

Danger on Panther
Peak

by

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Teaching Unit by

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To the Teacher

This teaching unit is designed to facilitate learning of the English language, offer encouragement and excitement for reading, and increase vocabulary for fifth and sixth grade students. Inside, you will find lessons and activities that encourage the students to use their knowledge of the English language and their imagination to compose writings that will "belong" to them. Also included, are vocabulary sections that will encourage the students to use conventional methods which will allow them to retain the meanings of difficult words found throughout the book. It should be pointed out to the students that these methods can be used throughout their lives to increase their vocabulary.

In the following packet, you will find the worksheets which may be copied for the students' use. Also included, are occasional pop quiz questions for the teacher which may be used as assessment tools of students' fulfillment of the reading assignments. After every six chapters, a vocabulary test is provided which may be administered to the students to assess their vocabulary retention. Following this introduction, an overview of assignments is provided for the students so they will know what to expect they are expected to do as they read the book.

Warning: It should be noted that this book uses some inappropriate language such as "heck," "darn," and "gosh." The fact that these words are inappropriate should be pointed out to the students, or they may simply be blacked out of the text.

Danger on Panther Peak is a great book, not only for the students, but also for the teacher as well. So sit back, relax, learn, and ENJOY!

Overview of Assignments

- You will be expected to read the assigned material for each lesson: none more and none less. You are not to read ahead for this might spoil the book for the rest of the class.
- Each chapter you will be given worksheets with questions and vocabulary words.
 - Question Directions: Answer all questions in complete sentences.
 - Vocabulary Directions: Find the sentence that contains the word on the page number given. Look up the sentence in the dictionary and write down the definition as it is used in the story. Write a sentence of your own that uses the word like it is used in the story. You are to do this for *every* vocabulary word.
- About every two chapters, or so, you will be assigned a special activity.
- Occasional pop quizzes will be given so that I know you are keeping up with the reading. Pop quiz questions do not have to be answered in complete sentences.
- After every six chapters, you will take a vocabulary test.

Name: _____

Chapter One

Vocabulary

alfalfa (pg. 3):

brisk (pg. 4):

corral (pg. 3):

fidget (pg.8):

Questions

1. What was Tom doing in the beginning of the chapter for which he could have gotten in trouble?
2. Why did Tom slide off the rope carefully?
3. Who yelled at Tom?
4. What made Susan go run and tell on Tom?
5. Where did Tom hide from Mama?
6. What did he find underneath the bed in this room?
7. Why do you think Susan didn't tell on Tom for what he did in the last part of the chapter?
8. If you were Tom's Mama, how would you have punished him?
9. From the title of the book and the picture on the cover, what do you think this book will be about?

Name: _____

Chapter Two

Vocabulary

gripe (pg.11):

gully (pg. 14):

pelt (pg. 15):

rump (pg. 17):

startle (pg. 12):

Questions

1. Why did Tom say there was not much difference between being grounded and not being grounded?
 2. What did Grampa suggest to Tom that might be fun for him to do?
 3. Why did Grampa warn Tom not to go on Panther Peak?
 4. What year did some hunters and trappers come in with fifty-seven pelts?
 5. How did Grampa escape the panther that he met when he was young?
 6. What did Tom do after he jumped off the step and brushed off his seat? Why?
-

Chapter Two Activity

Grampa said that Panther Peak was not named Panther Peak because of mountain lions or bobcats. Have students write a paper on either the difference between mountain lions and panthers, or bobcats and panthers. Suggested time of assignment is three days.

Is this something
that requires a
paper? Is the
answer a simple
one? ~~Are~~ 3 days
necessary?

Name: _____

Chapter Three

Vocabulary

fret (pg. 26):

handhold (pg. 21):

scurry (pg. 26):

sheer (pg. 20):

Questions

1. What was the name of the mountain Tom climbed?
2. Why did Tom become suddenly scared when he was climbing the mountain?
3. Why did Tom and the strange boy start fighting?
4. How did Tom get the boy off of him?
5. What stopped the fight?
6. Do you think Tom and Justin will become friends? Why or why not?
7. How did Mama punish Tom for fighting?
8. Have you ever been in a fight? If so, then how were you punished?

*I like your
inclusion of higher-
order thinking questions*



Name: _____

Chapter Four

Vocabulary

crest (pg. 29):

mess (pg. 36):

rig (pg. 34):

stringer (pg. 35):

tackle (pg. 33):

Questions

1. Why was Mama still upset with Tom?
 2. What did Justin have hidden in a tree?
 3. How many places did Justin have these things hidden?
 4. What kind of limb did Justin use to make fishing poles?
 5. According to Justin, which is better: a store-bought fishing pole, or a home-made fishing pole?
 6. Why did Grampa ask Dad to come live with him?
 7. What kind of fish did Justin and Tom catch?
 8. Do you think Justin and Tom are becoming friends? Why or why not?
-

Chapter Four Pop Quiz

1. Where did Tom used to live?
2. What happened to Tom's Grandma?
3. Instead of fighting, what did Tom and Justin do?
4. What did Justin teach Tom to do?
5. Why did Tom have to take a bath with perfumed soap?

Good to hold
them accountable
for their reading

Name: _____

Chapter Five

Vocabulary

gorge (pg. 41):

treacherous (pg. 42):

tread (pg. 46):

sleek (pg. 50):

Questions

1. What did Tom teach Justin to do when it rained?
 2. What did Justin teach Tom to do the day after it rained?
 3. Justin made Tom cross his heart and spit. Why was it wrong for him to do that?
 4. What was the secret Justin showed Tom?
 5. Why was Tom afraid to swing on the rope?
 6. What secret did Justin show Tom about the waterfall?
 7. What kind of food did Tom and Justin bring?
 8. What was looking at Tom?
 9. What do you think will happen to Justin?
-

Chapter Five Activity

Have students read page 47 over again and draw a colorful picture of how they think the cave would have looked. Suggested time of assignment is one day.

Name: _____

Chapter Six

Vocabulary

frantic (pg. 56):

Questions

1. How did Tom know the panther was gone?
 2. Why was it not right for Tom to swear?
 3. What happened to Tom and Justin's clothes?
 4. Why did Tom go home without any pants?
 5. Who came by to pay Tom a visit?
 6. How did Tom end up on the kitchen floor?
 7. What was Tom's punishment?
 8. How did Tom feel about being seen with his pants off by his new teacher?
 9. How would you feel if you were in Tom's position?
-

Chapter Six Pop Quiz

1. What did Justin find when he swam underneath the waterfall?
2. What did Justin throw into the water?
3. What item of Tom's clothing did they not find?
4. Who is Mrs. Riley?

Name: _____

Vocabulary Test 1

Part I

Directions: Match the word on the left with the correct definition on the right by writing the letter of the definition in the blank.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------|----|---|
| ___ | 1. | alfalfa | a. | marked by uncontrolled emotion |
| ___ | 2. | brisk | b. | a very narrow steep-sided valley |
| ___ | 3. | corral | c. | enough food of a certain kind for a meal |
| ___ | 4. | crest | d. | the edge of a hill or mountain |
| ___ | 5. | fidget | e. | something to hold on to |
| ___ | 6. | frantic | f. | to become irritated |
| ___ | 7. | fret | g. | a skin of a fur-bearing animal |
| ___ | 8. | gorge | h. | a trench worn in the earth by running water |
| ___ | 9. | gripe | i. | to complain |
| ___ | 10. | gully | j. | to move or act nervously |
| ___ | 11. | handhold | k. | a closed in space for keeping animals |
| ___ | 12. | mess | l. | quick or energetic |
| ___ | 13. | pelt | m. | a plant that is grown and used for hay |

Good format.

Part II

Directions: Fill in the blank with a word from the word box that will best complete the sentence. Each word is only used once.

rig	rump	scurry	sheer
sleek	startle	stringer	tackle
treacherous	tread		

1. After grooming a dog for half an hour, it will be sure to have a shiny, _____ coat of fur.
2. While the swimming instructor was speaking, the students had to _____ water in order to stay above the surface of the water.
3. The long journey ahead of them was sure to be _____ because they had to face pirates, sharks, and giant squids.
4. The boys wanted to _____ up another fishing pole, but they discovered they were out of fishing _____ so they had to go to the store to buy more.
5. Johnny caught another fish and put it on the _____, so it would stay alive and fresh until he left for home.
6. The children laughed as they watched the squirrel playfully _____ up the tree to meet its friend.
7. The boys looked up in amazement at the jagged, _____ cliffs they were about to climb.
8. If you want to _____ someone, then just sneak up behind them while they are watching a scary movie and yell, "BOO!"
9. As a punishment, Jack was given five hard spankings on the _____.

Name: _____

Chapter Seven

Vocabulary

breeder (pg. 67):

bridle (pg. 68):

foal (pg. 67):

Questions

1. Did Mrs. Riley embarrass Tom the first day of school?
2. What date was Tom's birthday?
3. How was Old Josie different than all the other milk cows?
4. What did Tom get for his birthday?
5. Read the description of Tom's horse again on page 65. What would you have named her?
6. Why did Tom's father think it was a bad idea to have a horse foal in the winter?
7. How did Tom and Justin make the trip between their houses shorter?

Name: _____

Chapter Eight

Vocabulary

bellow (pg. 79):

liable (pg. 75):

loom (pg. 82):

prowl (pg. 78):

ruffle (pg. 77):

spunky (pg. 75):

taut (pg. 80):

tucker (pg. 77):

Questions

1. What did Tom step on that felt like stepping into a pan of ice?
2. What did Tom cause to slosh out of Dad's cup?
3. Who is Sally? What happened to her?
4. Why did Tom's great-grandmother shoot the panther?
5. How did Tom go sledding?

6. What was Tom told to do if he could not stop the sled?
7. How did the cows keep warm in the cold?
8. What did the cows do when Dad threw out the hay?
9. Why do you think Dad and Grampa started running?

Chapter Eight Activity

Without having read chapter nine, have the students write a paragraph or two on what they think will happen next in the story. Suggested time of assignment is one day.

Name: _____

Chapter Nine

Vocabulary

glimpse (pg. 84):

laden (pg. 84):

windbreak (pg. 84):

Questions

1. What had Dad and Grampa found when Tom caught up with them?
2. Why did Grampa tell Tom and Dad to run to the truck?
3. How was Grampa sure that coyotes did not kill Sally and her calf?
4. Why do you think Dad did not let Tom go with him and Grampa to hunt the panther?
5. Why did Tom feel like a sissy?
6. Do you think they will kill the panther? Why or why not?

Chapter Nine Pop Quiz

1. What had killed Sally and her calf?
2. What did Dad think might have killed Sally and her calf?
3. How many hours of light was left after they found Sally and her calf?
4. How long had it been since Sally and her calf were killed?

Name: _____

Chapter Ten

Vocabulary

helter-skelter (pg. 92):

tranquilizer gun (pg. 90):

whittle (pg. 91):

Questions

1. Why was Tom's house full of people?
 2. What made Grampa so upset that he started yelling and walked out to the barn?
 3. Why did Justin and Tom stop playing with the sled?
 4. Why did Grampa think the men would not see the panther?
 5. What made Grampa think the panther was smart?
 6. According to Grampa, about how far did the panther travel?
 7. In this chapter, Grampa names one main difference between a panther and a mountain lion. What is the difference he names?
 8. Do you think the panther will show up again? Why or why not?
-

Name: _____

Chapter Eleven

Vocabulary

neutral (pg. 101):

scowl (pg. 97):

Questions

1. How long had it been since anyone last saw the panther?
2. What did Tom not like about the warmer weather?
3. Why did Grampa say he oftentimes answered "Just nature's way" to Tom's questions?
4. Why did Tom and Grampa hang the milk buckets upsidedown on wooden pegs?
5. What was wrong with Susan this morning?
6. Why wouldn't Dad let Tom see Susan?
7. What special job did Dad give Tom to do?
8. Where did Mama and Dad take Susan?
9. What did Grampa and Tom do after breakfast?
10. What sickness do you think Susan has?

Name: _____

Chapter Twelve

Vocabulary

appendix (pg. 108):

grit (pg. 107):

perch (pg. 106):

quick (pg. 106):

Questions

1. Who called the first time the telephone rang?
2. What bad habit did Tom have when he got nervous?
3. What was wrong with Susan?
4. Why would Tom not get to go to school the next day?
5. Why did Tom call Justin?
6. Where did Justin's parents go? Why?
7. Why did Justin have to cancel the fishing trip for Saturday?
8. How did a bucket of milk turn over when Tom was milking the cows?

Chapter Twelve Activity

Have the students write a report on the appendix and how it can cause you to become ill.
Suggested time of assignment is three days.

Some personal
insights, no
doubt.

||
☺

Name: _____

Vocabulary Test 2

Part I

Directions: Match the word on the left with the correct definition on the right by writing the letter of the definition in the blank.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|------------------|----|---|
| ___ | 1. | loom | a. | a very sensitive piece of flesh that may be found underneath the fingernail |
| ___ | 2. | neutral | b. | a small, bony fish that lives in freshwater |
| ___ | 3. | perch | c. | a frowning facial expression |
| ___ | 4. | prowl | d. | a position of gears in a machine when they are not being used |
| ___ | 5. | quick | e. | to cut off chips from a piece of wood with a knife |
| ___ | 6. | ruffle | f. | a device that shoots darts which contain medicine to calm an animal |
| ___ | 7. | scowl | g. | a shelter from the wind |
| ___ | 8. | spunky | h. | to become very tired |
| ___ | 9. | taut | i. | stretched tight |
| ___ | 10. | tranquilizer gun | j. | brave, or courageous |
| ___ | 11. | tucker | k. | to mess up |
| ___ | 12. | whittle | l. | to move around in a sneaky manner |
| ___ | 13. | windbreak | m. | to appear very large |

Part II

Directions: Fill in the blank with a word from the word box that will best complete the sentence. Each word is only used once.

appendix	bellow	breeder	bridle
foal	glimpse	grit	helter-skelter
laden		liable	

1. Sometimes I get so mad that I _____ my teeth together.
2. I have a scar on my belly from when I had my _____ removed by surgery.
3. The children were so scared by the panther that they ran _____ through the woods.
4. The tree's branches looked like they would break because they were so _____ with snow.
5. The robbers were running so fast that Sally was only able to catch a(n) _____ of their faces.
6. The boy did not trust his friend with his secret because he was not _____ to keep it.
7. The injury was so bad that it made the cow _____ out loud in pain.
8. Jimmy was so excited that his father's horse was going to have a(n) _____ because now he would have a horse too!
9. It is very hard to control a horse when it does not have its _____ on.
10. Kevin asked the _____ when the cat would have kittens again.

Name: _____

Chapter Thirteen

Vocabulary

arthritis (pg. 113):

rheumatism (pg. 113):

shrill (pg. 115):

Questions

1. Why was Grampa worried about Mama and Dad seeing well enough to drive home?
2. Why did the cows start mooing and bumping into each other all of a sudden?
3. How did Grampa scare off the panther?
4. How did Grampa help get Tom's mind off the panther?
5. What did Tom do every time a commercial would come on the TV?
6. Where did Tom fall asleep?
7. Where do you think the panther went?

Chapter Thirteen Pop Quiz

1. What made it hard for Tom to see this morning?
2. How did Grampa know it was going to get cold?
3. What scared the cows?
4. What was Grampa carrying when he ran out of the barn?
5. What did Grampa and Tom do while they ate?

Name: _____

Chapter Fourteen

Vocabulary

cocklebur (pg. 122):

dauber (pg. 123):

kindling (pg. 119):

ornery (pg. 123):

Questions

1. What was different about the house when Grampa and Tom woke up from their naps?
2. What kind of logs did Tom pick out for the fire?
3. What were Grampa's two secrets for making a fire?
4. Why did Grampa want to get the milking and chores done right away?
5. What did Tom and Grampa use to pull the ice out of their hair?
6. Which cow was acting really touchy?
7. What happened to Grampa when he tried to pick up his pipe?
8. How did Tom check to see if Grampa was still alive?
9. What would you have done if you were Tom at this point in the story?

Name: _____

Chapter Fifteen

Vocabulary

receiver (pg. 130):

stagger (pg. 129):

Questions

1. What did Grampa think was wrong with himself?
2. How did Tom get Grampa into the house?
3. What happened to Tom once he finally got Grampa into the house and shut the door?
4. What happened when Tom tried to dial 911?
5. Where did Tom put Grampa after he got him off the sled?
6. What was the one and only thing left for Tom to do?

Name: _____

Chapter Sixteen

Vocabulary

bit (pg. 135):

headstall (pg. 135):

ominous (pg. 138):

ravine (pg. 137):

shudder (pg. 133):

Questions

1. What did Tom take with him to go get help in case he saw the panther?
 2. Why did Grampa want Tom to take Ginger?
 3. Why did Tom not use the saddle on Ginger?
 4. How did Tom finally get on Ginger?
 5. Why did Tom and Ginger have to be sure to move fast?
 6. What did Tom see in the snow that reminded him of Sally and her calf?
 7. Why did Ginger fall down?
-

Chapter Sixteen Activity

Have students write a report on what type of equipment is needed to ride a horse. Suggested time of assignment is two days.

Name: _____

Chapter Seventeen

Vocabulary

glisten (pg. 144):

lurk (pg. 143):

spindly (pg. 142):

stalking (pg. 143):

Questions

1. Why did Tom and Ginger have to dry the foal off fast?
2. How did Tom keep the wind and snow off Ginger and her baby?
3. According to Grampa, how do you know when a foal is going to be all right?
4. How many tries did it take for the foal to stand up?
5. What color was the panther's eyes?
6. What stopped Tom from leaving Ginger and her foal?
7. How many shotgun shells did Tom bring? How many do you think he should have brought?
8. What injuries did Tom get from his fight with the panther?

Name: _____

Chapter Eighteen

Vocabulary

antibiotics (pg. 152):

filly (pg. 153):

insurance (pg. 151):

muffle (pg. 151):

poke (pg. 153):

throb (pg. 149):

Questions

1. What could Tom taste in his mouth when he woke up?
2. What was the heavy weight on Tom's chest that kept him from getting up?
3. Do you think it was good for Grampa to be smoking in the hospital? Why?
4. What was running through a tube into Tom's arm?
5. What part of his body did Grampa's cast cover?
6. By how much time did Dad and Mama miss Tom leaving the house?
7. Why were there a bunch of farmers and ranchers at Justin's house?
8. Who heard the gun shot that killed the panther?
9. Why didn't Tom explain to his family how he killed the panther?

Chapter Eighteen Activity

Have the students write what they think Tom would have said if he had explained how he killed the panther to his family. Suggested time of assignment is one day.

Name: _____

Vocabulary Test 3

Part I

Directions: Match the word on the left with the correct definition on the right by writing the letter of the definition in the blank.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------|----|---|
| ___ | 1. | antibiotics | a. | to dull the sound of something |
| ___ | 2. | arthritis | b. | protection against the loss of something |
| ___ | 3. | bit | c. | a young female horse |
| ___ | 4. | cocklebur | d. | medicines used to prevent infection |
| ___ | 5. | dauber | e. | to move around in a sneaky manner |
| ___ | 6. | filly | f. | to sparkle |
| ___ | 7. | glisten | g. | threatening |
| ___ | 8. | headstall | h. | a piece of equipment that goes on the horse's head |
| ___ | 9. | insurance | i. | a piece of equipment that is placed in the horse's mouth |
| ___ | 10. | kindling | j. | having an attitude that causes one to become angry easily |
| ___ | 11. | lurk | k. | materials, such as certain types of wood or crumpled paper, that are used to start a fire |
| ___ | 12. | muffle | l. | something that is used to smear a substance |
| ___ | 13. | ominous | m. | a rough weed that carries burrs, or stickers |
| ___ | 14. | ornery | n. | a swelling of the joints of the body |

Part II

Directions: Fill in the blank with a word from the word box that will best complete the sentence. Each word is only used once.

poke	ravine	receiver	rheumatism
shrill	shudder	spindly	stagger
	stalking	throb	

1. The pain in Carl's knee was not constant, but it was more of a(n) _____, hurting off and on.
2. Susan was going to spend the night at Molly's house, so she packed all of her things in a(n) _____ and put it in her mom's car.
3. The fox was very sneakily _____ a rabbit, so he could kill it and eat it.
4. A baby giraffe usually has very _____ legs when it is born.
5. The winters in Wisconsin make me _____ with their cold winds.
6. Judy fell into a(n) _____ when she and her husband were mountain climbing.
7. The dizziness Martin was feeling caused him to _____ along as he walked.
8. At midnight, Justin picked up the _____ to call his brother.
9. The wolf let out a loud, _____ howl at the moon.
10. "Well your muscles and joints are swelling a lot," said the doctor, "I believe you have _____."