

TITLE: **WHITE CAVE ESCAPE**

SUMMARY: A summer hike in the New Brunswick woods turns deadly when Shawn and his friends find themselves trapped by a raging forest fire. Now their only chance of survival may be the legendary White Caves...but can they find them in time? Join Shawn, Craig, Petra, Tony and Hobart the dog (the heroes of *Chocolate River Rescue*) in their newest wilderness adventure!

THEMATIC LINKS

New Brunswick Geography

Rocks & Minerals

Wildlife Habitats and the Environment

Forest Fires

Caves, rock formations and erosion

Science (magnets; pitch, sound and frequency)

Co-operation, conflict-resolution, resourcefulness, responsibility

Bullying

ACTIVITY IDEAS

In the story, Colin has been having trouble with bullies at school. His solution is to try and make them “like” him by taking them to his special, secret place—the gypsum quarry—with disastrous results. Write a scene, or a short skit between Colin and the bullies. Try to imagine a different strategy that Colin could have used to deal with the bullies instead.

Make your own home-made compass following the steps Petra uses on pages 71-74. What are some other ways to make a compass?

Make your own bull-roarer using a paint stir-stick or a ruler (with a small hole drilled in one end) tied to a piece of twine or string. Swing it in a fast circle to make a buzzing/humming sound. Try swinging the bull-roarer at different speeds or using different lengths or thicknesses of string. What happens? TIP: If you have a hard time getting your bull-roarer to “sing”, try adding a swivel (you can buy one for a few cents at the hardware store in the fishing supplies section) between the end of the stick and the piece of string...this will help your bullroarer to spin on the string as it rotates.

Collect some rocks from your local area. Identify and label them. Note any particular properties they may have.

Design a tourism brochure for the White Caves in Hillsborough, New Brunswick. Include things such as a description of the caves, their approximate location (on a map of New Brunswick), how they were formed and why it would be fun to visit them. You should also mention any safety concerns or potential dangers associated with caving, and tips for tourists.

Following the above guideline, design a tourism brochure for a natural attraction in *your* area.

Design a poster or chart of the types of trees, plants and wildlife found in Atlantic Canadian forests.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Jennifer McGrath Kent grew up exploring the woods, hills and gypsum quarries of Hillsborough, New Brunswick. Jennifer is a writer and story-teller and has also taught English at the University of Moncton and Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. Some of her favourite things include: animals of all kinds, the great outdoors, theatre, music, good jokes, silly costumes, the colour orange and curling up in front of the fire with a good book. Jennifer lives in the countryside near Moncton, New Brunswick with her family and several pets.

Jennifer is the author of *Chocolate River Rescue* which won the 2009 Hackmatack Award and *White Cave Escape*, which was also short-listed for the OLA's 2010 Silver Birch Award in Ontario and is currently short-listed for the 2011 Hackmatack Award.