CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Stickeen

John Muir · *1909 · Muir's English*

In the summer of 1880 I set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe to continue the exploration of the icy region of southeastern Alaska, begun in the fall of 1879. After the provisions and blankets had been stowed, and his Indian crew were in their places, the little book will become the story of a dog on a glacier. John Muir, 1909, Project Gutenberg #11673. For grades 4–12. Short, complete as hosted. Keep "Wrangel" as this file prints it. Gravity and courage; not a stunt only.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Stickeen as Muir begins it—a canoe leaving Fort Wrangel in 1880, to go on exploring the icy region of southeastern Alaska—and then as the story of a small dog on a glacier, told with gravity, not as a stunt?

"In the summer of 1880 I set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe to continue the"

Opening

In the summer of 1880 he set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe to continue the exploration of the icy region of southeastern Alaska, begun in the fall of 1879. Provisions and blankets are stowed; his Indian crew are in their places. The short book, 1909, is the story of Stickeen, a little dog who will go with him onto a glacier. Teach the setting out, then the glacier, for grades 4–12, with gravity and courage, not as a thrill. Keep this file's "Wrangel." Quote Muir. The book is short and complete as hosted. Travels in Alaska is a later, longer work; this map is Stickeen.

KEY CHARACTERS

John Muir
Who sets out from Fort Wrangel in 1880, in a canoe, to go on exploring the ice

Stickeen
The little dog for whom the book is named, who will go with him onto the glacier

The Indian crew
In their places in the canoe at the setting-out; not a backdrop only

HOW TO BEGIN STICKEEN

"In the summer of 1880 I set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe to continue the"

Opening

"to continue the exploration of the icy region of southeastern Alaska, begun in the fall of 1879."

Opening

Grades 4–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

From Fort Wrangel, 1880

OPENING

In the summer of 1880 he set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe. The little book begins with a departure, a year, and a place.

- Keep "Fort Wrangel" as this file prints it (often written Wrangell elsewhere).
- 4–12.
- A canoe, not a later steamer only.
- Quote Muir.

"In the summer of 1880 I set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe to continue the"

Opening

02

The Icy Region of Southeastern Alaska

OPENING

He goes to continue the exploration of the icy region of southeastern Alaska, begun in the fall of 1879. This summer continues a work already started.

- Keep "icy region" and "begun in the fall of 1879."
- 4–12.
- Exploration is the frame; the dog will stand inside it.
- Not a later park brochure.

"to continue the exploration of the icy region of southeastern Alaska, begun in the fall of 1879."

Opening

03

Provisions, Blankets, and a Crew

OPENING

After the necessary provisions, blankets, etc., had been collected and stowed away, and his Indian crew were in their places, the canoe is ready. The work is particular, and shared.

- Keep the crew in their places; they are not a backdrop only.
- 4–12.
- The dog has not yet, in this first sentence, become the whole story.
- Quote this English.

"After the necessary provisions, blankets, etc., had been collected and stowed away, and my Indian crew were in their places ready"

Opening

04

A Dog on a Glacier, with Gravity

THE LITTLE BOOK

The book is named for Stickeen, a small dog who will go with Muir onto the ice. Teach that crossing with gravity and courage, not as a stunt, and not as a joke at the dog's expense.

- The opening is the canoe; the glacier comes after.
- A living creature, under strain; gravity.
- 4–12.
- Short, complete as hosted.

"In the summer of 1880 I set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe to continue the"

Opening

05

The 1909 Book, Not Travels in Alaska

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #11673 is Stickeen, 1909. Short, complete as hosted. Travels in Alaska (1915) is another hosted work, covering more than this one glacier. Quote this book when you are in it. For grades 4–12. Keep "Wrangel." Quote Muir, not a later retelling.

- Name 1909, and the short book.
- Do not flatten it into a legend only.
- Courage, and care for a creature.
- Not a film.

"In the summer of 1880 I set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe"

Opening

A canoe from Fort Wrangel | Ice, and a continued exploration | A small dog, and courage | A crew in their places | A short, complete book

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 4–12

1. In the summer of 1880 he set out from Fort Wrangel in a canoe. Keep this file's "Wrangel."
2. The exploration of the icy region of southeastern Alaska had begun in the fall of 1879; this summer continues it.
3. A short 1909 book, complete as hosted, for grades 4–12. Gravity and courage on the glacier; not a stunt.
4. This is Stickeen, not Travels in Alaska. Quote Muir, not a later retelling.

Quotations are verbatim from the Muir's English, Project Gutenberg #11673, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/stickeen/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.