



NOVEL STUDY AND
TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR

GHOSTS OF JAMES BAY

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CLASSROOM USES

Ghosts of James Bay is a historical novel set on the shores of Hudson Bay in Northern Ontario, both in the present day and in 1611, during the last exploratory voyage of Henry Hudson.

Al Lister and his archaeologist father are working at a dig on the shores of Ontario's James Bay. On a last canoe trip before he heads south, Al is enveloped by a strange fog containing ghostly images of the mutiny aboard Henry Hudson's ship. When the fog clears, he finds himself 400 years in the past. As Al struggles to understand what has happened, he becomes involved with Hudson's doomed party and the local First Nations people. Al also discovers the answer to the ancient mystery of Hudson's fate, and develops a broader perspective on his present-day world.

Ghosts of James Bay presents relevant material suitable for many areas of the curriculum from grades four to eight. The novel dovetails into units on Canadian explorers, the birth of the fur trade, geography, and first contact between Europeans and First Nations. It also addresses modern issues of family relationships, the nature of scientific inquiry, and the way we remember the past.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The following is a vocabulary list from *Ghost of James Bay*. The words are listed in the order in which they first appear in the text. Brief definitions are given, but many of

the words will require further discussion and definition. Students should be encouraged to use these words when undertaking the writing activities outlined later in this guide.

Vocabulary

- hypothermia**—abnormally low body temperature, p. 1
- fanaticism**—excessive enthusiasm, p. 3
- unwieldy**—awkward, not easily handled or managed, p. 6
- Windigo**—an evil spirit in Cree mythology, p. 7
- midden**—ancient refuse heap, p. 10
- scoffed at**—not taken seriously, p. 12
- engulfed**—swallowed up, p. 22
- Furious Overfall**—the name given by early explorers to Hudson Strait, p. 24
- inhospitable**—unwelcoming, unfavourable to life, p. 28
- manoeuvrable**—easily steered, p. 29
- gouged**—dug or tore, p. 31
- enshrouded**—covered, p. 32
- perilous**—dangerous, p. 36
- rampant**—out of control, p. 36
- skepticism**—disbelief, p. 37
- salvage**—European term for Native, p. 38
- wraith**—ghost, p. 39
- sluggish**—slow-moving, p. 44
- predicament**—difficult circumstance, p. 45
- succour**—help, p. 47
- gnarled**—twisted, p. 48
- meagre**—poor or scant, p. 49
- skewering**—spearing, p. 50
- devoured**—eaten, p. 53

