Prepare your notebook
The first page of your notebook gets lots of wear & tear, so go to the 2nd page and start numbering the pages, including the backs. Number them up to page 6. The 1st numbered page will be your title page.

Table of contents
Go to page number 3 and label it “Table of Contents.” As you answer questions and do activities in this document, continue to number the pages in your notebook and add them to your table of contents.

Map it out
Print the map of North and South America from page 13 of this document. You’ll be labeling places mentioned throughout the book on this map. Tape or glue the map to page 6.

Glossary
There will be words throughout the book you’ll be adding to a glossary. You’ll also look up the definitions of those words. Go to the back of your notebook and count inward 5 pages. Label this page, “Glossary.” Use a post-it note to make a tab for this page so it’s easy to find. You’ll be numbering these pages and adding them to your table of contents last.

Whenever you can, buy a copy of any book you’re reading for an assignment. That way, you can highlight important parts and write notes in the margins.

Some images are hyperlinks too. Just click on them to go to documents or webpages.

This book is about fictional people, but real events from history. This is known as historical fiction.
activities and questions

1. The Gold Rush site by Idaho State University, the Sacramento Bee website (under Part 1, read the following sections: The Road West; The Journey by Land; and The Journey by Sea), and the PBS Kids website describe how people traveled to California. Describe the 3 main routes from the East Coast.
2. How long were each of them?
3. What hazards were faced on each one?

4. Use 3 different colors to mark the routes on your map of the Americas. Be sure to make a key.
5. Which do you think you would have chosen? Why?
6. Take this quiz (requires Adobe Flash Player) and record how much money you won in your notebook. If you didn’t get all the answers correct, which question(s) did you miss? What is/are the correct answer(s)?
7. Mark The Horn, San Francisco, and Boston on your map.

AUTHORS CHOOSE CHARACTER'S NAMES VERY CAREFULLY. THE BUTLER'S NAME, PRASEWORTHY, TELLS YOU SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

SLAKE, LURCH, FRAY, IMPERATIVE, DIRE, ARGONAUT, UNDAUNTED, DESPICABLE

Lines to love!

"Her smokestack stained the frozen winter sky like ink."
"A patch of hair fell across his forehead in a yellow scribble."
1. Jack and Praiseworthy use the sky as “their textbook.” The author mentions the Southern Cross constellation (you’ll need to enter “Southern Cross” in the search box). Name the 4 stars that make up this constellation. What is its proper name? Find another constellation you’ve heard of and name the stars that make it up. Draw the constellations in your notebook.

2. Mark the locations of Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans on your map of the Americas.

3. As the Lady Wilma nears the equator, she is forced to use steam power and not her sails. Captain Swain says, “There’s not enough breeze in these latitudes to snuff out a candle.” Go to this page to learn about wind. Conduct the experiment listed there and write a few sentences to describe your results in your notebook.

4. Print out the map on page 14 of this document. Go to this page about global wind patterns and follow the directions at the bottom of the page to make your own wind map. Be sure to create a colored legend or key. After completing the map, glue or tape it into your notebook.

5. What are you discovering about Praiseworthy’s character? What three words would you use to describe him?

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**ADD THIS WORD AND ITS DEFINITION TO YOUR GLOSSARY:**

**DISPEL**

“A hawser is a heavy rope.”

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Lies to love! The two gold ships, linked together like sausages, went lumbering through the sea.
activities and questions

1. In 1847 Stephen Foster wrote a song called “Oh! Susanna” that became quite famous. Argonauts heading for California changed the words and renamed it “Oh! California.” Read the lyrics to the original song and listen to it by clicking on the arrow under “Play Song Clip” on the right sidebar. Listen for paradox in the lyrics. Write the examples of paradox from the song in your notebook. Now listen to the newer version and write down the differences you find.

2. Why does Captain Swain agree to help the square-rigger?

3. Why do you think Jack keeps asking Praiseworthy to call him Jack instead of Master Jack?

What was it like during the Gold Rush? Find out by watching this video.
activities and questions

1. The author, Sid Fleischman, uses many similes and metaphors as good writers do. Write at least five examples of similes from these chapters (I found 15).

2. In one of the last paragraphs of the chapter, Fleischman describes how they discover the Sea Raven gaining on them. Instead of just saying, “The Sea Raven was gaining on them,” he shows you through words how the action plays out. Reread the last few paragraphs of chapter 6 beginning with, “Hanging to the yardarm...” and then look at these Gold Rush works of art. Choose one. Write a paragraph describing the action you think has occurred in your choice. Be sure to show, not tell, what is happening. Include the title of the artwork on the top of the page.

3. Why are the days growing shorter?

4. Mark Patagonia, the Strait of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, and Callao, Peru on your map of the Americas.

You may need to use the zoom in feature on your computer to see this better. It should be under the view menu.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

INCLEMENT, GALE, STALWART

LINES TO LOVE!

“Dark cliffs seemed to hang like draperies from the misty sky...”

“A thought bolted through him like lightning.”
activities and questions

1. The Lady Wilma stops just briefly in the Galápagos to search for fuel. Had they stayed, they would have seen an amazing array of endemic animals. Define endemic (add it to your glossary), name 3 animals endemic to the Galápagos and describe what is unique about your favorite. See great photos of the Galápagos animals.

2. Mark the Galápagos Islands on your map of the Americas.

3. Praiseworthy’s hat blew off into the ocean and sank. This is known as symbolism. Why do you think Fleishman included this in the story?

4. Shipping, aircraft, GPS, and google earth rely on the use of latitude and longitude to find a specific location on the earth. Learn about latitude and longitude. Take the pretest and record your percentage correct. Once you’ve gone through the website, take the quiz at the end and print page 1 of the Score Summary page.

WHENEVER YOU WRITE OR SPEAK ABOUT SOMEONE, USE THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME THE FIRST TIME YOU MENTION THEM. AFTER THAT, USE ONLY THEIR LAST NAME, NEVER THEIR FIRST NAME.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

AGRICULTURAL, ENDEMIC

See a cool kid-made video about the Gold Rush (Youtube).
activities and questions

1. Much of The Great Horn Spoon is written as if it were a tall tale, but some of the wild stories are true. Search online and see if you can find which of these Gold Rush stories are probably true and which are a tall tale:
   - $10 to take a bath ($254 today)
   - $25 passage on a riverboat ($637 today)
   - Sending clothes to China to be washed
   - Getting gold out of miners’ hair
   - Marrying someone you’ve never met
   - Selling a pick and shovel for $100 ($2,547 today)
   - Towns named Hangtown, Rough and Ready, etc.
   - A Chinese laundryman wearing his hair in a pigtail

2. Jack’s admiration for Praiseworthy grows daily. List two things Praiseworthy has done that have surprised and impressed Jack.

3. Mark Sacramento and Panama on your map of the Americas.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

FIANCEE, SHORN, ASSAY, DELICACY

Lines to love! 💖

"The masts as thick as a pine forest." "Quartz Jackson’s face began to appear, snip by snip, like a statue being chipped out of stone."
In Hangtown, they saw blindfolded mules being loaded. They were blindfolded because they were traveling steep, treacherous trails. If the mules could see where they were going, they wouldn't move! This is a true tale of the old west.

activities and questions

1. Why does Praiseworthy say to Cut-eye or “Doc” Higgins, “A man in your line of work, sir, never knows when he'll need the services of a good undertaker.”

2. Why do you think Praiseworthy brought along a picture of Aunt Arabella?

3. Watch this video. The man interviewed says, “Mining is an industrial activity and it’s a violent industrial activity.” Why? What damage did mining cause in California?

4. What year was California admitted to the United States? (You’ll need to do some research online to find this)

5. How would you have fared in the Gold Rush? Try this game to find out (requires Adobe Flash Player).

ADD THIS WORD AND ITS DEFINITION TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

ROGUE

"I'll thank you to return her picture to my bag," he warned, stamping each word out of cold steel."
activities and questions

1. How do you think it changed Praiseworthy to not have anyone even know what a butler was?

2. What else changed Praiseworthy? Do you think he enjoyed his new status? Give a specific example from the book that supports this.

3. How does Praiseworthy get the nickname, “Bullwhip”?

4. When Jack is tricked into buying the neckties, Pitch-pine Billy tells him, “I’d rather see you break your leg than your word, boy.” Why do you think keeping your word was so important then? Do you think being honest and trustworthy is as important today as it was then? Why or why not?

5. What is the true name of the Sandwich Islands? Mark them on your map of the Americas.
The men could be found on almost every claim rocking the cradle, like grizzled nursemaids.

1. A prospector told Jack and Praiseworthy that the ladies had “calico fever,” the men “serape fever,” and “red sash fever.” What did he mean? What type of figurative language is this?

2. Although Fleischman talks about Jack’s back and arms getting stronger and Praiseworthy looking more rugged, he doesn’t truly explain the difficulty of doing this type of work. Imagine you have been at the “diggings.” Write a paragraph to describe how you look and feel. What do your hands look like? Your face? How does your body feel? What about your feet? Use descriptive language and include details!

3. Look online to see what a cradle (used for hunting gold) looks like and draw it in your notebook.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

HAUGHTY, VARMINTS, DISDAIN, ELUDED

Lines to love! The men could be found on almost every claim rocking the cradle, like grizzled nursemaids.
activities and questions

1. Watch this Youtube video. Who are the 3 men most responsible for the California Gold Rush? What part did each play?

2. Why couldn’t they hang Cut-Eye Higgins?

3. Why did the author choose to have Praiseworthy pound his umbrella into the ground for the first corner post of their claim? What does it signify?

4. The author, Sid Fleischman, uses many similes and metaphors. Write as many examples of metaphors as you can from these chapters (I found ?).

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

PAUNCHY, HEINOUS, BELLOWED, DISPATCH, CANTANKEROUS, EXUBERANCE, MUSED, INVINCIBLE, LITHE, PROBOSCIS, KEELED

James Marshall at Sutter Mill, 1850
activities and questions

1. Choose a simile or metaphor from the book and draw it out literally. For example draw “A thought bolted through him like lightning” as an actual lightning bolt shooting through a boy. Be sure to write down the sentence too.

2. This book doesn’t tell much of the story of the Gold Rush. Look up the word extermination then watch this Youtube video to learn what the Gold Rush did to California’s Native Americans. What happened to them?

3. Good authors don’t just tell you a character’s traits, they show you by what the character says and does. Print the character trait worksheet on page 15 of this document and complete it. Then cut it out and glue or tape it into your notebook.

4. Number the pages in your glossary and add it to your table of contents.

San Francisco in 1851
North and South America

Print this map and then tape or glue it to page 6 of your notebook.
Print this map and use it with the Blow, Wind, Blow! activity from page 3 of this document.
Good authors show instead of tell. They describe characters and what’s happening by painting a picture with words instead of just telling you.

Choose a character from the book and then choose 4 of the character traits listed on the chart (or another one you think describes your character) and find a specific example that shows your character possessed that trait.

When you’ve finished, cut out the chart and glue or tape it into your notebook.

Label the page with your character’s name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Action that shows that trait</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>problem-solver</td>
<td>(Praiseworthy) Hides in the potato barrels to get on board the Lady Wilma when their tickets were stolen. (Jack) Goes to the diggings to make money to save Aunt Arabella’s house.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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