



A Teacher's Guide to

MINE!

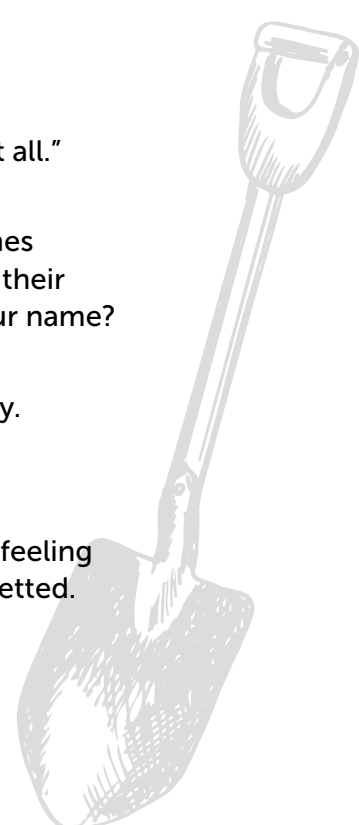
by NATALIE HYDE



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Look at the front cover. What do you think the story is about?
2. What sort of story do you think it will be (e.g. mystery, humour, drama, horror)?
3. What different meanings are there for the word "mine"? Which meaning do you think applies to this story?
4. Read the summary on the back cover. How close were your predictions?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Chris says, "If the Dearings didn't have bad luck, they'd have no luck at all." What do you think this means?
 2. Chris mentions that the name "Randy" means "wolf." Look up the names of other characters in the story (Fiona, Christopher, Merle, Reese). Do their meanings match what you know of them? What is the meaning of your name? Does it match your personality?
 3. Chris has to make a difficult decision about opening the door to Randy. Do you think he made the right decision? Why or why not?
 4. Why does Chris's dad call his granddad a fool?
 5. Chris's father warns Chris never to do something when "you have the feeling it is not quite right." Think of a time when you did something you regretted. What hint did you have beforehand that you should have listened to?
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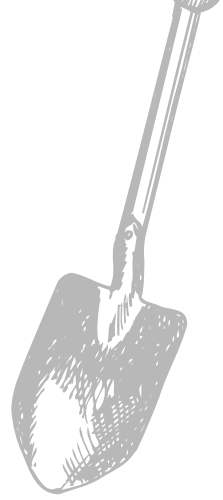
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6. Why is Chris determined not to fail at staking the gold claim?
7. At the beginning of the story, Fiona is described as “tough.” Think of how Fiona treated Chris when he had nowhere else to go. What words would you use to describe Fiona now?
8. After saying she couldn’t help Chris get to the Yukon, Fiona seems to change her mind. What do you think might have affected her decision?
9. Why did Shard think Chris had superpowers? If you could have a superpower, what would you choose?
10. Chris questions whether he can trust Fiona. What has Fiona done or said to make him suspicious? Would you be suspicious?
11. Do you think Chris has a good reason to be worried about Randy? Why or why not?
12. Fiona’s mother asks her to bring her favourite pickles, cheese, and pantyhose. Imagine you were going to visit family who lived far away. What sort of special items might they ask you to bring? What favourite things would you ask someone to bring you if you moved away from your community?
13. Why does Chris rub his granddad’s picture? Do you have any special rituals or items you use for good luck? What are some others that you have heard of?
14. While riding on the back of the motorcycle, Chris imagines how his granddad must have felt when he was swindled. Think of a time something unfair happened to you. How did you feel? How did you deal with those feelings?
15. Fiona’s jacket has the saying “Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History” on it. What do you think a “well-behaved” woman is? How is Fiona not a well-behaved woman? What women who made a difference in history do you know? Were *they* “well-behaved”?
16. Is Vinnie the kind of person you would want on your side if you were in trouble? Why or why not?
17. Do you think Shard is right to suspect Fiona? Why or why not?
18. Why is Chris so happy to stomp the old claim tags into the mud? What do you think that symbolized?
19. Is Shard a good friend to Chris? Use specific examples of her actions and words to back up your answer. What traits do you look for in a friend?
20. Why would Chris find it hard to stay at Neils and Anna’s without his granddad’s claim?
21. Chris tells Neils that his life is “Fiona Stuckless and the swindled claim.” Neils thinks that sounds like the title of a novel. What title would you give your life so far?



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22. Did Chris know for sure that Fiona had destroyed the registration form? What was he basing his belief on? Is it fair to judge people by their family?
23. Why does Fiona register the claim for Chris? Why do you think she didn't tell Chris she had registered it when he asked her for the form?
24. Has Chris finally broken the Dearing bad luck curse?

ACTIVITIES

1. Look at this sentence: "I could feel fresh waves of panic wash over me." What is the feeling of panic being compared to? What is a metaphor? Can you think of metaphors for other feelings such as excitement, joy, or fear? Write a short paragraph or dialogue describing a tense situation.
2. Say the words "crunch" and "grunt" out loud. What do you notice about how they sound and what they mean? Think of other words that sound like what they mean (drip, sizzle, boing, splash). Pick one and create a short comic panel illustrating that word.
3. Comparatives and superlatives are words that help us compare things. Comparatives are adjectives and adverbs (green, frequently) that usually end in "-er" or start with "more" (greener, more frequently). Superlatives usually end in "-est" or start with "most" (greenest, most frequently). Find examples of comparatives and superlatives in *Mine!* Create an advertisement for one of your favourite products using comparatives and superlatives.
4. When Chris asks Fiona to take him north, she gives him lots of reasons why he shouldn't go. Imagine a situation where someone has told you that you cannot do something you really want to do. Write an argument to convince them to change their mind.



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PROJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Dawson City was the centre of the Klondike gold rush when gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek (now Bonanza Creek) in 1896. The gold-mining industry is still strong with both placer miners and big mining corporations in the area. Create a newspaper for Dawson City for the day Chris arrives. Prepare it freehand or with an online template. Read Dawson City's tourism site <https://dawsoncity.ca> for article ideas. Include business advertisements, classified ads, weather, sports, and other typical sections.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Research the living conditions at the time of the Klondike gold rush. Read primary-source material such as Bruce H. Wark's diary: <https://sites.google.com/site/northernjourneybhwork/>. What dangers did miners face? What would it have been like to be one of the other people who were part of the mining community (shopkeeper, barber, porter, restaurant owner, entertainer, doctor or nurse, etc.)?

LITERACY

Create a diorama, triorama, or quadrorama of a scene, or scenes, from the story. (**Instructions to make trioramas or quadroramas can be found online:** <http://bit.ly/2CbexUR>.) Describe what is happening and why you chose that scene(s).

ART

Book trailers are like movie trailers and are used to generate excitement about a book. Create a 30-second book trailer for *Mine!* Use various techniques (stop animation, Claymation, video, etc.).

NOTE: Before you begin check Canadian copyright rules regarding use of photos and music. Here is an example of a book trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l59sMzeA_vQ.

DRAMA

Choose a dramatic scene (or scenes) from the story. Rewrite the scene(s) as a script, including stage directions and prop suggestions, and act as the director for the scene(s). Assemble a cast, then rehearse, organize props and stage elements, and perform the scene(s).