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PRESCRIPTION FOR ADVENTURE: BUSH PILOT DOCTOR

By Naomi Gaede-Penner

- A. What comes to you mind when you think of “adventure”?
- Extreme sports?
 - Challenging yourself?
 - The unknown?
 - A remote location?
 - Danger?
 - Thrills?
 - Other?
- B. Is your life an adventure? Yes? How? No? Why not? If so, of these three kinds of adventurous people, which one are you? Explain.
- Actively seeking to live on the edge.
 - Living in an environment conducive to adventures.
 - An ordinary person using your natural abilities and individual interests in the world around you, with the results translating into an adventure.

Pick and choose the questions that interest you.

- Why did Doc choose to go to Alaska to practice medicine? What do you think influences a person’s choice of career?
- What are words you’d use to describe Doc’s character and personality?
- (Chp. 2) Notice how the author mixes Alaska facts with the conversations and drama. How does this build excitement? How is the action stalled?
- What did Doc learn from his first moose hunt? Have you been hunting? What did *you* learn? If you haven’t hunted, why would you want to? Not want to?
- (Chp. 5) Variation in sentence length adds interest in a story. In the middle of page 46, the author uses short, clipped words: “No moose. No sound. No movement.” Why do you think she used this style rather than a rambling sentence?
- What disease was epidemic in Alaska during the early 1900s? What diseases are prevalent in the world today? If you could eliminate one disease, what would it be? Why?
- What were some of the challenges Doc faced as the only physician at the Tanana hospital and along much of the Yukon River?
- What do you learn much about Doc’s wife and children in this book? Why do you think the author didn’t provide more information? Who *would* you like to know more about? (You can learn about them in *Prescription for Finding Home in Alaska*.)

9. (Chp. 8, p.81) How do feuds get started? Have you ever been in a dispute where you feared for your safety? What did you do? What are appropriate ways to resolve a feud?
10. Doc and his family got to know and appreciate people of a different culture. Describe a time when you were with someone of a dissimilar nationality or culture. How did you feel? How did you relate to him or her? How did you show respect?
11. What is personification? Where is it used in chapter 9? Does this appeal to you? Why?
12. How did you feel about the hunting descriptions? Were they too detailed? Did they add or distract from the story? Explain.
13. (Chp. 11) Identify the words and phrases that make it sound as if a television program or movie is being filmed.
14. What is a flashback? What purpose does it serve?
15. Chp. 14, p. 138) “How could he go home, the only boy that evening without the trophy-wound to prove his manhood among his peers?” What do you think this means? What might be a “trophy” symbol for a young person today? Would it be different for a boy than a girl? What might symbolize manhood or womanhood today?
16. Chp. 16. When a writer describes people who may be viewed as “different,” or as “novel,” they can feel exploited, put on display, misrepresented, or ridiculed. Or, they can feel honored, respected, and affirmed for their traditions and values.
 - a. What makes the difference?
 - b. How might the Anaktuvuk villagers feel if they were to read this chapter?
 - c. Would you make changes if you were to rewrite it? What would those be?
17. (Chp. 22) What is “blind faith”? Have you ever experienced it? How did it turn out?
18. How does the author keep her figures of speech consistent in Chapter 23?
19. What was your favorite story? Why?
20. What would be *your* prescription for adventure? After reading BPD, what are you motivated to do?
 - Seek out adventure in your life choices
 - Read more adventure stories
 - Try something new
 - Pursue some activity or trip that you’ve been thinking about.

To find out more about the author go to www.prescriptionforadventure.com
 To learn more about the Gaede family, read *Prescription for Finding Home in Alaska*.

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