



Moccasin Trail

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VOCABULARY

Write in the definitions. If the word has more than one definition, make sure you chose the one that matches how it is used in the sentence from the book.

furrows –

“As he reached out to splash water over his trail, his buckskin sleeve hiked up, revealing the other scars, the bad ones, on his forearm—twisted, cruel furrows blazed white on his brown skin—four of them, running diagonally across the underside of his forearm.” p. 7

vigilant –

“Jim’s thoughts broke off abruptly as an alarm sounded, back in that always vigilant corner of his brain.” p. 7

talons –

“He lay there rigid, fighting off nausea at the feel of those talons, cold and heavy against his flesh.” p. 11

somnolent –

“A couple of restless weeks later, on a sun-drenched, somnolent day in the middle of August, he dismounted in front of Meek’s cabin in the Tualatin valley.” p. 200

redolent –

“It was a merry evening, redolent with the smells of venison and wood smoke, noisy with laughter and the shouts of children – the hubbub twined and woven through with the twinkling notes of Jonnie’s banjo.” p.208

incredulous –

“But he held the torch close, and the look faded to bewilderment, then blazed again with incredulous joy.” p. 231



Who are the bourgeways? What does Jim think of them when he first gets to the wagon train? What does he think of them after he sees them going down the canyon? What does Rutledges' comment, "If they ain't no other way to get here, I reckon they'll make it" tell you about the bourgeways?

Use the questions as the beginning of each answer. For example "The bourgeways are...." "When Jim first gets to the wagon train, he thinks the bourgeways are...."



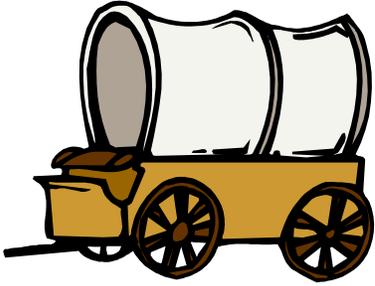
POINT OF VIEW

p.168 Defend both sides. Why was Jim right to take the horse? (Tell Jim's point of view.) Why was Jim wrong to take the horse? (Tell Jonnie's point of view.) What do you think?

Jim was right to take the horse because

Jim was wrong to take the horse because

I think



p.190 Jonnie's family borrowed money to buy their wagon and supplies to get to Oregon. Then they went into more debt to get a cow, "heifer." Was it a good idea to borrow money to go to Oregon? They had no land before, and now they have plenty. But, their harvest doesn't completely belong to them. They have to use it to pay the debt. Was it a good idea to borrow money to get a cow? Is it ever a good idea to go into debt? (Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

p.26 and p. 245-246 Jim describes medicine dreams. These are rituals done by Native Americans to invite demons to come into them. These demons don't really help protect them. But, the demons are happy to help make the person steal, kill and destroy. That's what the Bible says the devil does: steals, kills and destroys. (John 10:10) The story mentions cutting yourself. This purposeful destroying of your body is a sin and a way to invite demons, just like repenting and calling on Jesus is a way to invite the Holy Spirit to come. But Jim's family was Christian and not only taught him the Bible long ago so it was hidden in his heart, but they must have been praying for him. In the story God speaks to him in his dream. He protects Jim and brings him home. The Bible isn't "magic," but the words are powerful because of the Life who spoke the words. God can do all that to bring a lost son home again to his family and to Himself.

Can you think of a Bible story where Satan used someone's sin, in this case jealousy, to try to steal, kill or destroy a family, but God came and reunited the family just like in this book? Read the story in the Bible. Jim and Jonnie are fictional characters, but the Bible story is true. Tell in your own words how in the Bible story you see John 10:10 to be true.