

# ***Jason's Gold* by Will Hobbs (Published by Morrow, 1999)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 7

## **Summary**

*Jason's Gold* is an historical fiction adventure novel plotting the course of Jason as he travels to the Yukon in search of gold. The main character meets Jack London on his adventures and learns valuable lessons about growing up, trust, and humanity.

## **Connection to the Curriculum**

This contemporary historical fiction novel about gold fields in Alaska will capture students' interests as they delve into the time period of the 1800s. Students can examine various conflicts as the characters fight for gold. This novel ties in with the nineteenth century American history curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students can study supporting expository and persuasive texts in social studies and compare the two structures.

## **Standards**

### **Course Objectives (Benchmarks)**

**Reading:** 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

**Literature:** 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

### **Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)**

#### **Reading:**

1.2.3- The student uses knowledge of complex sentence structure to read fluently at instructional or independent reading levels.

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.4.14- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.15- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

1.4.16- The student analyzes how text structure (sequence, problem-solution, comparison-contrast, description, cause-effect) help support comprehension of text.

1.4.17- The student compares and contrasts carrying aspects (e.g., characters' traits and motives, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

1.4.18- The student explains cause-effect relationships in appropriate-level narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts.

1.4.19- The student uses paraphrasing and organizational skills to summarize information (e.g., stated and main ideas, main events, important details) from appropriate-level narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical texts in logical order.

#### **Literature:**

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and analyzes connections between the setting and other story elements (e.g., character, plot).

## **A Note on the Text**

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

*With its action-packed plot, Jason's Gold contains great depictions of experiences in nature including navigating a roaring river and coming face-to-face with a bear in its den.*

## **Additional Unit Design Connections**

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities