

## Authentic Intellectual Work

**Teacher:** Kim Kuhnle

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Grade:** 6th grade

**Desired Area of Focus/Request for Support:** I would like to have student work scored to see if I am challenging students to make applications, evaluate, and synthesize what they learn during a chapter book unit that we are working on in class. Iowa Core Standards:

**Content Standard 1:** Students can comprehend what they read in a variety of literary and informational texts.

**Benchmark A.C** Students can draw conclusions, make inferences, and deduce meaning.

**Benchmark A.D** Students can infer traits, feelings, and motives of characters.

### **Introduction/Background:**

We are finishing a chapter book in reading. The students have opportunities to respond to questions on chapter study guides, and they also get questions such as these to help them put the big picture together and apply what they may be learning. Some of my 6<sup>th</sup> graders are very good thinkers and problem solvers and others struggle with this. It is very important that this class makes strong connections with the material that is being read to develop meaningful applications.

We have not discussed any of these questions previously, and they are made to be reflective questions instead of questions with 'right' or 'wrong' answers. They know what a theme is, but we have not discussed what the themes of the book are.

### **Reflection:**

Bring any supporting documents that will assist students in completing this task such as rubrics, additional handouts, graphic organizers, etc.

## **Far North Evaluation Projects**

**Choose one of these topics to complete!**

- 1. There are a few different themes that occur throughout this story. Choose two of these themes to elaborate on. Cite specific examples or quotes from the book to show your reasons for choosing this theme. Are these themes relevant or applicable to the world and society that we live in today? How so? Give specific reasons.**
- 2. The characters in the book change as they experience the various situations. How did the characters change over the course of the story? What do you think caused these changes to occur? Give specific examples or character quotes that show these changes. Also, discuss a time in your life that you have experienced a change in your character or personality. What caused this to occur?**
- 3. Investigate the latest natural disaster to affect people in our world today. How did the people survive? For how long? Compare and contrast these people's survival techniques with those of the characters in the book.**
- 4. What kind of tough decisions do the boys have to make in the book? Why do you think they made these decisions? Go home and ask your parents about the tough decisions that your family has had to make. How are these decisions similar and different to the ones the boys make in the book? Give specific examples from the book and from your home discussion.**

## **Far North Evaluation Projects (Revisions to task)**

**Choose one of these topics to complete!**

- 1. There are a few different themes that occur throughout this story. Choose two of these themes to elaborate on. Cite specific examples or quotes from the book to show your reasons for choosing this theme. Are these themes relevant or applicable to the world and society that we live in today? How so? Give specific reasons.**

**REVISION: My group suggested that I use this question as a small group discussion. Then, we will come back as a whole class and discuss our various answers to this question and how we arrived at our thinking and the reasons cited. I could pose this halfway through the book and have the students take some notes while they are reading about possible themes of the story. I should model some examples, perhaps from other stories we have read or talked about.**

- 2. The characters in the book change as they experience the various situations. How did the characters change over the course of the story? What do you think caused these changes to occur? Give specific examples or character quotes that show these changes. Also, discuss a time in your life that you have experienced a change in your character or personality. What caused this to occur?**

**REVISION: I will use this question at the end of the book as an evaluative and reflective question of the characters portrayed in the story.**

- 3. Investigate the latest natural disaster to affect people in our world today. How did the people survive? For how long? Compare and contrast these people's survival techniques with those of the characters in the book.**

**REVISION: Change "latest" to a recent (within the last 5-10 years). Do this as a possible small group activity.**

- 4. What kind of tough decisions do the boys have to make in the book? Why do you think they made these decisions? Go home and ask your parents about the tough decisions that your family has had to make. How are these decisions similar and different to the ones the boys make in the book? Give specific examples from the book and from your home discussion.**

**REVISION: Assign this to the kids to do at home and then come to class the next day for a class and/or small group discussion.**