

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Project**  
***My Side of the Mountain***  
**By**  
**Jean Craighead George**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading assignment is *My Side of the Mountain*. In this book, Sam Gibley, a 12-year old boy, runs away from home to live in the Catskill Mountains. This book focuses on Sam's survival skills and his relationship with the animals and a few friends he makes along the way. After reading this book, you will create a poster. Your poster must be full-size and contain the following:

- Title
- Author
- Setting
- Main Characters (include animals)
- Illustration of your favorite scene – You may put this anywhere on your poster, however it fits best with your design
- A summary paragraph
- Book Recommendation (Did you like or dislike the book and why?)

You will be graded on the following:

- Required Components (see above)
- Spelling
- Capitalization
- Correct Information
- Creativity – (You can use as many materials or mediums as you would like.)
- Neatness

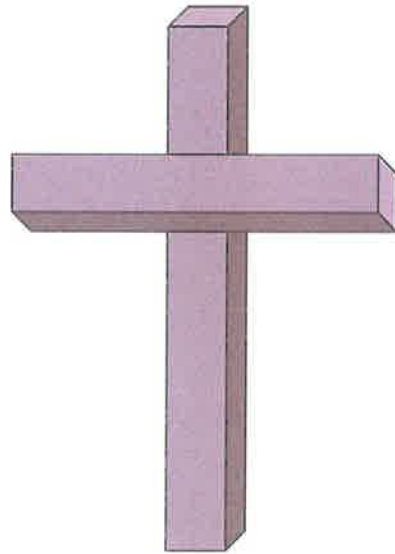
**The poster will be due on August 16<sup>th</sup> and will count as a test grade. We will also take a written test on the book the first week of school. The test questions will come from the reading guide. If you complete the reading guide and return it to me, you will be given bonus points on your written test.**

Have fun and happy reading!!!! This is one of my favorite books. I hope you love Sam's adventures as much as I did. I cannot wait to see you all in August!!

My Side  
of the  
Mountain

by  
Jean Craighead George

Novel Study





# My Side of the Mountain

## I Hole up in a Snowstorm

Choose the correct word or words from the word bank to complete the statements below.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. The main character (Sam) made his home in a \_\_\_\_\_ tree.
2. He was writing using a candle made from \_\_\_\_\_ fat held in a \_\_\_\_\_ shell with old clothing material for a wick.
3. The tree house that Sam was living in was in the \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains.
4. Sam explored the snow with Frightful, his trained \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When the storm came upon the mountains on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of \_\_\_\_\_, Sam had been smoking trout.
6. When Sam got homesick, he reminded himself of the small, crowded apartment in New \_\_\_\_\_ that he shared with his mom, his dad, \_\_\_\_\_ brothers and four sisters.
7. Sam's last name, \_\_\_\_\_, was carved on a beech tree on the family property.
8. After a nap, Sam ate some pancakes made from \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ jam on top.



pork	deer	Gribley	blueberry
walnut	Mexico	falcon	Rocky
weasel	fish	four	hemlock
Jersey	five	York	Catskill
acorns	birch	strawberry	turtle
December	October	Smith	raccoon

Is this story fiction (false) or nonfiction (true)? \_\_\_\_\_

(If you're not sure, read the Author's Preface.)

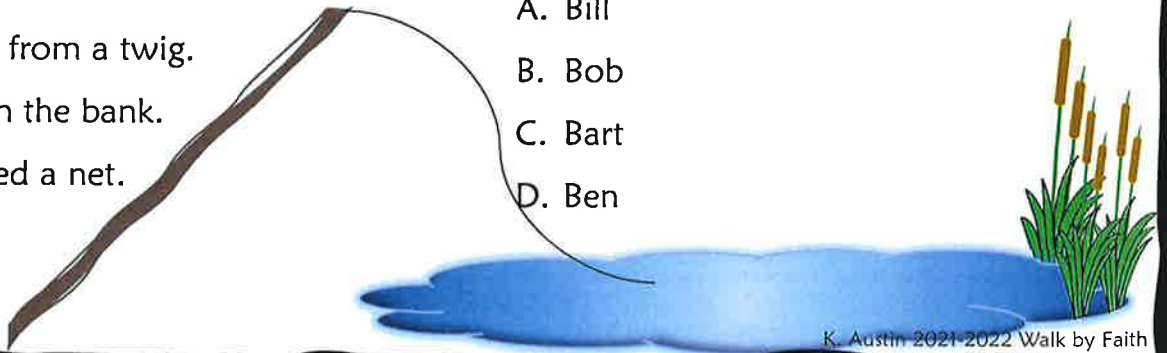


# My Side of the Mountain

## I Get Started on This Venture

Circle the best answer to each question below.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

- When Sam left New York, which of the following items did he NOT have with him?
  - penknife
  - compass
  - ball of cord
  - ax
- What did Sam carry with him to start a fire with?
  - lighter
  - matches
  - flint and steel
  - a magnifying glass
- After the train ride, how did Sam get to the Catskills?
  - bus
  - bike
  - walking
  - hitching rides
- How did Sam get a fishhook to fish with?
  - He whittled one from a twig.
  - He found one on the bank.
  - He didn't; he used a net.
  - He brought one.
- What did Sam use for fish bait?
  - lunchmeat
  - berries
  - a grub
  - a worm
- Where did Sam think he had the best chance for finding fish in the stream?
  - in pools and deep, calm water
  - in the swiftly moving current
  - lying on the bottom
  - Fish don't live in streams.
- What did Sam eat for dinner that first night?
  - fish
  - berries
  - nothing
  - nuts
- Who cooked Sam's fish and let him warm up next to the fire?
  - Bill
  - Bob
  - Bart
  - Ben





# My Side of the Mountain

## I Find Gribbley's Farm

A **synonym** is a word with the same or similar meaning as another word. Draw a line to match the words on the left with a synonym on the right.

strode •	• overcome
conquer •	• flammable
scattering •	• spreading
boughs •	• walked
combustible •	• limbs

Write *true* or *false* next to each statement below.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sam stayed with Bill for a few days until he wasn't scared anymore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The first night Sam spent in Delhi, he slept on the schoolhouse steps and ate chocolate for dinner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Sam had to wait until ten-thirty to look for information in the library.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The librarian's name was Miss Turner, and she was very helpful in finding the right information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sam was very hungry, so he ate dinner at the restaurant in Delhi.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Sam decided he would make a fire before making his bed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Over the fire, Sam cooked a catfish that he caught for his dinner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. After cooking his fish, Sam hung up a hammock to sleep in for the night.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Before he went to sleep, Sam wrote a letter to Bill, the old man that had showed him how to start a fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Sam decided he didn't like being alone and planned to return home.



# My Side of the Mountain

## I Find Many Useful Plants

Help Sam keep notes on the resources he finds. Under each category below, write two items that Sam found in the woods where he made his home.

starchy foods

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

trees

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

nuts

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

food found in the river

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



God made so many amazing things for us when he created the earth. Put the days of creation in order below. If you are not sure, look at Genesis chapter 1.



Day \_\_\_\_  
God created the sun, moon, and stars.



Day \_\_\_\_  
God created the land animals and humans.



Day \_\_\_\_  
God made dry ground appear and created vegetation.



Day \_\_\_\_  
God rested.



Day \_\_\_\_  
God created light and called light "day" and dark "night".



Day \_\_\_\_  
God created the fish of the sea and birds of the air.



Day \_\_\_\_  
God split the waters above from the waters below and created the sky.





# My Side of the Mountain

## The Old, Old Tree

Answer each question using a complete sentence.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. Why were the Catskill Mountains full of people during the summer months?

---

---

2. While chasing the crow, what did Sam find that provided his lunch?

---

---

3. How did Sam boil water without any dishes?

---

---

4. How did Sam clear out the hemlock tree that he wanted to make his home?

---

---

5. What did Sam find for his dinner at the spring near the hemlock tree?

---

---

6. How did Sam plan to put out the fire since he couldn't haul water?

---

---

After reading about Sam's adventures so far, what sounds like the best part and the worst part to you? Do you wish you could be there? Why or why not?

---

---



# My Side of the Mountain

## I Meet One of My Own Kind and Have a Terrible Time Getting Away

Underline the correct word or words in parenthesis.

You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. Sam had finished burning out his hemlock house in the month of (May, June), and it had room for him to stand up in and lie down in.
2. After getting used to them, Sam thought that (wild onions, cattails) tasted very much like potatoes.
3. A (weasel, raccoon) alerted Sam that something out of the ordinary was happening in their woods.
4. While making a bed from wood, Sam was very scared by the sound of a (human voice, gunshot).
5. A little old woman, who thought Sam was just playing around, wanted Sam's help to (find her way back home, pick strawberries).
6. The woman was sure that Sam lived in (Delhi, New York) and Sam couldn't convince her otherwise.
7. The old woman told Sam that she had been coming up to the same spot to pick strawberries for (thirty, forty) years.
8. While walking the woman to town, Sam was fascinated by a (swan, duck hawk) which he was sure was known as a (trumpeter swan, peregrine falcon).
9. Sam wanted to get one of the big birds for himself so he could train it to (protect him, hunt for him).
10. Sam told the woman that he was headed into town to go to the (grocery store, library).





# My Side of the Mountain

## The King's Provider

Using context clues (clues from the reading) or a dictionary, draw a line to match each vocabulary word to the correct definition.

exertion •

battered •

shinnied •

quiver •

minnows •

• scrambled or climbed awkwardly

• small fish

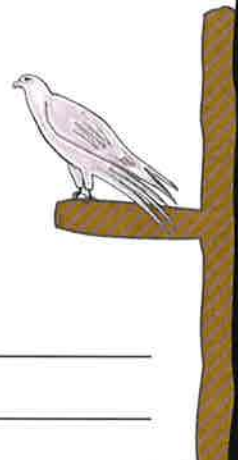
• putting forth a lot of effort

• bruised; hurt from too many hits

• a container for holding arrows

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or words.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. Sam told Miss Turner, the librarian, that he was interested in books on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When Sam was leaving the library, Miss Turner told him he needed a \_\_\_\_\_ and gave him one.
3. Sam fished and ate near the stream so he could watch the sky for the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sam remembered that the duck hawk preferred to build their nests on \_\_\_\_\_, so he camped nearby to watch
5. When Sam had the young falcon in his sweater, he named her \_\_\_\_\_ because of the scary time he had getting her.



Would you have climbed the cliff like Sam did? Why or why not?

---

---



# My Side of the Mountain

## What I Did About the First Man Who Was After Me

Write the correct answer to the questions below.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. What was at Sam's campsite that made him not want to return to it right away?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What animal did Sam and Frightful find in the trap that they checked?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who did Sam figure out the man was that he saw? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Sam cook for dinner at the edge of the water? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Sam think tasted like potatoes and should not be eaten raw?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Adjectives** are words that describe, or modify, nouns.  
They help the reader visualize the story better.



Next to each noun below,  
write an adjective to  
describe it. Be creative!

\_\_\_\_\_ owls

\_\_\_\_\_ trees

\_\_\_\_\_ snow

\_\_\_\_\_ boy

\_\_\_\_\_ rat

\_\_\_\_\_ fire

\_\_\_\_\_ forest

\_\_\_\_\_ falcon

**Adjectives** answer the questions:

*Which one? How many? How much? Whose? What kind?*  
*the old            ten            several            Sam's            clear*  
woman            acorns            critters            falcon            stream

Underline the adjectives in the sentences below.

1. Sam chose the largest chick.
2. Sam's chick slept in the dry leaves.
3. Two deer were eating grass in the meadow.
4. A fierce storm blew in quickly.
5. Few people came to live in the wild woods.

\*Articles *a*, *an*, and *the* are considered adjectives.  
Underline them as well.



# My Side of the Mountain

## I Learn to Season My Food

Sam has been away from home for awhile now. From Sam's viewpoint, write a letter home and give his family an update. Include details about what he eats, where he lives, and what he does during the day. You may add a picture at the bottom if you would like to.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date/heading)

\_\_\_\_\_,  
(greeting)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(body)

\_\_\_\_\_,  
(closing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)



# My Side of the Mountain

## How a Door Came to Me

Sam encountered many animals during his time in the Catskill mountains.

Find the following animals in the word search below.

The words can be across, down or diagonal (not backwards).

weasel

chickadee

warbler

fox

squirrel

nuthatch

raccoon

deer

falcon

turtle

mussel

earthworm

fish

grub

crow

frog

trout

whippoorwill

rabbit

skunk

junco

catfish

groundhog

bat

R	G	J	I	R	C	D	L	W	C	N	J	A	L	P	F	G	M
A	S	Q	N	C	T	H	M	L	G	R	U	B	D	V	B	O	P
C	W	S	W	N	U	O	I	T	J	F	N	D	S	N	M	C	X
C	N	E	A	E	R	M	T	C	I	E	C	C	R	O	W	D	S
O	L	B	A	T	T	T	R	A	K	F	O	R	Y	I	P	B	N
O	X	R	F	S	L	E	O	T	H	A	D	E	F	R	O	G	U
N	M	G	T	Q	E	W	U	F	H	L	D	K	J	W	S	A	T
K	L	D	T	U	E	L	T	I	J	C	G	E	B	F	I	S	H
W	I	E	O	I	T	H	G	S	D	O	A	O	E	N	V	F	A
P	A	E	J	R	K	F	H	H	R	N	E	A	D	S	H	L	T
O	U	R	T	R	W	H	I	P	P	O	O	R	W	I	L	L	C
H	T	B	B	E	K	S	K	U	N	K	I	U	G	O	T	R	H
M	L	D	R	L	N	A	W	G	R	O	U	N	D	H	O	G	A
N	M	U	S	S	E	L	J	D	S	J	T	R	A	B	B	I	T
H	M	L	A	E	A	R	T	H	W	O	R	M	T	K	N	B	C



# My Side of the Mountain

## Frightful Learns Her ABC's

**Personification** is when human characteristics are given to animals or objects.

Sam thought the baron weasel was laughing at him.

Laughing is a human characteristic, not something weasels actually do.

Next to each sentence below, write P if it uses personification.

If it does not show personification, leave it blank.

- \_\_\_ 1. My dog told me it was time to eat.
- \_\_\_ 2. The forest was calling my name.
- \_\_\_ 3. The bird flew across the sky.
- \_\_\_ 4. The storm chased me all the way home.
- \_\_\_ 5. The deer were eating in the meadow.
- \_\_\_ 6. When I read that poem, it speaks to me.
- \_\_\_ 7. The flames from the campfire leaped and danced in the night sky.
- \_\_\_ 8. It was a cloudless sky on that bright spring day.



Sam was creating many new recipes. You get to create one, too!  
You may write down a recipe you already know, or write one that you would like to try.

recipe for: \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;">ingredients:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 90%; margin: 10px auto;"></div>	<p style="text-align: center;">instructions:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
--	--



# My Side of the Mountain

## I Find a Real Live Man

Using context clues (clues from the reading) or a dictionary, draw a line to match each vocabulary word to the correct definition.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| huddled •   | • soft, leather shoes                            |
| furtively • | • quietly and secretly                           |
| rustle •    | • brought limbs close to the body; crouched down |
| peculiar •  | • a quiet sound made by leaves moving            |
| moccasins • | • unusual; odd; strange                          |

Answer each question using a complete sentence.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. Who was Jessie Coon James?

---

---

2. What did Frightful hear that made her dig her talons into Sam?

---

---

3. Whom did Sam assume the man was when he first met him?

---

---

4. Who was the man and why was he at Sam's camp?

---

---

5. Who kept Sam company once the man left?

---

---



# My Side of the Mountain

## The Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness

A **synonym** is a word with the same or similar meaning as another word.  
Draw a line to match the words on the left with a synonym on the right.

snagging •	• left
abandoned •	• pet
cargo •	• falling
toppling •	• catching
stroke •	• baggage

A **simile** is a comparison of two things using the words *like* or *as*.

A **metaphor** is a comparison of two things without using the words like or as.

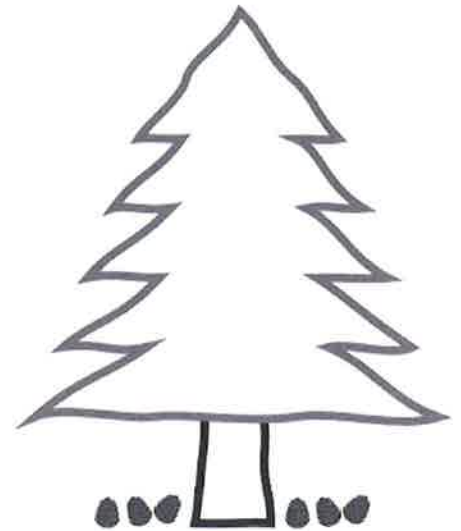
*simile:* He was so tired he slept *like* a log.

*metaphor:* The silence of the woods was music to my ears.

Decide whether each sentence below is a simile or a metaphor.

Write S for simile and M for metaphor on the line next to each sentence.

- \_\_\_ 1. That boy is one tough cookie.
- \_\_\_ 2. Your hands are as cold as ice!
- \_\_\_ 3. The frightened puppy was shaking like a leaf.
- \_\_\_ 4. He's my knight in shining armor.
- \_\_\_ 5. That little baby is cute as a button.
- \_\_\_ 6. That bird is fast like lightning!
- \_\_\_ 7. She has a heart of gold.
- \_\_\_ 8. The rushing river was the sound of spring.



Try it! Write one simile and one metaphor below.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# My Side of the Mountain

## We All Learn About Halloween

Using context clues (clues from the reading) or a dictionary, draw a line to match each vocabulary word to the correct definition.

scheme •	• to eat hungrily or greedily
devour •	• leap and dance around
precaution •	• a plan or arrangement
cavort •	• made a threatening noise; growled
snarled •	• an action taken ahead of time to prevent something from happening

Underline the correct word or words in parenthesis.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. Sam was hurrying to beat the (mice, squirrels) in gathering the walnuts and hickory nuts.
2. After the nuts were harvested, the animals and Sam began gathering (apples, blueberries).
3. Sam counted the days and figured it was close to (Christmas, Halloween), so he decided to have a party.
4. Sam made a pile of (nuts and meat, candy and gum) to invite the forest animals to his party.
5. Once Sam ended the party, he decided it was a (bad, good) idea to provide food for wild animals.
6. As he was chasing the raccoons away after the party, Sam was even (growled at by a bear, sprayed by a skunk)!
7. The one animal that gave Sam an eerie feeling and goosebumps was a (red fox, white wolf).





# My Side of the Mountain

## I Find Out What to Do with Hunters

Write the correct answer to the questions below.

You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. What sound woke Sam up in early November? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sam was nervous that, with his brown clothing, the hunters might mistake him for a what? \_\_\_\_\_
3. While Sam stayed in his tree that first day, he made some rabbit-skin winter underwear and whittled what? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sam got a little stir-crazy by the end of the week and decided to pay a visit to whom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. A gunshot kept Sam from making his visit, so where did he stay until the hunter was gone? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Sam think hawthorn berries taste a little bit like? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Sam get Frightful to return to him after the hunter had left?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the blanket on Sam's bed made out of? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was his jacket made out of? \_\_\_\_\_

After creation, Adam and Eve (and all the animals) ate only plants.  
After the flood, God told Noah that he could eat plants *and* animals.

Copy this Bible verse from Genesis on the lines below.

*Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants,  
I now give you everything. Genesis 9:3*

---

---

---



# My Side of the Mountain

## Trouble Begins

Write *true* or *false* next to each statement below.

You may look back in the book if you need to.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When Sam whistled, his peregrine falcon, Frightful, would come to him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sam decided he needed another haircut and gave himself one with his penknife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Sam decided to take a walk into town in his new deer-skin outfit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sam felt right at home in town, and no one even noticed him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sam met a boy in the drugstore who called Sam "Daniel Boone".
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A little boy came out of his house and followed Sam up the mountain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sam went in and visited with the little old lady that had picked strawberries with him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Sam realized he had forgotten to stack a big woodpile in preparation for winter.



*Tethered* means *tied up* or *attached to something* (such as an animal).

Use *tethered* in a sentence.

---

---

*Conspicuous* means *obvious* or *easily noticed*.

Use *conspicuous* in a sentence.

---

---

Would you get lonely living alone in the woods like Sam did?

Why or why not?

---

---



# My Side of the Mountain

I Pile Up Wood and Go on with Winter

Draw your favorite scene from the book so far.  
Include as many details as you can.

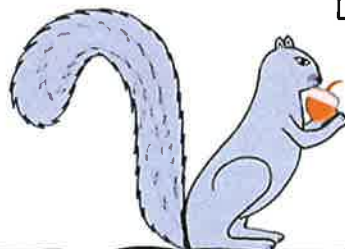


# My Side of the Mountain

## I Learn About Birds and People

Circle the best answer to each question below.  
You may look back in the book if you need to.

- Whom did Sam name the birds around his treehouse after?
  - his school friends
  - his brothers and sisters
  - his old neighbors
  - He made up names.
- Whom was Sam expecting to come and visit for Christmas?
  - Bando
  - his family
  - Miss Turner, the librarian
  - Mr. Jacket
- What was Sam making as a Christmas present for his visitor?
  - turtle shell candle
  - deer-hide blanket
  - wood carving of Frightful
  - moccasins and a hat
- What did Sam use to decorate his house for Christmas?
  - a pine tree with ribbons
  - a wreath with pinecones
  - a cluster of teaberries
  - a stocking over the fireplace
- What did Sam's visitor bring him?
  - sugar
  - a new coat
  - a cell phone
  - bacon
- What did Sam and his guest use to play Christmas music?
  - guitar
  - willow whistles
  - flute
  - They just sang.
- Who else surprisingly showed up for Christmas?
  - Miss Turner
  - Sam's mom
  - Sam's dad
  - Mr. Jacket
- Where did Sam's guests sleep?
  - in the tree with him
  - in the guest house
  - outside on a cot
  - back in the town of Delhi



# My Side of the Mountain

I Have a Good Look at Winter and Find Spring in the Snow

Sam made his new home in the Catskill Mountains in New York.  
Where do you live?

\_\_\_\_\_



Sam's clothes were made of rabbit and deer skin. What are your clothes made of?

\_\_\_\_\_

Sam stored his food in a tree. Where does your family store food?

\_\_\_\_\_



Sam hunted and gathered his food. Where do you get your food?

\_\_\_\_\_

Sam had four brothers and four sisters. How many brothers and sisters do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_



Sam spent his spare time carving wood or writing in a journal. What do you do in your spare time?

\_\_\_\_\_

Sam warmed his house in the winter with his fireplace. How does your house stay warm in the winter?

\_\_\_\_\_



Sam's house only had one room. How many rooms does your house have?

\_\_\_\_\_



Name one major difference between yourself and Sam.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name one similarity between yourself and Sam.

\_\_\_\_\_



# My Side of the Mountain

## The Spring in the Winter and the Beginning of My Story's End

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or words.

You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. In February, Sam was able to gather sap from the \_\_\_\_\_ tree to boil down and make syrup.
2. Sam's mountain was still covered in snow, so he went to the \_\_\_\_\_ to look for plants to eat.
3. A reporter named \_\_\_\_\_ found Sam and Frightful and was hoping to get a story on the wild boy that lived in the Catskills.
4. The reporter was very hungry and cold, so Sam built him a fire and cooked him a \_\_\_\_\_ that Frightful had caught.
5. Sam tried to mislead him, but the reporter knew that \_\_\_\_\_ was the wild boy all the stories were about.
6. Sam was afraid if other people found out, he would end up back in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The reporter promised not to publish the truth, and Sam agreed to meet him on the \_\_\_\_\_ of April at \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ to bring him back up the mountain to visit.
8. When Sam returned home, he discovered Jessie Coon James, the \_\_\_\_\_, curled up on his bed.

Do you think Sam wanted to be found by people, or did he want to stay alone on the mountain? Why do you think so?

---

---



# My Side of the Mountain

## I Cooperate with the Ending

Answer each question using a complete sentence.

You may look back in the book if you need to.

1. Why didn't Jessie Coon James come around anymore?

---

---

2. Who was Aaron and where was he from?

---

---

3. What did Sam and Matt do during the week Matt, the reporter, was visiting?

---

---

4. Who was in Sam's bed one day when they returned to the tree house?

---

---

5. What did Matt and Bando decide to make out of a nearby tree?

---

---

6. Who came to visit Sam after Matt and Bando left and what did they catch?

---

---

Why do you think Bando was sad that so many visitors had found Sam?

---

---

