

My Side of the Mountain



by **Jean Craighead George**

Lit Link **Grades 7-8**

Written by Miriam Basten
Revised by Ruth Solski
Illustrated by On The Mark Press

Copyright © 1998 On The Mark Press Revised 2012

This publication may be reproduced under licence from Access Copyright, or with the express written permission of On The Mark Press or as permitted by law.

All rights are otherwise reserved, and no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, scanning, recording or otherwise, except as specifically authorized. "We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) for this project."

All Rights Reserved
Printed in Canada

On The Mark Press
15 Dairy Avenue
Napane, Ontario
K7R 1M4
www.onthemarkpress.com

At A Glance

Learning Expectations	Section One	Section Two	Section Three	Section Four	Section Five	Section Six	Section Seven	Section Eight	Review Activities
Reading Comprehension									
• Identify and describe story elements	•				•				
• Summarizing story events / details									
• Recalling events and details	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Reasoning and Critical Thinking Skills									
• Make inferences (why events occurred, character's thoughts and feelings)	•								
• Brainstorming ideas about a topic or event	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
• Sequential ordering of story elements			•						
• Expressing an opinion on a situation				•		•			•
• Predict story events								•	•
• Identify character traits									•
Vocabulary Development, Grammar & Word Usage									
• Context clues, word meanings	•			•					
• Identify syllables in words	•								
• Identify and use homophones, synonyms	•	•							
• Identify root words		•	•						
• Match words to meanings			•		•	•	•		•
• Use possessives, plurals, suffixes			•	•					
• Identify story vocabulary									
• Use alphabetical order to order words									•
• Identify nouns, pronouns, verbs, punctuation						•		•	
Creative Thinking Skills									
• Write a description		•	•		•				•
• Write proper sentences		•	•	•				•	•
• Create an acrostic poem, alliteration							•		•
• Complete a story summary									•



Table of Contents

Objectives.....	4
Summary of the Story.....	4
Author Biography.....	5
Teacher Suggestions.....	7
Reproducible Booklet Cover.....	9
Looking Over the Novel.....	10
Author’s Preface.....	13
Section One.....	14
Section Two.....	19
Section Three.....	21
Section Four.....	24
Vocabulary Review for Sections One to Four.....	26
Section Five.....	28
Section Six.....	30
Section Seven.....	32
Section Eight.....	34
Vocabulary Review for Sections Five to Eight.....	36
Story Summary - Activity Worksheet.....	38
My Opinions - Activity Worksheet.....	39
Questions and Answers - Activity Worksheets.....	40
Sam’s Home - Activity Worksheet.....	42
Character Proofs - Activity Worksheet.....	43
Alliteration - Activity Worksheet.....	44
Recipe Writing - Activity Worksheet.....	45
Spelling Practice - Activity Worksheet.....	46
Spelling Test - Activity Worksheet.....	47
Independent or Group Activity Lists.....	48
Novel Study Evaluation Sheet.....	49
Vocabulary Check-Up - Sections One to Four.....	52
Vocabulary Check-Up - Sections Five to Eight.....	54
Answer Key.....	56



Objectives:

- To present to students a tale of wilderness survival through Newberry Award winning literature.
- To show students, that with a degree of resourcefulness and patience, many things can be accomplished and that running away has its own set of difficulties.
- To introduce students to the rich variety of life of the forest and the interrelationships of the plants and animals living there.

Summary of the Story:

Sam Gibley is a teenaged boy who lives in a New York apartment with his parents and eight siblings during the 1950's. Frustrations with the crowded conditions at home and curiosity about land in the Catskill mountains abandoned by Great-grandfather Gibley, motivate Sam to run away to the wilderness to live as one with nature. After doing extensive research at the New York Public Library, with his father's blessing, Sam leaves home on a promising day in May, taking nothing with him except a penknife, a ball of cord, an ax, \$40.00, and some flint and steel safely kept in a little purse.

Sam has second thoughts about his adventure after a cold, hungry, and uncomfortable first night in the forest. But with some help from a local resident, who shows him how to light a fire and the librarian in the nearby town of Delhi, who helps him locate the Gibley land, Sam returns to the forest with renewed confidence.

Having chosen an area on the mountain to settle, Sam begins to put to use his knowledge of forest survival. He selects a huge hemlock tree to hollow out and make into a home. He begins to gather the plants growing wild on the forest floor and to observe the habits of the local animal population. He spends time fashioning crude implements from shells, sticks, and bones. In the first few months, Sam avoids almost all human contact, fearing that one of his unexpected visitors will take him back home to New York. Instead, he captures a falcon to be his companion and trains the bird to hunt for small game such as rabbits. Frightful, as the bird is known, also saves Sam's life by alerting him to danger when Sam's new indoor fireplace quietly consumes all the oxygen in his cozy home. Other animal neighbors are befriended but not really tamed.

Sam spends the summer and autumn months preparing himself for the winter ahead. He collects and stores food creatively. He makes the most of deer slain but not retrieved by hunters who appear near his home in November. When the cold temperatures and snow arrive, Sam is ready.



Looking Over the Novel

It's a good idea to become familiar with a novel before you begin to read it.

1. What is the novel's title? _____
2. Who is the novel's author? _____
3. Who illustrated the story? _____
4. How do you know? _____
5. Make five predictions about the novel based on the picture on the front cover:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
6. Make a prediction about the story based on the title:

7. Which award has the novel won? _____
How do you know? _____
8. In which year was the book first published? _____
How do you know? _____
9. Which company published the edition that you are using? _____
How do you know? _____
10. How many pages are there in the story? _____
How do you know? _____
11. What is the purpose of the introduction on the back cover? _____



My Side of the Mountain

By Jean Craighead George

Limited Supplies

Imagine that you are lost in the forest with only the following supplies.

What could you do with each of these items?

Be creative!

Penknife

Ball of Cord

An Ax

Forty Dollars

Flint, Steel, and Tinder in a Purse



My Side of the Mountain

By Jean Craighead George

Classifying

Below is a list of different kinds of land and water animals, birds, plants, and trees mentioned in the story. Sort these words into the appropriate columns. Each column will have twelve entries.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| nuthatch | weasel | nighthawk | dogwood | hickory | skunk cabbage |
| cattail | red fox | catbird | walnut | fern | bulrush |
| hawthorn | willow | warbler | junco | frog | whippoorwill |
| moss | aspen | raccoon | dandelion | falcon | arrow-leaf |
| rabbit | deer | hemlock | squirrel | beech | wood peewee |
| chickadee | birch | crayfish | spinach | skunk | jack-in-the-pulpit |
| maple | mink | milkweed | sassafras | crow | snapping turtle |
| teaberry | trout | cardinal | owl | ash | dogtooth violet |

Animals	Birds	Plants	Trees