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Travels in Alaska

John Muir · *1915 · Muir's English*

To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. After a few weeks in the Puget Sound, we engaged passage on the little mail steamer California, at Portland, Oregon, for Alaska. John Muir, published posthumously in 1915, PG #7345, edited by Marion Randall Parsons, with a preface by William Frederic Badè. For grades 7–12. Quote Muir, not only the editor. Three trips: 1879, 1880, and 1890. This is not Stickeen, the boyhood, or the first Sierra summer.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Travels in Alaska as Muir's own account—Alaska, to the lover of pure wildness, one of the most wonderful countries in the world, and a passage on the little mail steamer California from Portland—rather than as only the posthumous editor's preface, or as Stickeen?

"To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. No"

Part I, the trip of 1879

The book was published posthumously in 1915, edited by Marion Randall Parsons, with a preface by William Frederic Badè. Quote Muir, not only the editor. To the lover of pure wildness, he writes, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. After a few weeks in the Puget Sound with a friend from San Francisco, they engaged passage on the little mail steamer California, at Portland, Oregon, for Alaska. The sail down the Columbia, around Cape Flattery, and up the Juan de Fuca Strait, was delightful. Teach that setting-out, for grades 7–12. The hosted book is complete as catalogued: nineteen chapters in three parts, the trips of 1879, 1880, and 1890. This is not Stickeen, not The Story of My Boyhood and Youth, and not My First Summer in the Sierra; name the work you are in. One map cannot teach all three trips.

KEY CHARACTERS

John Muir
Who sails from Portland on the little mail steamer California, and writes of Alaska as a lover of pure wildness

The friend from San Francisco
With whom he spent a few weeks in the Puget Sound before the passage

Marion Randall Parsons, and William Frederic Badè
Editor, and preface-writer, of this 1915 posthumous book; not the author of the travels

HOW TO BEGIN THESE TRAVELS

> *"To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. No"*
>
> Part I

> *"After spending a few weeks in the Puget Sound with a friend from San Francisco, we engaged passage on the little mail steamer California, at Portland, Oregon, for Alaska. The sail"*
>
> Part I

Grades 7–12
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01

Pure Wildness

PART I, THE TRIP OF 1879

To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. The travel opens with a claim about a country, and about seeing.

- Keep "pure wildness" and "most wonderful countries."
- 7–12.
- Quote Muir, not only Badè or Parsons.
- Not a later park brochure.

> *"To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. No"*
>
> Part I, the trip of 1879

02

The Little Mail Steamer California

PART I, THE TRIP OF 1879

After spending a few weeks in the Puget Sound with a friend from San Francisco, they engaged passage on the little mail steamer California, at Portland, Oregon, for Alaska. The first trip has a ship and a port.

- Keep "little mail steamer California," Puget Sound, and Portland.
- 7–12.
- A friend is with him at the start.
- Quote this English.

> *"After spending a few weeks in the Puget Sound with a friend from San Francisco, we engaged passage on the little mail steamer California, at Portland, Oregon, for Alaska. The sail"*
>
> Part I, the trip of 1879

03

The Columbia, Flattery, and Juan de Fuca

PART I, THE TRIP OF 1879

The sail down the broad lower reaches of the Columbia and across its foamy bar, around Cape Flattery, and up the Juan de Fuca Strait, was delightful. The way north is named, cape by cape.

- Keep the Columbia, Cape Flattery, and the Juan de Fuca Strait.
- 7–12.
- Exact seeing, not a vague rhapsody.
- The later glaciers are not this first sail.

> *"The sail down the broad lower reaches of the Columbia and across its foamy bar, around Cape Flattery, and up the Juan de Fuca Strait, was delightful; and after"*
>
> Part I, the trip of 1879

04

Three Trips, 1879, 1880, 1890

THE SHAPE OF THE BOOK

The hosted book has nineteen chapters in three parts: the trips of 1879, 1880, and 1890, and a glossary of Chinook jargon. Teach the first sailing, and do not pretend one map taught all three trips.

- Name the three years.
- Stickeen is another, shorter book, from the 1880 ice; quote this book when you are in it.
- 7–12.
- Complete as hosted, including the editor's preface—but quote Muir.

> *"To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. No excursion that I know of may be made into any other American wilderness where so"*
>
> Part I, the trip of 1879

05

Posthumous, 1915: Parsons and Badè

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #7345 is Travels in Alaska, Houghton Mifflin, 1915, published after Muir's death, edited by Marion Randall Parsons, with a preface by William Frederic Badè. Name them, and quote Muir. For grades 7–12. This is not the boyhood, the first Sierra summer, or Stickeen.

- Name 1915, and the editors.
- Quote Muir's travel, not only the preface.
- Not a film.
- Wonder, and particular ships and capes.

> *"To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world. No"*
>
> Part I, the trip of 1879

Pure wildness, named

A little steamer, from Portland

Capes and a strait, exactly seen

Three trips, honestly counted

A posthumous book, Muir's voice

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. "To the lover of pure wildness Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world." Then the little mail steamer California, from Portland.
2. Keep the Columbia, Cape Flattery, and the Juan de Fuca Strait on the first sail.
3. Published posthumously in 1915, edited by Parsons, preface by Badè. Quote Muir, not only the editor. Three trips: 1879, 1880, 1890. One map cannot teach them all.
4. This is Travels in Alaska, PG #7345, for grades 7–12—not Stickeen, the boyhood, or the first Sierra summer.

Quotations are verbatim from the Muir's English, Project Gutenberg #7345, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/travels-in-alaska/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.