**STUDENT PACKET** 

**GRADES 6-8** 



# **Touching Spirit Bear**

Ben Mikaelsen



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT** 

# Touching Spirit Bear

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#### NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Touching Spirit Bear* Activity #4 • Vocabulary Chapters 1–2, pp. 3–25

defiantly (3) juvenile (4) grudgingly (15) ignited (22)	omen (3) smirk (5) shrouded (16) venomous (24)	banishment (3) slime (5) irritation (21)	violent (4) disinfectant (8) smoldered (22)
ignited (22)	venomous (2+)		

**Directions:** Read each word below. The first letter of a related vocabulary word appears after each word. The related word may be either a synonym or an antonym. Write the related vocabulary word on the line and circle the words that are antonyms.

1.	burned—s
	goop—s
3.	playful—v
4.	boldlyd
5.	young—j
6.	sign—o
7.	revealed—s
8.	spiteful—v
9.	willingly_g
10.	cleanserd

<b>Touching Spirit Bear</b>
Study Guide

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel in class or at home. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion.

#### Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-25

- 1. How long will Cole be in Southeast Alaska?
- 2. What kind of Native American is Garvey?
- 3. How old is Cole?
- 4. Why is Cole in trouble this time?
- 5. In the past, how did Cole act when he got in trouble?
- 6. What is Cole's plan to avoid jail?
- 7. What plant does Edwin say will cause infected hands?
- 8. Why isn't Cole's shelter closer to the stream?
- 9. What does the Spirit Bear possess?
- 10. What is an *at.óow*?
- 11. How long is Cole held in detention?
- 12. Who trashes Cole's room at the detention center and bloodies his knuckles?
- 13. What does Cole do as soon as the skiff is out of sight?

### Chapters 3-5, pp. 26-46

- 1. What does Garvey bring to Cole's cell?
- 2. What does Cole do with the ingredients?
- 3. How does Cole plan to escape from the island?
- 4. What does Garvey call Cole instead of Champ, the name he usually calls him?
- 5. Where do Cole's parents sit at Circle Justice?
- 6. How many of Cole's classmates show up for Circle Justice?
- 7. What two obligations must speakers fulfill at the Circle?
- 8. What does the Circle want to believe about Cole?
- 9. Why can't Cole swim away from the island?
- 10. What scares Cole after he makes it back to shore?
- 11. What presence does Cole see?
- 12. What does Cole find near the ashes of the shelter?

# Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are four main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. society, or person vs. self.

**Directions:** In the space provided, list four conflicts Cole experiences and justify why you identify it with that particular type of conflict. Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

#### person vs. person

Conflict		Resolution	

person vs. nature

Conflict	Resolution	

#### person vs. society

$\square$	Conflict	Resolution

person vs. self

Conflict	Resolution

### **Character Chart**

**Directions:** In the boxes across from each of the feelings, describe an incident or time in the book when each of the listed characters experienced that feeling. You may use "not applicable" if you cannot find an example.

	Cole	Peter	Edwin	Garvey
Frustration				
Anger				
Fear				
Humiliation				
Relief				

## **Using Dialogue**

**Directions:** Choose some dialogue from the book. Fill in the chart to evaluate the purpose of the dialogue and whether or not it is effective in moving along the plot.

