

# Book: Moccasin Trail By Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Quick summary:

Possible reading assignments: (\_\_\_ days) 1:p. 2:p. 3:p. 4:p. 5:p. 6:p. 7:p. 8:p. 9:p. 10:p. 11:p. 12:p

	Summary	Difficult vocabulary	Purpose for reading/Comp. Strategy
Chapter 1 p. 3-16	We meet 19 yr. old Jim Keath. At age 11, he'd run away from home to follow his Uncle Adam, a trapper. He'd been mauled by a bear and taken in by the Crow Indians, living with them for 6 yrs, before leaving. He is now working with a trapper named Tom. But Tom was going to quit in the fall. Jim didn't know which world he belonged to - the Indians or white men? He chooses not to go with Tom. Moki is his dog, Buckskin, his mare. At camp, someone is approaching Tom & Jim. They are ready, with guns drawn.	3 flintlock 4 bourgeways 7 vigilant 11 gloatingly 11 valor 11 convalescence 15 amiable	Where is the setting for this story? Describe the characters you meet? What skills has Jim learned from living with the Indians? What does Jim wear around his neck? Why is it so important to him? There is a statement in the book: "The joy he felt at killing the bear was his first step towards savagery." What does that mean? Why did Red Deer name Jim "Talks Alone" p. 12 What happened that made Jim decide to leave the Crow after 6 years? What do Jim and Tom use for plates?
Chapter 2 p. 17-28	The visitors were two Digger Indians, who brought a letter to Jim. Tom could only read a portion of the letter, but realizes it is from his brother Jonathan (Jonnie). Jim explains to Tom the story of how he became a Crow. He explains about his own medicine dream which was interpreted by the "Wise One". After that, he made a medicine bundle which will always protect him.	17 Diggers 23 wanderlust 26 incantation	We learn more about the hardships Jim has lived with - what are some of them? Who are the visitors to Jim & Tom's camp? What are they there to deliver? What is a medicine dream? Why is it important to a Crow boy? Describe the medicine dream Jim had. At the end of Ch. 2, what has Jim decided to do?
Chapter 3 p. 29-39	They caught only one beaver, and then they part ways with Tom heading South. Jim heads to the Dalles on the Columbia River to find someone to translate his letter. He sees white women & children for the first time in 9 yrs. He is uncomfortable here, but finds someone to read his letter to him. It explains that his father and mother had died, & his brothers and sister are here. They need Jim so they can claim land.	30 docility 31 "feigned indifference" 36 "greenhorn's boots"	How does Jim feel among the Bourgeways? What do the people mistake Moki for? (a wolf)
Chapter 4 p. 40-53	Jim is reunited with Jonnie, who is 17 yrs. It is an awkward meeting. Jonnie is not impressed when he learns Jim stole his horse from a Crow warrior. Jonnie takes him back to his wagon and on the way,		What is Jonnie's reaction to meeting his older brother, Jim? What did Jim say that he thought would impress Jonnie? Infer: What does Jonnie think about Indians?

	learns about where Jim has been for the past 9 yrs. Jim realizes he is concerned about what Jonnie thinks of him.		
Chapter 5 p. 54-63	Jim meets his sister, Sally (15) & Dan'l (11). Dan'l is the blond boy he had seen earlier at the trading post. It is an uncomfortable meeting, with Sally seeming to be very wary about him. Jim takes charge of their camp telling them they need to get in shape for the rough journey ahead. Jim cooks a meal and nurses his brothers injured feet.	54 incredulously 57 gorge 61 variance 62 gaunt 63 truce	What characters do you meet in this chapter? Describe each. How did Jim feel as soon as he saw Sally? Infer: How did Sally feel seeing Jim for the first time? Why does she call him "James"? What does Jim do with Jonnie's boots? Why does he do that?
Chapter 6 p. 64-79	Today, they began their trip through the gorge. Jim & Dan'l will take the animals over the mountains; the rest will take the raft on the treacherous Columbia River. Bob Rultledge and his family will be going on the raft too. As Jim & Dan'l climb the mountain, it snows steadily for 5 days. Meanwhile, those on the raft are suffering from wet, cold weather too.	67 pemmican 76 heathen	Jonnie learns the right way to walk in moccasins - which is how? p. 66 Does Sally feel comfortable about entrusting Jim to keep Dan'l safe? Which way would you choose to go, over the mountains or down the river? Predict: What will happen next?
Chapter 7 p. 80-94	Jim & Dan'l are about out of food. Jim fights Moki to get the fresh mink meat Moki had killed. They eat it raw. Jim tells Dan'l he's going to stay with them in the valley. They make it through and meet up with the others on the raft. Only 5 miles left - but the worst ones of the trip. They make it, $\frac{1}{2}$ of them barefooted. Jim finds a piece of land they want to claim.	80 dispiritedly 80 impassable 94 Tualatin (name of river)	What is Jim's "possibles"? Predict: Do you really think Jim will stick around?
Chapter 8 p. 95-107	While Jonnie clears trees to build a cabin, Jim catches animals and prepares the meat, skins etc. The mule, Bad Medicine, alerts them someone is coming - it is Sam Mullins, followed by a wagon train. They visit and start dancing while Jonnie plays the banjo. Jim leaves. He is having a hard time adjusting and doesn't like being known as "Jonnie's brother". Jonnie asks Jim to help start building the cabin. Jim gives some neighbors a good scare.	95 demeaning 100 lugubriously 101 reminiscently	What is a travois? What is Jonnie's medicine that makes people forget the harshness & trouble they've endured? p. 102 What is the setting of this chapter? Predict: Do you think Jim is going to stay?

<p>Chapter 9 p. 108-122</p>	<p>The surveyor comes to stake the claim. Jim learns that Jonnie is worried about him signing the contracts - because Jim can't read or write. He takes Dan'l to trap beavers. He has Dan'l write his name, and then stays up all night practicing it. At the surveyor's office, he signs his name, finally impressing Jonnie. Jim tires of working on the cabin, preferring to spend time with Dan'l in the woods. Jonnie explains how he feels about Indians, which is upsetting to Jim.</p>	<p>113 surreptitiously 120 brawn</p>	<p>What does Jonnie say about Indians? At this point, does Jim feels he belongs more to the Crow or to his family?</p>
<p>Chapter 10 P. 123-137</p>	<p>Jim hates being confined to building a cabin. They started on the Rutledge's cabin first. He tells Dan'l "follow" and they jump in the river, playing a game of dodging bullets (pebbles). Jonnie joins in. Jonnie sees the scars on Jim's chest, and realizes it was a good thing the Indians found him. However, Jim was not helping as he should in building the cabins. Finally it is done and they unpack. Upon seeing his mother's old clock, Jim starts to remember thing from his past. Sally cannot understand his strong attachment to the Crow, but Jonnie does. Jim leaves...again. There are reports of a wild Indian in the area.</p>		<p>Jim asks, "Why do people want to box themselves in a house?" What do you think? Why does Jim give Dan'l the command to "follow"? What starts to change Jonnie's attitude toward the Indians? Mr. Rutledge says, "You can't make a lone wolf into a house dog overnight." What is he talking about? Predictions: what is going to happen next?</p>
<p>Chapter 11 p. 138-148</p>	<p>Jim returns to the family but makes his own tepee to sleep in &amp; associates with the family less &amp; less. Jonnie wants to mend the rift in the family, but doesn't know how. Jim's new game for Dan'l is having him take items (pretending their horses) from his family without being seen. (Counting coup). Jonnie tries riding Buckskin and Jim gets an idea of something to do for Jonnie?</p>	<p>140 contemptuous 140 laboriously 146 trace</p>	<p>Why does Jim think a tepee is better than a cabin? What is counting coup? Predict: What do you think Jim wants to do for Jonnie?</p>
<p>Chapter 12 p. 149-165</p>	<p>Jim is asked to find some missing cattle, and the thief who took them. He heads out w/ Jonnie, Mr. Rutledge and others. He believes the thief is a Cayuse (Indian). He is the only one to recognize the signs. They find the stolen cattle, and finally agree to wait until nightfall so Jim can steal them</p>	<p>155 reconnoitered</p>	<p>How does Jim know the thief is an Indian? What does Jim initially want to do to get the cattle back? How does Jim expect the men to react when they see the stolen horse? How do all the men react when they see the stolen horse?</p>

	back. Jonnie gets the cattle, but also steals a horse for Jonnie. This meets with disapproval from everyone.		
Chapter 13 p. 166-175	Jim eludes the Indian parties hunting for him in the dark. He returns the horse to the exact spot he'd stolen it from. He is almost caught, gets shot, and kills an Indian to escape. Afterwards he makes some serious realizations. It isn't enemies he's been searching for, its friends. He's outgrown the Indian life. He was a white man.	171 ricocheted	Jim makes an important discovery about himself in this chapter, read to find out what it is. What is your favorite part of this chapter?
Chapter 14 p. 176-187	Jim returns home to a warm welcome. They bandage his wounds and listen to him tell what happened. Joe Meek, the sheriff, shows up the next morning. They spend time swapping stories (Meek is a legendary figure). But Meek gives Jim a warning that he is to behave. Meek settled in to this life by plowing wheat fields, maybe Jim could too. Jim returns to the cabin - to sleep inside!	177 tremulous	Why is Jim worried a little when the Sheriff turns up at their cabin? Imagery: Give a good description of Joe Meek? Joe Meek offers some advice to Jim that might help him settle in. What is that advice?
Chapter 15 p. 188-201	Jim & Jonnie are clearing the land, Jonnie teaches Jim that slow & steady is the way to do it. After supper, Jonnie gets down the Bible to read. This makes Jim uneasy, the way his mother's clock on the hearth does. Jim teaches Dan'l to be fast - by chasing butterflies. He makes a trip to the trading post, he runs into Tom Rivers, his old beaver-trapping companion.	189 raucously 192 pewter 199 indelibly	What does Jonnie teach Jim about working the land? How did Jonnie learn to be such a quick and light-footed runner? Describe the relationship between Jim and Dan'l.
Chapter 16 p. 202-212	Jim & Tom set up camp and spend the night talking. Jim can tell something is different with Tom, but doesn't know what it is. Tom comes home with Jim and ends up staying another 6 weeks. Eventually Jim realizes Tom is the loneliest man he's ever known.		Infer: Why is Tom such a lonely man? Predict: Do you think Jim is still going to stick around? Has Dan'l and Jim's relationship changed?
Chapter 17 p. 213-226	Tom & Jim leave, heading east. They encounter some wagons headed west overland and doing the impossible - coming down Laurel Hill. Finally, Jim realizes he belongs back at the cabin with his family. He & Tom part ways. When Jim reaches home he learns Dan'l		Why does Jim leave his family again without saying goodbye? Predict: How are Dan'l, Sally and Jonnie going to react when they realize he's left again?

	ran away to be an "Injun". Jim sets off to find him.		
Chapter 18 p. 227-238	About 36 hours later, Jim arrives at the Umpqua's camp where Dan'l is held captive. He kills 2 sentries, and then carries Dan'l out of a tepee full of sleeping Indians. However, the Umpquas capture both of them. Jim's been shot. Jonnie, Meek and a few other men are able to save them. Jim is offered a job as deputy but says he must go east.	228 sentry	Imagery: Can you imagine the terror of being in that tepee with a bunch of sleeping Indians all around you? What is your favorite part of this chapter?
Chapter 19 p. 239-247	Back at the cabin Jim realizes the only way to help Dan'l is to show him the way to act - like a white man. So he cuts off his own braids and removes the feather. Sally takes them in the cabin so they'll always be remembered. Jim explains to Jonnie about his medicine dream, and they recognize that Jim's real medicine was the Bible all along. The 23 <sup>rd</sup> Psalm is what his mother used to read him. He and Jonnie again "know each other's heart."		No one in the family wants Dan'l to run away again. How can Jim help? What is the relationship between Jim and his family now?

End of book response activities