

The Walker School – Technology Department – Outdoor Culture and Technology

## Book Discussions

General Directions:

- Students are to choose a book to read from the approved adventure reading list. No two students may read the same text.
- Students should devise a plan to read their book within 6 cycles. This usually means reading 2-4 chapters each 7-day cycle.
- Students should review each question set before beginning their books. Students should take notes on each question as they read their book, noting specific examples.
- Students will be asked to discuss their individual books with regards to the listed questions. One question set will be handled each week. Students will be required to cite specific examples from the book and to note the pages. Students may use their book for this exercise.

CYCLE #1: Where does your book take place and in what time period? Who is the main character and what prompted him/her to go on this expedition? What was done in order to prepare for the expedition? Were there any problems in organizing the expedition?

CYCLE #2: What equipment was taken on the expedition, such as special food, clothing, technology to help navigate, items for transportation, special currency, and safety equipment? During the first part of the expedition was any equipment lost or left behind because of problems (e.g. lack of space, weight, or environmental disaster)? As you go through the book, look for problems that occurred later on because of this initial loss of equipment and record them.

CYCLE #3: Who went on the trip? Were they chosen or did they volunteer to go? What skills did they have that made them the right person for the trip? As you go through the book, look for events that tested their skills and record them.

CYCLE #4: What local cultures did they experience on their expedition? What cultural artifacts, norms, and religious taboos did the explorers experience that were alien to their own cultures? Did the local people and their cultures help or hinder their expedition? How could you minimize conflict with different cultures?

CYCLE #5: What factors lead to the cohesion of the group? These cohesion factors may be the result of material items, social structure, language (such as idiom or nicknames), environmental hardships or leadership style of the expedition leader. What were some of the personality traits of the leader? What was their leadership style? How effective was the leadership in the completion of the expedition? What could have been done differently in order to improve the success of the expedition?

CYCLE #6: What places in the book did you find the most interesting? What events or people were pivotal in the outcome of the expedition? What role did they play in the development of the character's personality or outlook on his culture?