like.
- 30      Emotion      We can express emotions without saying a word. How does Grant’s face show that he is proud of his sister?
- 31      Vocabulary      The wheels of the train *dwarf* the children, making them feel really small. Have you ever been near something or someone that dwarfed you?
- 33      Personification      The glass dome *yawned* open. What do you see in your mind from this example of personification?
- 34      Behavior      Do you think Christina meant to hurt her brother when she punched him in the arm?
- 35      Language      To be someone *of many hats* is to be a person who has taken on multiple roles and responsibilities.
- 36      Manners      How do Grant and Christina show good manners?
- 36      Behavior      Compare how Grant and Christina travel through each of the cars. Why do you think different verbs are used?
- 37      Character      Yogi Bear is a silly cartoon character that first came out in 1958. He is not scary looking at all, which makes Christina’s comparison to the stuffed bear seem strange to Grant.
- 38      Imagery      When a boat travels through the water, it produces a wake of rippling water behind. When the dome closes, leaving the *night sky in its wake* is a good use of imagery.
- 38      Vocabulary      A *planetarium* is a dome-shaped theater for presenting shows on the stars and the night sky.
- 40      Behavior      First-time introductions can be awkward, so finding a way to *break the ice* is important when you meet someone new. How does Paul break the ice?
- 40      Making Deductions      Christina assumed that Miss Tess was Paul and Anna’s mom. Why do you think she made this deduction?

## Page-by-Page Guide

|    |                 |  |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 41 | Emotion         | What emotion does Grant show when he turns red? Have you ever felt this emotion?   |
| 42 | Technology      | The firebox on a steam engine is where the coal or wood is burned. This, in turn, heats up the water that makes the steam.   |
| 42 | Language        | What does Papa give Grant and Christina? Why does he think they might <i>come in handy</i> ?   |
| 43 | Ghost Stories   | What does Paul say happens when the ghost makes noise? Do you think this is common in ghost stories?   |
| 45 | Personification | There are two instances where the moon has human qualities. Do you think this makes the scene more interesting?  |
| 46 | Behavior        | Why did Grant climb into Christina's bed? Why is it comforting to be close to another person when you are frightened?  |
| 49 | Vocabulary      | Grant <i>surveyed</i> the room after he woke up. What do you think this means?   |
| 49 | Feelings        | Grant felt as though he'd been <i>abandoned</i> , or left behind. Have you ever felt this way?   |
| 53 | Behavior        | Grant does not like to make his bed. What is his reasoning?  |
| 54 | Body Language   | What does it mean to shrug your shoulders? Why does Paul do this?  |
| 55 | Acronym         | ASAP: as soon as possible. A fun way to say "now."   |
| 55 | Language        | Grant says that Paul and he will be there <i>in a jiffy</i> , which means right now, very soon. Other fun ways to say the same thing are: "in a blink of an eye" and "in a heartbeat." |
| 56 | Communication   | Radio code for "end of transmission" is <i>over and out</i> .  |
| 57 | Landmarks       | The <i>Eads Bridge</i> is a U.S. National Historic Landmark. It was built in 1874. It has four highway lanes and two MetroLink tracks for trains under the highway.                    |

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 58 Historical Figures Lewis and Clark left from St. Louis on a voyage to map the new Louisiana Territory and make diplomatic contact with the American Indians.
- 59 Vocabulary A *replacement* takes the place of the real thing or person. What do you call a temporary replacement for your teacher?
- 62 Geography When a state or country is *landlocked*, it is surrounded by land and has no direct link to a large body of water, such as an ocean or sea. Do you live in such a place?
- 63 Vocabulary Most trips involve an *itinerary*. It lists the places we plan to go, when we plan to get there, and sometimes what we plan to do once we get there.
- 63 Vocabulary A *landmark* is a famous place that people identify with a location. For example, the Statue of Liberty is a famous landmark on Liberty Island, New York.
- 64 History The term *Manifest Destiny* was first expressed by newspaper editor John O’Sullivan in 1845. The term soon became widely used in newspapers, debates, paintings, and advertisements.
- 64 Vocabulary Some people think their *destiny* is set in stone, and that they have no control over it. What do you think?
- 67 Idiomatic Expression To *fish out* is to reach in and pull something out.
- 68 Animal Kingdom Parrots are intelligent birds. The fact that many of them can imitate human voices makes them popular as pets.
- 68 Idiomatic Expression Christina thought the guy looked familiar, but she *couldn’t put her finger on it*. This just means that she couldn’t figure out where she’d seen him before.
- 69 Onomatopoeia *Slap* is an example of onomatopoeia, words that sound like the objects they name or the sounds those objects make. Can you find another example of onomatopoeia on this page?



## Page-by-Page Guide

- 72 Vocabulary If you break the word *incredulously* up, you have *in* (not), and *credulous* (easily believed). What do you think this word means?
- 73 Legal Term A *will* is a document where a person writes what they want done with their possessions after death. Whose will did the kids find?
- 76 Vocabulary A *legacy* is something passed on to you from family. An example could be property passed down for generations.
- 80 History The Pony Express was a way to get the mail across the country. Riders crossed the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains as they rode from Missouri to California. It lasted for about a year and a half. What invention led to the end of the Pony Express?
- 82 Weather Kansas is known for its tornadoes. The state experiences an average of about 50 per year!
- 83 Language The expression *between you and me* denotes a secret between two people.
- 85 Language Grant says that he'll be willing to leave the train if Christina promises something. He uses the expression *on one condition*. In what situation would you use this expression?
- 89 Vocabulary A *detour* is an alternate route. Why do they have to take a detour?
- 90 Emotion What emotion do you think Miss Tess exhibited when she *beamed*?
- 92 Vocabulary If you break up the word *coincidence* into parts, you get *co*, which means "together" and *incidence*, which means "happening." So, a *coincidence* does not happen because of something we did. It just happens at the same time.
- 93 Making Deductions Anna guesses that the guy left the hat so he wouldn't get caught. Would you make the same assumption? Is there another reason?

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 93 Vocabulary *Trailing* means following. Do you think the word has a more sinister meaning than simply “following”?
- 94 Behavior How does Grant and Paul’s behavior with Mimi and Miss Tess show they have good manners? Do you try to do the same?
- 94 Horses Horse gaits: *walk*: avg 4 mph with a 1-2-3-4 beat; *trot*: avg 8 mph with a 1-2 beat; *canter*: avg 15 mph with a 1-2-3 beat; and *gallop*: avg 28 mph with a 1-2-3-4 beat.
- 96 Emotion How do you think Christina feels when she realizes the one who sent the puzzle pieces knows her name?
- 99 Vocabulary *Tame* is used to describe animals that were wild at one time. In the camping scene, the fire is described as being a *tame six inches*. Can you imagine what it used to be?
- 100 Idiomatic Expression If you know a place well, you can say you know it *like the back of your hand*.
- 104 Imagery If you stand behind a curtain and shine a big light on yourself, your friend on the other side of the sheet will see your *silhouette*. It looks like a shadow, right?
- 104 Weather What does the wind do to their conversation? Think of a time when weather has affected communication for you.
- 105 Analogy Why does Papa advise Grant to leave his shoe in the mud? Look for a sentence with “like” in it. That’s an analogy. It lets us describe something in fewer words.
- 106 Vocabulary Something that is *makeshift* is only temporary, but it does the job well enough.
- 106 Language Have you ever wished you could be in *two places at once*?
- 109 Language To *trudge* is to walk as though through mud, very slowly and heavily.
- 110 Behavior What does Christina mean when she says, “This is for your own good, Grant!”?

## Page-by-Page Guide

|     |               |   |
|-----|---------------|---|
| 114 | Humor         | As Petey is flying around the car, Grant yells that this is what happened in his dream. How does this lighten the mood?                 |
| 115 | Vocabulary    | A <i>prediction</i> is a guess of what is going to happen. What prediction does Grant make?   |
| 121 | Language      | Miss Tess was bothered <i>to no end</i> because the kids were hurrying through their meal. This is a fun way to say “deeply.”           |
| 122 | Vocabulary    | <i>State-of-the-art</i> means the most technologically advanced product on the market.  |
| 122 | Vocabulary    | In this case, <i>renderings</i> are images or versions of what the station will look like.  |
| 127 | Language      | <i>Aside from</i> means “except for.”   |
| 128 | Music         | “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” is a folk song dating back to the 1800s. Dinah was the name for an enslaved African American woman. |
| 132 | Description   | When we say that a piece of paper is <i>yellowing</i> , what image comes to mind?   |
| 132 | Mystery       | How do you think the hidden compartments in the journal add to the mystery?   |
| 132 | Vocabulary    | When something is <i>authenticated</i> , it means it has been proved to be genuine.   |
| 138 | Body Language | Tony’s body language reveals something about how he feels. What emotion do you think he is feeling?                                     |
| 138 | Vocabulary    | To <i>tip off</i> is to warn or inform. Who tipped off Mr. Goodfellow about Tony?   |
| 139 | Vocabulary    | To <i>betray</i> is to be disloyal or let someone down.   |
| 140 | Feelings      | How do Tony’s <i>icy-blue eyes</i> betray what he is feeling even before he says anything? How do they affect Mr. Goodfellow?           |

## Page-by-Page Guide

|     |                      |   |
|-----|----------------------|---|
| 140 | Behavior             | Mr. Goodfellow is deeply affected by what his friend is saying to him. How does he show this with his behavior?   |
| 141 | Vocabulary           | If a <i>replica</i> is a copy of an original, what does “replicate” mean?   |
| 141 | History              | How do the beginnings of the railroad in Europe and the United States differ? Which do you find more interesting?   |
| 142 | History              | Thousands of Chinese immigrated to America to help build the First Transcontinental Railroad. They were extremely hard workers who did not complain.  |
| 142 | Vocabulary           | An <i>obstacle</i> is something that gets in your way and keeps you from completing a task. Obstacles don’t have to be physical. They can also be mental. Is there something you want to accomplish but can’t because of some obstacle? |
| 143 | Idiomatic Expression | Grant smiles from <i>ear to ear</i> . What image does this give you?  |
| 143 | Idiomatic Expression | Mimi and Miss Tess were <i>racking their brains</i> , trying to come up with fun things for the kids to do. What were two of the things they did? Were they really necessary?   |
| 144 | Language             | What did Grant mean by <i>treasured train</i> ? Is there another meaning?   |
| 144 | Vocabulary           | <i>Inheritance</i> is money or property handed down to relatives.   |

## Discussion Questions

1. Mr. Goodfellow is an eccentric Texan and friend to Papa. Discuss surprising aspects of his character. With a partner, make a list of other possible aspects of his personality. Try acting them out for the class.
2. Friendship and loyalty are common themes in stories. Discuss how friendship and loyalty are portrayed in this mystery. Do you have an experience with friendship and loyalty that you would like to share with the group? Do these relationships always have to be between people?
3. After reading the story, go back and find the clues. Write them down on a piece of paper. Discuss how the clues help to move the characters in a particular direction in the story.
4. Discuss what role humor plays in the mystery. Think of examples of humorous situations and how they affected a situation. Do you think humor is important in scary mysteries? Why?
5. Compare two characters in the mystery. Be sure to talk about how they are the same and how they are different. Include what roles they play in this mystery. How might the story have turned out if they hadn't been a part of the mystery?
6. A train trip across the country is a journey through American history! What are some things you learned about American history from reading this mystery? List three things that you did not know. Which item did you find the most interesting?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **What a Time in America!**

The Gilded (or Golden) Age (after the Civil War to the beginning of World War I) was a time in American history when steel and iron production grew and immigration to the United States rose tremendously. Demand for lumber, gold, and silver from the West required a faster mode of transportation. The solution: build railroads to transport these natural resources across the country.

Those who invested in and led these industries became very wealthy! Many of those businessmen were called "robber barons," and accused of ruthless and shady business deals.

These men made a fortune and lived lives of luxury, but they also donated money to good causes. Some of these robber barons/philanthropists included John D. Rockefeller (oil), Andrew Carnegie (steel), and Cornelius Vanderbilt (shipping and railroads).

Many believe these men should not have been criticized because they organized the tremendous growth of the U.S. economy, and as a result, the United States became a world leader.

# Geography: Find It!

## Let's Map It!

Step 1: Divide the class into groups of two or three students each.

Step 2: Give each group a large copy of a map of the United States in the 1860s. It would be helpful to show state and territory borders.

Step 3: Use colored pencils and include a key for map symbols and color-coded routes.

Step 4: Each group will label the locations below using the mystery and the Internet as resources.

- ★ The Union Pacific Railroad
- ★ Gold Deposits
- ★ The Central Pacific Railroad
- ★ The Oregon Trail
- ★ The California Trail
- ★ Chimney Rock
- ★ The Great Plains
- ★ Omaha, Nebraska
- ★ St. Louis, Missouri
- ★ D.C. Union Station
- ★ Denver Union Station
- ★ Challenge: Label the route the family took.

Step 5: Allow each group to display their maps in the classroom.

## **Bonus Info!**

### **Oregon Trail Fast Facts**

- The Oregon Trail began in Independence, Missouri.
- It ended in Oregon City, Oregon, 2,000 miles away.
- The width of the trail ranged from several feet to 20 miles.
- The average trip took between four and six months.
- Reasons to travel across the country were free land, a better life, or gold.
- On a good day, pioneers traveled 15 miles.
- On a muddy day, pioneers traveled about 1 mile.
- Many pioneers traveled the entire 2,000 miles on foot.
- Wagons traveled in single-file and were called wagon trains.
- Common trail sounds came from crickets, frogs, gunshots, and snakes!
- Common sights along the trail included burned wagons, carcasses of dead animals, and graves.

## Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. Mimi, Papa, and the kids have to get to the D.C. Union Station by 8 p.m. If they are 20 miles from the station, and the taxi goes an average of 30 miles per hour, by what time do they have to leave the hotel?
2. The Smyth family decided to move west to join relatives in Oregon. They traveled with a large caravan of other pioneers. They traveled the entire length of the 2,000-mile-long Oregon Trail. They traveled an average of 8 miles per day for half the trip, and 10 miles per day for the other half of the trip. How many days did it take them to get to Oregon? What's that in months?
3. Grant and Christina learn that Ghost Danfy is as old as the train. If Danfy is 120 years old in 2012, when was the train built?
4. If it takes Grant and Christina 30 seconds to run the length of one car, and there are 9 cars, how much time do they have to spare if they need to exit the train in 6 minutes?
5. Fort Kearny, Nebraska, was a home station along the Pony Express. The ponies at the fort needed all of their shoes replaced. If Blacksmith Bob used 24 horseshoes in one day, how many horses did he shoe? If he had 92 shoes in his shop, how many did he have left?
6. The Gateway Arch is twice as high (plus 20 feet) as the height of the Statue of Liberty. If the Gateway Arch is 630 feet, how tall is the Statue of Liberty?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Gateway Arch Facts!**

- It is a monument to the Westward Expansion of the United States.
- It is located in St. Louis, Missouri.
- It is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.
- It is the tallest man-made monument at 630 feet high.
- Construction began in 1963 and ended 32 months later.
- It is made of 900 tons of stainless steel (1,800,000 pounds!).
- It weighs 17,246 tons.
- It cost \$13 million to build (\$90.5 million in today's money!).
- On a windy day, it can sway as much as 9 inches either way.
- It sits on the west bank of the Mississippi River.
- It has two inside trams that take visitors to the top.
- It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

## *English: Write It!*

1. Imagine you are a pioneer child trekking across the country with your family with dreams of a new life. The captain of your caravan has decided to stop for the night, so you form a tight wagon train circle. In your “journal,” write about what happens that evening. Use your imagination. Include details about what you ate, how you felt, what you wore, what you played, and if anything “frightening” or “adventurous” happened.
2. Who is your favorite character in the book? Write a paragraph describing that character (physical description and character traits). If you don’t know much about their physical looks, you can make up some things according to how you picture them. What are his/her strengths and weaknesses? How is the character important to the plot of the story?
3. Christina tells Grant a story about the owner of a Bethel granite quarry. Do you think this could have been a ghost story? If so, write the ending to her story.
4. The group follows Mr. Goodfellow through the D.C. Union Station. Suddenly, he disappears around a corner. While your partner takes notes, tell him/her what you think happened to Mr. Goodfellow. Use the clues that are already in the story to help you. Then, change roles. If you have time, tell your partner’s story to the class.
5. Put your mystery writer’s hat on and write a different ending to the story. Now that you have changed the ending, what events that lead up to the ending (if any) will have to be changed too? Make a list.

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Transcontinental Railroad Fast Facts**

- The first spikes were driven in 1863 (during the American Civil War).
- The Central Pacific began in Sacramento, California.
- The Union Pacific began in Omaha, Nebraska.
- It took six years to complete the First Transcontinental Railroad.
- It was completed almost all by hand.
- To cross streams, bridges had to be built.
- The companies were given between \$16,000 and \$48,000 for each mile of track.
- The Central Pacific had to blast through the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Immigrant workers included mostly Chinese, but also Irish and German.
- Freed slaves and former Union and Confederate soldiers worked on the railroad too.
- Once it was completed, settlers could cross the country in a week versus six months by wagon.



# Vocabulary: Use It!

Use the clues to unscramble the words taken from the mystery book. Use these words and their definitions to increase your vocabulary!

1. I am a legal document that details who gets the property after someone dies.  
WLLI \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_
2. I get in your way and make it hard for you to move forward or get things done!  
ESLTBCAO \_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_ E
3. I am someone who has left my homeland to live in a different country.  
GMTMARNII \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_
4. I am an historical or notable site—you can't miss me!  
RMAKLDAN \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_
5. You can see my outline behind a curtain.  
ETLIUESHTO \_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_ E
6. Call me temporary because I'm not permanent!  
HMSAIFEKT \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_
7. I am valuable—valuable enough that people look far and wide for me.  
TERERUAS \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_
8. I'm very modern!  
TTASE-FO-HET-TRA  
\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_ E - \_\_\_\_ - T \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_
9. They call me this because I am the real deal, very genuine!  
UEIANCEHADTTT  
\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_
10. I take someone else's place.  
PMENAEERLCT \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_

## Bonus Info!

### The Pony Express Oath

Alexander Majors, one of the three founders of the Pony Express, expected all Pony Express employees to take an oath and to abide by it. In addition, each rider received a leather-bound Bible.

#### **Pony Express Oath:**

"I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby swear, before the Great and Living God, that during my engagement, and while an employee of Russell, Majors and Waddell, I will, under no circumstances, use profane language, that I will drink no intoxicating liquors, that I will not quarrel or fight with any other employee of the firm, and that in every respect I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties, and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers, so help me God."

# Art: Create It!

## Create a Puzzle

*Christina and Grant and their friends solve a mystery by assembling a map out of puzzle pieces. In this exercise, you'll make your own puzzle and challenge other students to put it together!*

### You will need:

Scissors

Paper

Large poster board (1 per group)

Decorating supplies like markers, crayons, glue, glitter, yarn, buttons, sequins, etc.

Step 1: In small groups or in pairs, brainstorm ideas for your puzzle. Your picture can be an animal, a person, a scene—anything! You might want to use something related to *The Great Train Mystery*. Practice drawing your picture on paper before you put it on your poster board.

Step 2: Write/draw your idea on the poster board.

Step 3: Decorate your poster board.

Step 4: Cut the poster board into unique puzzle shapes.

Step 5: Teacher: Hide all the puzzle pieces around the classroom.

Step 6: Students: Look for pieces and try to figure out which pieces go to which puzzle. (Hint: look at design and color clues.) Put the puzzles together!

**Another Idea:** Teacher/Students: Make a list of questions about the mystery. Get a question right, and you get to look for a puzzle clue. Find them all and assemble the puzzle.

Have fun!

## **Bonus Info!**

### Steam Train Poetry

The Train

A green eye—and a  
red—in the dark  
Thunder—smoke—and  
a spark.

It is there—it is here—  
flashed by.  
Whither will the wild  
thing fly?

It is rushing, tearing  
thro' the night,  
Rending her gloom in its  
flight.

It shatters her silence  
with shrieks.  
What is it the wild thing  
seeks?

Alas! For it hurries  
away.  
Them that are fain to  
stay.

Hurrah! For it carries  
home  
Lovers and friends that  
roam.

by Mary E. Coleridge

## Pioneer Biscuits

Imagine you are taking a cross-country trip across America in an old steam engine. You stop in the middle of the night in Nebraska. A full moon lights up Chimney Rock as it juts up from the horizon. You and your friends sit on logs that have been placed around a campfire.

Now, bake some biscuits and imagine eating them around the campfire!

### Ingredients:

2 cups flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon cream of tartar  
2 tablespoons lard or margarine  
3/4 to 1 cup milk  
biscuit cutter  
rolling pin

- Sift the dry ingredients together.
- Add them one by one and cut into flour mixture.
- Add milk, a little at a time, and stir with a fork.
- Make dough soft.
- Roll out 1/2-inch thick and cut with a small biscuit cutter.
- Bake at 425 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

This pioneer recipe makes about 15 biscuits. Enjoy with some hot cocoa!



## Bonus Info!

### Pioneer Grocery List

A good supply of food was critical for pioneers traveling across the country on the Oregon Trail. A few of the men and women who successfully made it across published guidebooks to help those embarking on the 6-month voyage for the first time. Joel Palmer's guide, for example, listed the following essentials for each adult:

200 lbs of flour  
30 lbs of pilot bread  
75 lbs of bacon  
10 lbs of rice  
5 lbs of coffee  
2 lbs of tea  
25 lbs of sugar  
1/2 bushel of dried beans  
1 bushel of dried fruit  
2 lbs of baking soda  
10 lbs of salt  
1/2 bushel of corn meal  
1/2 bushel of corn  
1 small keg of vinegar

Hardtack was one item pioneers could make. They were biscuits that they didn't much like, but when it rained, it was sometimes the only thing they could eat. They were so hard they were sometimes referred to as "tooth dullers" or "sheet iron crackers."

# Activities

## Train Pictionary

*Let's create your very own The Great Train Mystery Pictionary game. You'll need: paper, pencils, crayons, dice, a timer, and The Great Train Mystery word cards.*

Step 1: Divide the class into equal groups. Smaller groups work best.

Step 2: Each group must draw a steam train with an engine, ten cars, and one caboose, for a total of twelve parts, on a legal-size piece of paper.

Step 3: Teacher: Make *The Great Train Mystery* word cards (see list below). You can use index cards or make your own. Only write one word on each card. Turn all of the cards over and place them face down in one pile on the table.

Step 4: Each team rolls the dice. The team that rolls the highest number goes first.

Step 5: The artist in the group picks the top card from the pile and replaces it on the bottom of the pile without showing anyone. The artist has one minute to draw the picture and the others in their group have one minute to guess what the picture is.

Step 6: If someone from the group guesses correctly, the group gets to color in one of the twelve parts on their group's steam train.

Step 7: Teams roll the dice again. The group that rolls the highest number goes next.

Step 8: The group that colors all twelve parts of their steam train first (which means they guessed twelve pictures correctly) wins!

Remember: No numbers or letters can be used. Only pictures.

### Train Word Suggestions

|              |               |               |                   |              |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| cell phone   | cap           | pioneer       | will              | lightning    |
| hotel        | cowboy hat    | biscuit       | Pinto horse       | sleepwalking |
| puzzle       | train         | goose bumps   | Pony Express      | map          |
| Grant        | silhouette    | journal       | California        | treasure     |
| Christina    | train station | parrot        | tornado           | birdcage     |
| Paul         | ghost         | Gateway Arch  | museum            | engineer     |
| Anna         | steam         | walkie talkie | tracks            | shadow       |
| Papa         | cowboy boots  | Oregon Trail  | horizon           | tunnel       |
| Mimi         | campfire      | thief         | President Lincoln | grandfather  |
| Miss Tess    | train whistle | ranch         | mailbag           | photo        |
| stuffed bear | full moon     | key           | Chimney Rock      | handcar      |
| tombstone    | covered wagon | mirror        | lantern           | baggage cart |

## Activities

# The Great Train Mystery Word Search

Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | F | Y | T | Q | E | G | L | R | E | H | Y | E | L | C |
| I | R | R | O | F | D | L | H | S | P | T | A | Z | O | O |
| A | I | E | R | G | I | P | O | A | I | D | O | F | Y | V |
| R | E | T | R | W | O | O | R | C | S | P | Y | U | A | E |
| T | N | S | A | V | B | G | E | B | O | B | R | K | L | R |
| N | D | Y | P | A | O | K | R | N | B | L | O | R | T | E |
| O | S | M | C | T | A | I | Y | S | M | N | U | O | Y | D |
| G | H | G | O | L | D | E | N | P | U | Z | Z | L | E | W |
| E | I | H | T | G | X | T | N | A | T | S | I | S | S | A |
| R | P | L | E | P | W | O | L | L | E | F | D | O | O | G |
| O | A | I | R | S | T | E | A | M | T | R | A | I | N | O |
| S | E | E | H | C | R | A | Y | A | W | E | T | A | G | N |
| S | S | C | H | I | M | N | E | Y | R | O | C | K | Q | C |
| S | B | N | Z | S | P | E | A | K | E | R | Y | Z | S | S |
| R | E | E | N | O | I | P | Z | M | L | A | X | T | Y | S |

### WORD BANK

ASSISTANT

CABOOSE

CHIMNEY ROCK

COVERED WAGON

EADS BRIDGE

FRIENDSHIP

GATEWAY ARCH

GOLDEN PUZZLE

GOODFELLOW

LOYALTY

MYSTERY

OREGON TRAIL

PARROT

PHOTOGRAPH

PIONEER

PONY EXPRESS

SALT LAKE CITY

SPEAKER

STEAM TRAIN

WILL

# Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. persistent
2. manpower
3. disinterest

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. Why is Christina annoyed with her younger brother?
5. In what city does Porter Gary work?
6. Who meets Mimi, Papa, and the kids at the station?
7. What three things do Grant and Christina find behind the paneled wall?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_ Christina finds the first clue under the silver lunch tray.
9. \_\_\_\_ The Bethel, Vermont, granite owner lost his son in a train accident.
10. \_\_\_\_ Christina ducks because the dome shatters on top of them.

# Chapters 5-8 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. planetarium
2. converted
3. rounds

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. What does Christina compare the glass-domed room to?
5. Why does Christina punch her brother in the arm?
6. Where do Christina and Grant meet Paul and Anna for the first time?
7. What does Grant think a water stop is?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_ Christina thinks Mimi would like to work in the club car.
9. \_\_\_\_ Christina screams when she sees Mr. Goodfellow's stuffed bobcat.
10. \_\_\_\_ To get back to sleep after Grant wakes her up, Christina decides to get her book.

# Chapters 9-12 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. distraction
2. itinerary
3. impression

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. What is the Gateway Arch?
5. Which president ordered the famous 1804 Lewis and Clark expedition?
6. Where did the Oregon Trail begin?
7. Why are the boys hiding in the closet?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_ The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 tripled the size of the United States.
9. \_\_\_\_ Paul and Anna want to ride the train before their grandfather sells it.
10. \_\_\_\_ The thief jumps off the back of the train and runs off.



# Chapters 13-16 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. idling
2. diehard
3. coincidence

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. What kind of horse is racing alongside the train?
5. How was the mail delivered before the telegraph and train?
6. What does Engineer Luke warn Papa and Mimi about?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_\_ Grant receives a gash on his forehead after running into someone on the train platform.
8. \_\_\_\_ When Mr. Goodfellow travels by train, he always receives his mail from a mail carrier on horseback.
9. \_\_\_\_ Miss Tess uses a German oven to cook the biscuits.
10. \_\_\_\_ Pioneers traveling out West traveled in caravans called wagon trains.

# Chapters 17-20 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what this word means? Write the definition in the space provided.*

1. makeshift
2. trudging
3. leveled

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. What do the girls think they see in the private car before the light switches on?
5. What does Grant have to leave behind?
6. How does Christina stop Grant from going onto the caboose?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_\_ Engineer Sam puts Petey's cage back in the private car.
8. \_\_\_\_ Petey hides the golden key under the liner of his cage.
9. \_\_\_\_ Grant guesses correctly that the safe is behind the mirror.
10. \_\_\_\_ The kids chase the thief through the train to get the journal.

# Chapters 21-24 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. legacy
2. authenticated
3. outsmarted

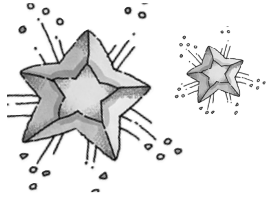
*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

4. Who do the kids hear singing over the intercom?
5. What reminds Paul that it is lunchtime?
6. What two things does Christina find in the journal's hidden compartments?

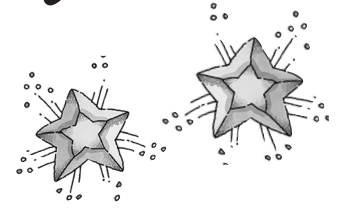
*Write T for True and F for False.*

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul and Anna's great-great-grandfather went to a lot of trouble to protect his legacy.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Grant wonders if the Tony in the photo might be related to Mr. Goodfellow's assistant.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The puzzle doesn't reveal any secrets.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Their last stop is Promontory Point.

# The Great Train Mystery



## Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Using the word bank, fill in the correct vocabulary word in the sentences below.*

### WORD BANK

PERSISTENT  
ITINERARY

ADJOINING  
HEADCOUNT

FEIGNED  
CARAVAN

MONUMENT  
SKYLINE

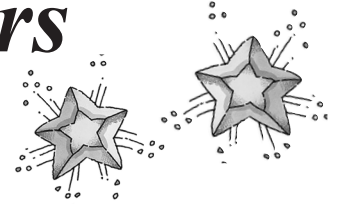
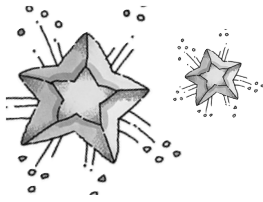
PIONEERS  
REPLENISH

1. Before heading out again, we should \_\_\_\_\_ our supplies for the long journey ahead.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ to President Thomas Jefferson is a reminder of all he accomplished.
3. When asked about the broken lamp, the boy \_\_\_\_\_ innocence.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ crossing the country had to be resourceful to survive the harsh winter months.
5. Sometimes you have to be \_\_\_\_\_ to get what you want!
6. The last \_\_\_\_\_ indicated that two tourists still had not reboarded the bus.
7. When our relatives vacation together, we travel in a \_\_\_\_\_ of cars.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ rooms are separated by a lockable door.
9. The Washington, D.C., \_\_\_\_\_ is easily identifiable, even at night.
10. To keep their vacation adventurous, the family likes to travel with no clear \_\_\_\_\_.

# *The Great Train Mystery*

## *Matching Characters*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

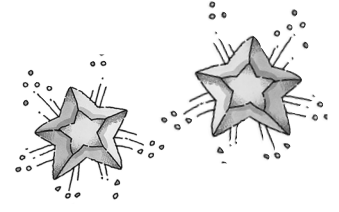
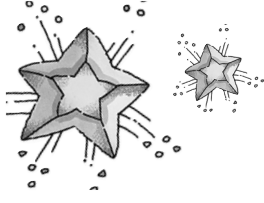
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.*

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Mimi           | A. Opened the hollow book               |
| _____ 2. Papa           | B. Hired a replacement engineer         |
| _____ 3. Christina      | C. Cooked biscuits for the kids         |
| _____ 4. Grant          | D. Wears red cowboy boots               |
| _____ 5. Anna           | E. Owns <i>The General</i>              |
| _____ 6. Paul           | F. Dreamed in poetry                    |
| _____ 7. Engineer Luke  | G. Impersonated Engineer Luke           |
| _____ 8. Miss Tess      | H. Gave Grant a ride on the baggage car |
| _____ 9. Mr. Goodfellow | I. Was afraid of tornadoes              |
| _____ 10. Tony          | J. Opened the hidden safe               |
| _____ 11. Porter Gary   | K. Helped pilot the train               |

# The Great Train Mystery

## Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

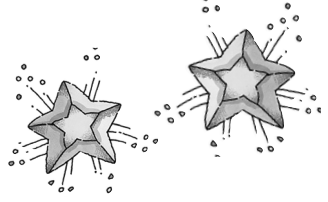
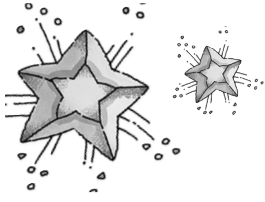
*Fill in the blanks to complete the following:*

- The name of Mr. Goodfellow's steam train.  
\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_
- What Christina found lying outside her hotel room door.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_
- The city where they begin their journey out West.  
\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_ .
- What Grant and Christina find at the bottom of the stairs.  
S \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_
- The person who Christina sees on the station platform just before they leave on their trip.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_
- He's supposedly 120 years old.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_
- What Christina saw on her first night that frightened her.  
\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_
- The city where they walked on the Eads Bridge and saw the Mississippi River.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_
- The initials on the journal.  
\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_
- What Christina uses to read the will.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_

# *The Great Train Mystery*

## *True or False*

### *End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write T for True and F for False.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The First Transcontinental Railroad was laid around 150 years ago.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Christina found a golden envelope in the desk drawer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Anna woke up Grant and Christina after hearing the ghost.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The California Trail branched off from the Oregon Trail in Idaho.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Manifest Destiny was the belief that Americans should take over the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The will was written in a foreign language.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The initials on the back of the golden-envelope clue were JMG.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Pony Express riders changed horses every 75 miles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. They made a train detour in Omaha, Nebraska.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Christina's list included "cut on forehead."

# Answer Key

## *Page 15, Mathematics: Calculate It!*

1. 7:20 p.m. (takes 40 min); 2. 225 days/about 7 months; 3.  $2012 - 120 = 1892$ ; 4. 6 minutes - 4.5 minutes = 1.5 minutes; 5. 6 horses; 68 horseshoes; 6. 305 feet tall ( $630 = 2x + 20$ )

## *Page 17, Vocabulary: Use It!*

1. will; 2. obstacle; 3. immigrant; 4. landmark; 5. silhouette; 6. makeshift; 7. treasure; 8. state-of-the-art; 9. authenticated; 10. replacement

## *Page 22, Chapter Worksheet (1-4)*

4. He was being nosy; 5. Washington, D.C.; 6. Mr. Goodfellow; 7. A room with a glass dome, a train, and suitcases; 8. False; 9. True; 10. False

## *Page 23, Chapter Worksheet (5-8)*

4. A giant snow globe; 5. For scaring Mimi; 6. In the observation car; 7. For Engineer Luke to get something to drink; 8. True; 9. False; 10. True

## *Page 24, Chapter Worksheet (9-12)*

4. A monument to the Westward Expansion of the United States; 5. Thomas Jefferson; 6. Independence, Missouri; 7. To hide from the thief; 8. False; 9. True; 10. False

## *Page 25, Chapter Worksheet (13-16)*

4. Pinto; 5. The Pony Express; 6. The tornadoes in Kansas; 7. False; 8. True; 9. False; 10. True

## *Page 26, Chapter Worksheet (17-20)*

4. Ghost Danfy; 5. His shoe in the mud; 6. She jumped on him; 7. False; 8. True; 9. True; 10. False

## *Page 27, Chapter Worksheet (21-24)*

4. Papa; 5. Feeding Petey; 6. A photo and a will; 7. True; 8. True; 9. False; 10. False

## *Page 28, Vocabulary End of Unit Quiz*

1. replenish; 2. monument; 3. feigned; 4. Pioneers; 5. persistent; 6. headcount; 7. caravan; 8. adjoining; 9. skyline; 10. itinerary

## *Page 29, Character Matching End of Unit Quiz*

1. D; 2. K; 3. F; 4. I; 5. A; 6. J; 7. B; 8. C; 9. E; 10. G; 11. H

## *Page 30, Fill-in-the-Blank End of Unit Quiz*

1. *The General*; 2. clue; 3. Washington, D.C.; 4. suitcases; 5. Porter Gary; 6. Ghost Danfy; 7. blue light; 8. St. Louis; 9. JMG; 10. mirror

## *Page 31, True/False End of Unit Quiz*

1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T