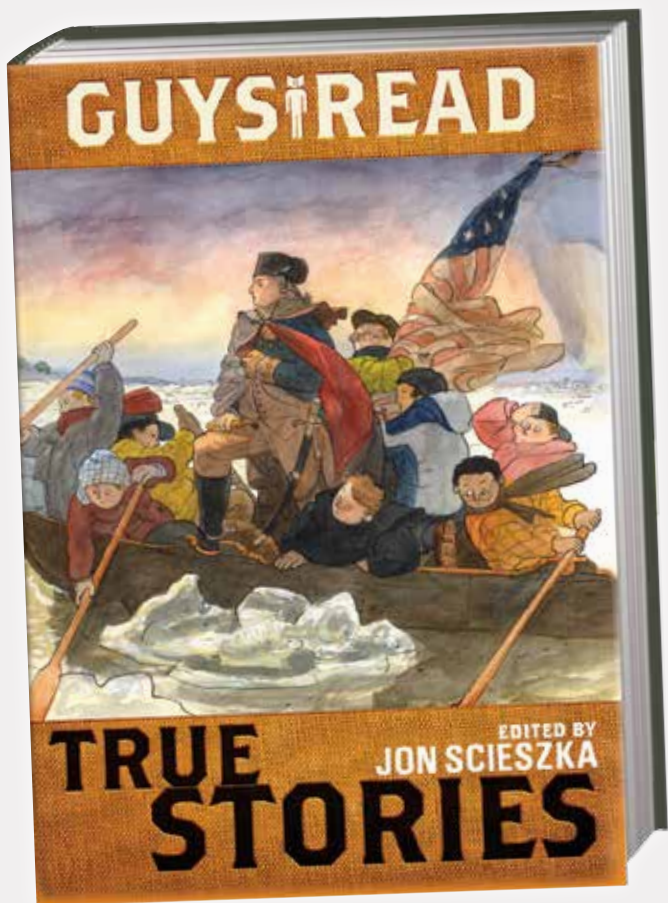


# GUYSiREAD

## TRUE STORIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE



VOLUME **5**

IN THE GUYS READ LIBRARY OF GREAT READING

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The Guys Read Library of Great Reading features brand-new, original short stories from some of the biggest names in children's literature. The series was begun by Jon Scieszka as a way to connect young guys with books and authors they love, and *Guys Read: True Stories* delivers ten new nonfiction tales—all aligned to the Common Core.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **SAHARA SHIPWRECK** by Steve Sheinkin

- How does Captain Riley survive the hardship of being captured? What gives him the strength to keep holding on?
  - How does Riley ultimately outsmart his captors and gain freedom?
- 

### **TARANTULA HEAVEN** by Sy Montgomery

- Why does the author choose to go on the dangerous tarantula trip despite its risks and disapproval from friends?
  - Think about a cause you are passionate about. Would you embark on a trip in order to write about or support it that could risk your life?
- 

### **HUGH GLASS: DEAD MAN CRAWLING**

by Nathan Hale

- How does the author use the comic format to add humor to a historical account?
  - What motivates Hugh Glass to survive after being attacked by the bear and left for dead?
- 

### **A JUMBO STORY** by Candace Fleming

- Think of a modern-day equivalent of the story of Jumbo the Elephant. How might animals in captivity be affected by society's fascination with them?
- How does the name Jumbo come to influence the English language as we know it today?



## **UNI-VERSES** by Douglas Florian

- How does the author use poetry to present scientific principles in a smart, clear, and funny way?
  - Explain how the title, *Uni-Verses*, uses a play on words to describe the collection of poems.
- 

## **THIS WON'T HURT A BIT: THE PAINFULLY TRUE STORY OF DENTAL CARE** by Jim Murphy

- How has the history of dentistry contributed to society's fear of undergoing dental work?
  - What early dental procedures are still in practice in some form today?
- 

## **A PACK OF BROTHERS** by Thanhha Lai

- Why does the author tolerate her brothers' teasing and hurtful behavior toward her while growing up?
  - How do the bike incident and, later, the move to the United States change the dynamic between the author and her brothers?
- 

## **MOJO, MOONSHINE, AND THE BLUES** by Elizabeth Partridge

- How does Muddy Waters overcome the stereotypes of his generation to ultimately become the musical legend that he is today?
  - How does the music of Muddy Waters influence the rock band the Rolling Stones?
- 

## **A CARTOONIST'S COURSE** by James Sturm

- How does the author's love for dinosaurs at an early age lead to his career as a cartoonist?
  - What advice does the author offer on how to "become an expert in something" (page 219)? Do you agree or disagree with his assessment?
- 

## **THE RIVER'S RUN** by T. Edward Nickens

- How does canoeing change the author's worldview?
- Why do the author and his friends keep returning to the wilderness for more adventures despite their near-death experiences?



## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**CANDACE FLEMING** is the author of *Ben Franklin's Almanac* and *Amelia Lost*, as well as other fun and historical books for kids. Visit Candace online at [www.candacefleming.com](http://www.candacefleming.com).

**BRIAN FLOCA** is the author and illustrator of *Locomotive*, which was the winner of the 2014 Caldecott Medal, as well as numerous other books for kids. He lives in Brooklyn, NY. Visit him online at [www.brianfloca.com](http://www.brianfloca.com).

**DOUGLAS FLORIAN** is the creator of many acclaimed and award-winning picture books, including *Dinothesaurus*; *Comet, Stars, the Moon, and Mars*; *Bow Wow Meow Meow*; and *Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs*. He lives with his family in New York. You can find Douglas online at [www.douglasflorian.com](http://www.douglasflorian.com).

**NATHAN HALE** is the author and illustrator of many graphic novels and picture books for children, including *One Dead Spy* and *Big Bad Ironclad!* (from the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series), *Yellowbelly and Plum Go to School*, *The Twelve Bots of Christmas*, and *The Devil You Know*. You can visit Nathan online at [www.spacestationnathan.com](http://www.spacestationnathan.com).

**THANHHA LAI** is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling, Newbery Honor Book, and National Book Award-winning *Inside Out and Back Again*. She divides her time between New York and Kansas.

**SY MONTGOMERY** is the author of the national bestseller *The Good Good Pig*, as well as many other celebrated nonfiction books for both adults and children. You can find her online at [www.symontgomery.com](http://www.symontgomery.com).

**JIM MURPHY** is a two-time Newbery Honor Book and Sibert Award-winning author. He also received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for significant contribution to young adult literature. He lives in New Jersey with his family. Visit him online at [www.jimmurphybooks.com](http://www.jimmurphybooks.com).

**T. EDWARD NICKENS**, editor-at-large for *Field & Stream* magazine and contributing editor for *Audubon* magazine, writes about outdoor sports, natural history, and conservation for many leading magazines, and has won more than two dozen national writing awards for his work.

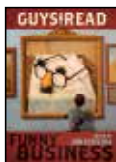
**ELIZABETH PARTRIDGE** is the acclaimed author of more than a dozen books for young readers, including *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary*, as well as biographies of Dorothea Lange, Woody Guthrie, and John Lennon. Visit her online at [www.elizabethpartridge.com](http://www.elizabethpartridge.com).

**JON SCIESZKA** is the National Ambassador for Children's Literature emeritus, the bestselling author of more than 25 books for kids, and the founder of Guys Read. He lives in Brooklyn with his family. Learn more at [www.jsworldwide.com](http://www.jsworldwide.com).

**STEVE SHEINKIN** is the award-winning author of several books on American history for young adults, including *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*, which was awarded a Newbery Honor, won the Sibert Medal, the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Steve lives in Saratoga Springs, NY. You can visit him online at [www.stevesheinkin.com](http://www.stevesheinkin.com).

**JAMES STURM** is the author of *Market Day*; *James Sturm's America: God, Gold, and Golems*; and the *Adventures in Cartooning* series. He lives in White River Junction, Vermont, with his wife, two daughters, a chunky little dog named Chi Chi, and two rabbits.

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