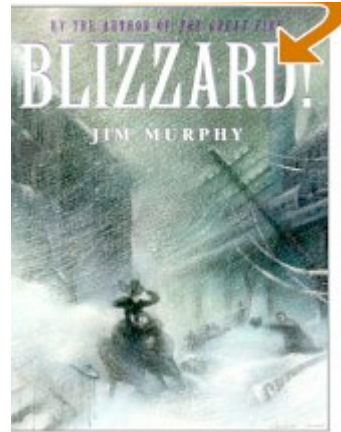


Title: Blizzard
Author: Jim Murphy
Publisher: Scholastic Press
Date Published: 2000
Genre: Non fiction
Grade Level: Middle School
Book talker: Angela Boles



Notes:

Newberry Honor author Jim Murphy is known for his non-fiction accounts of many historical events. He is the author of many titles including; An American Plague, The Great Fire, The Boys War, and Pick and Shovel Poet.

Getting Ready:

To make things feel like a blizzard I will dress with a hat, mittens, and scarf for this book. I could play the sound of howling wind softly in the background. I also would show some pictures of the storm either in the book or with a power point show.

Booktalk:

A blizzard is defined as any storm where snow is accompanied by temperatures of 20 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, plus winds of at least 35 miles per hour. During the Blizzard of 1888, temperatures often went below zero, and winds were clocked at 75 to 85 miles per hour. Many newspapers nicknamed the storm the Great White Hurricane.

Come experience the Great Blizzard of 1888 through the eyes and words of survivors and victims alike. Stories like that of seventeen year old Sara Wilson. Who was on her first trip on a train and her first time away from home on her own. The snow brought that train she was riding to a halt and the passengers were forced to walk to safety. I would reads the following section from page 24 in the book

Sara floundered along, trying to keep up with her group. At one point, she stumbled and found herself stuck in snow that was waist deep. A man came back to pull her out and she went on, exhausted. Later, the men helped her as best as they could and each took a turn carrying her. Soon, however, they found their own strength failing and their

thoughts completely taken up with their own survival. They set her on her feet and urged her to keep walking. Then they disappeared into the blinding snow ahead.

For three days and nights the Eastern Coast was brought to its knees. It was only a snowstorm, but it downed many for days, blocking imports of food, disabling communication, and making travel nearly impossible. And how do you clean up that much snow?

Follow up:

This would be a fun book to booktalk after a big snowstorm comes through. We had a snow that blocked many in for an entire day in the spring of 2006. It also might be a good choice on a hot day at the beginning of the school year.

Curriculum Connections:

In science, *Blizzard* could be tied to meteorology and the weather. In social studies, it could be connected to family heritage, government policies, issues in travel and communication, or presented as a historical event. In the language arts classroom it would be an excellent example of a nonfiction book.

For more information:

<http://www.jimmurphybooks.com/> has a fun question of the week where you guess what the pictured historical item was used for along with information on many of Jim Murphy's books

<http://www.celebrateboston.com/disasters/blizzardof1888.htm> information of the Blizzard of 1888

Information on the Blizzard of 1888 and other Blizzards that have hit the United States <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/blizzard1.html>