

THUNDER FROM THE SEA

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award 2007 Nominee Grades 3-5

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Thunder from the Sea by Joan Hiatt Harlow. Simon & Schuster, 2004. 256 p.

Summary

Tom Campbell lived at the Grenfell Mission Orphanage in St. Anthony, Newfoundland. In 1929, when Tom is 13 years old, he is taken in by Enoch and Fiona Murray who live on Back o' the Moon Island. He had always dreamed of a family, a home and a dog of his own. On his first fishing trip with Enoch, he rescues a young Newfoundland dog from the sea. Since he rescued the dog during a storm, he named the dog Thunder. Tom and Thunder are inseparable. Thunder proves to be a heroic dog when he warns everyone about the impending earthquake and tidal wave. He also pulls Fiona over the ice to the mainland when she has gone into labor during a blizzard. When Thunder's real owner shows up, Tom thinks he will have to return him, but the man lets Tom keep the dog he so clearly loves. Throughout the book Tom has questioned whether or not the Murrays would keep him. In the end Enoch and Fiona decide to adopt Tom and make him their real son. Finally, Tom feels as though he is home; he has a real family, a baby sister and a dog.

Author's Biography

Joan Hiatt Harlow was born July 25, 1932 and is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. She married Richard Lee Harlow and has five children, four girls and one boy. She has written a number of novels, including *Star in the Storm*, which was the winner of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award. Ms. Harlow lives in Venice, Florida, but she spends the summers at her home in New Hampshire. She makes school visits and enjoys working with students.

Other Titles by Joan Hiatt Harlow

Joshua's Song

The Midnight Rider

Shadows on the Sea

Star in the Storm

Related Titles

Tidal Wave

Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret.

Dogs

The Mightiest Heart by Lynn Cullen.

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo.

Akiak, A Tale of the Iditarod by Robert Blake.

The Wreck of the Ethie by Hilary Hyland. (Heroic dog on ship off Newfoundland.)

Fishing

Duncan's Way by Ian Wallace.

The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrook. (LYRC 2007 Gr. 6-8 Ballot)

Orphans

Worth by A. LaFaye. (LYRC 2007 Gr. 3-5 Ballot)

Classroom Connections

Scholastic Lesson Plans

- Use ideas from the Scholastic website to introduce the book. Review using questions from the same website.
http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/bookfairs/currconnection/thunder_sea.htm

Language Arts

- After students have read *Thunder from the Sea*, read aloud the book *Star in the Storm*. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two stories.
- The people who live on Back o' the Moon use words and phrases we may not be familiar with. Use the activity sheet from the Scholastic website and have them replace the strange words or phrases with more familiar ones.

Geography

- Have the students locate Newfoundland on a world map or a globe. Have them research information about Newfoundland.

Biography

- Have the students find information about Sir Wilfred Grenfell who was a very important man in this region.

History

- Have the students research life on Newfoundland in the early 1900s. Discuss what Tom's daily life must have been like. Compare it to life today.

Art and Enrichment

- Look up information about mummers' plays, which are described in the story. Students can make mummer masks and develop a skit.

Science

- Thunder is a Newfoundland dog. Have the students research this breed of dog.
- Have the students study other working dogs, water dogs or heroic pets.
- Have the students study earthquakes, tidal waves and tsunamis.

Web Links

Book and Author

Joan Hiatt Harlow

<http://www.joanhiattharlow.com/>

This website discusses other books written by this author and special events or public events she has attended. There is even an email link that allows the user to email Mrs. Harlow. The website has pictures of Mrs. Harlow at book signings, and Mrs. Harlow has contributed some personal information on the website.

Little Red Schoolhouse: Thunder From the Sea

<http://suzyred.com/2005thunder.html>

Includes a summary of the book, links to Newfoundland dogs, tsunamis and maps of Newfoundland.

Scholastic Lesson Plan: Thunder From the Sea

http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/bookfairs/currconnection/thunder_sea.htm

Excellent resource to use with *Thunder from the Sea*. Includes a summary of the book, questions to introduce the book and discussion questions to review the text. It also includes an activity sheet that is based on the book.

Weather / Tsunamis

Illinois Weather: The Web's Best Kid's Weather Links

http://illiniweather.com/pages/kids_weather_links.htm

Links to information about weather.

PBS:Savage Earth: Tsunami

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/savageearth/tsunami/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/savageearth/animations/tsunami/index.html>

The site has an animation showing a tsunami attack.

ThinkQuest: Killer Waves

<http://library.thinkquest.org/04oct/01797/>

This has a good overview of tidal waves and tsunamis.

Weatherwiz

www.weatherwizkids.com

<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/earthquake1.htm>

This site has excellent diagrams and explanations of tsunamis.

History of Newfoundland and Newfoundland Fishing

Civilization, Canada: Lifelines: The Material World of the Newfoundland Fishing Families

<http://www.civilization.ca/hist/lifelines/lipoa01e.html>

This site gives a detailed description and photographs of a fishing family's household items and other possessions in the early 1900s. It gives real insight into their lives.

The History of Northern Cod Fishing

www.cdli.ca/cod/home1.htm

Detailed description of cod fishing history.

Kidzone: Newfoundland

<http://www.kidzone.ws/geography/newfoundland/index.htm>

Excellent basic information about Newfoundland with printable worksheets.

Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland: Newfoundland Fisheries

www.mi.mun.ca/mi-net/nf-fish

This site includes facts about fishing.

Newfoundland Salt Fisheries Digital Exhibit (Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador)

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/fisheries/>

This is a wonderful site with photographs and details of Newfoundland history and life.

Newfoundland (Dog)

Newfoundland Dog

http://www.newfdogclub.org/Main_Sub_Pages/ws01_gen_info_main.htm

Interesting history, explanation of name and other facts.

Tidespoint: Newfoundland Dog

http://www.tidespoint.com/tourism/newfoundland_dog.shtml

Information about Newfoundland dogs by a Newfoundland tourism site.

Mummers' Plays

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mummers_Play

This site has an explanation of Mummers' plays.