

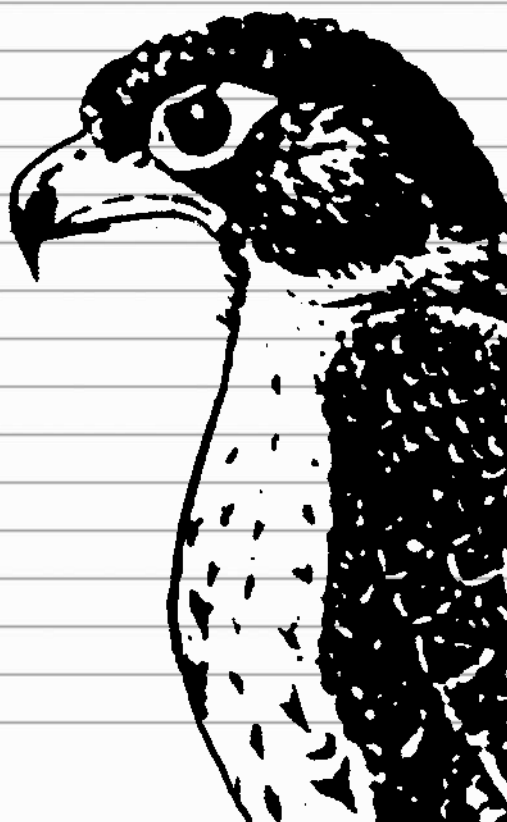
Scholastic BookFiles

A READING GUIDE TO

My Side of the Mountain

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Chapter Charter: Questions to Guide Your Reading



I Hole Up in a Snowstorm

- When do you think Sam wrote the first part of the chapter?
How can you tell this is a flashback?
- Why does he need to remind himself why he left home?
- Does Sam seem content at the end of the chapter?

I Get Started on This Venture

- Why is Sam so scared and hungry even after he catches the fish?
- What is the most important skill Sam learns in this chapter?
- What do you think Sam would have done if he hadn't found the man in the cabin?

I Find Gribbley's Farm

- Why is it so important to Sam to find his great-grandfather's farm?
- Why do you think Sam's father wants him to tell someone in Delhi about Gribbley Farm?
- Why is the meal Sam prepares at the end of this chapter so satisfying to him?

I Find Many Useful Plants

- When Sam decides to sit by the river and eat his mussels instead of heading back to his camp, what has he realized? Do you think this is a satisfying moment for Sam?
- Do you know what Sam's idea is when he looks at the big trees?

The Old, Old Tree

- What do you learn about Sam's personality from his early attempts to build a home and feed himself?
- Why do you think planning ahead excites Sam so much?

I Meet One of My Own Kind and Have a Terrible Time Getting Away

- Sam spends a lot of time making his tree house. Describe what you think the inside looks like.
- Why does Sam lie to the strawberry-picking woman? Do you think it was the right thing to do? Why or why not?
- Why is he so interested in the duck hawk?

The King's Provider

- Why does Sam set up a lean-to near the cliffs?
- Do you think it was mean of Sam to take Frightful from her mother?

What I Did About the First Man Who Was After Me

- When Sam sees the man by his tree, he realizes that he is not bound by anything, that he can leave the tree and find a new

home if he has to. Do you think Sam would be sad if he had to find a new home?

- How does Sam begin to relate to Frightful?

I Learn to Season My Food

- Why does Sam think the weasel is brave?
- Sam tells the reader he was “too frightened to move” when the weasel burst out of the trap. How do you think you would have reacted in a similar situation?

How a Door Came to Me

- Why does Sam think it is okay to take the hunter’s deer?
- Why does the “*pop, pip*” of the earthworms make Sam so happy?

Frightful Learns Her ABC's

- What is Sam trying to train Frightful to do? Do you think he will succeed?
- How does the deerskin suit help Sam live more comfortably?

I Find a Real Live Man

- How does Jessie Coon James help Sam?
- Why does Bando call Sam “Thoreau”?
- Sam is lonely when Bando leaves. How might you have handled the loneliness?

The Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness

- What makes Sam think about winter?
- Sam decides to stay instead of going home. How does he overcome his fear?

We All Learn About Halloween

- Why do you think Sam hosts a Halloween party?
- Sam tells the reader that “might is right.” What do you think that means for the creatures in the woods?

I Find Out What to Do with Hunters

- Do you think it’s okay that Sam uses the lost game for himself?

Trouble Begins

- Sam surprises himself in this chapter by doing what? Why is it unexpected?
- Were you surprised that Sam makes a new friend?

I Pile Up Wood and Go on with Winter

- Sam does not write about that first, awful snowstorm again. Why?
- Why do you think Sam is relieved when the storm arrives?

I Learn About Birds and People

- Why does Sam compare the birds in the woods to his neighbors on Third Avenue?
- Why do you think Sam is excited for Bando’s visit?
- How does Mr. Gribbley feel about his son’s lifestyle? How can you tell?

I Have a Good Look at Winter and Find Spring in the Snow

- Do you think Sam really feels confident that his health problems will be solved, or do you think he might have actually been a little scared?

- Why does Sam cry when he sees the land peek through the snow?

The Spring in the Winter and the Beginning of My Story's End

- Why do you think Sam doesn't try too hard to throw Matt off course?

I Cooperate with the Ending

- Why does Sam open up to Matt?
- Is he happy that Matt and Bando want to make a guesthouse? Why?

The City Comes to Me

- Does Sam seem satisfied with the new arrangement at the end of the book?
- What do you think Sam will do next?