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Chapter 1: I Hole Up in a Snowstorm

READING NOTES

Sam Gribley	boy who runs away from his home in the city to live alone in the forests of the Catskill Mountains
Catskill Mountains	a mountain range with rich wildlife and thick forests that is part of the Appalachian Mountains in southeastern New York
Frightful	Sam's falcon

VOCABULARY: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. three other **knotholes** _____

2. pulled at her **tethers** _____

3. **felled** the trees _____

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Describe Sam's shelter.

2. What does Sam see that he says makes him feel like a squirrel?

3. When Sam shouts "I did it!", what has he just realized he has done?

4. What made him want to run back to New York?

5. What word is carved on the old beech tree, and what boundary does it mark?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think you could survive in a snowstorm like Sam? Why or why not?
2. What does Sam mean when he says, "I knew that the land was just the place for a Gribbley"?

ENRICHMENT

1. The average yearly snowfall in the Catskill Mountains of New York is 44 inches. Research the average yearly snowfall of where you live. _____ inches
2. Read below "The Catskill Mountains" by Washington Irving (from 1851, Littell's *The Living Age*, p. 408)

The Catskill, Katskill, or Cat River Mountains, derived their name, in the time of the Dutch domination, from the catamounts by which they were infested; and which, with the bear, the wolf, and the deer, are still to be found in some of their most difficult recesses. The interior of these mountains is in the highest degree wild and romantic; here are rocky precipices mantled with primeval forests; deep gorges walled in by beetling cliffs, with torrents tumbling as it were from the sky; and savage glens rarely trodden excepting by the hunter. With all this internal rudeness, the aspect of these mountains toward the Hudson at times is eminently bland and beautiful, sloping down into a country softened by cultivation, and bearing much of the rich character of Italian scenery about the skirts of the Apennines. [...]*

The Catskill Mountains, as I have observed, maintain all the internal wildness of the labyrinth of mountains with which they are connected. Their detached position, overlooking a wide, lowland region, with the majestic Hudson rolling through it, has given them a distinct character, and rendered them at all times a rallying point for romance and fable.

*Catamounts: a medium-sized or large wild cat

Photo Credit: "Panorama from Blackhead Mountain" by Onteora12 (<https://bit.ly/2AdM4h8>). License: CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://bit.ly/1p2b8Ke>)



Chapter 13: The Autumn Provides Food and Loneliness

READING NOTES

ashcans metal receptacles for dumping trash

VOCABULARY: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. white winter **mantle** _____

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. List all the things that Sam writes that September does.

2. In what circumstance does Sam say that field crickets would taste good?

3. What happens to The Baron Weasel in winter? What does this cause Sam to realize?

4. What does Sam find as the answer to his fireplace problem?

5. How does he find it?

QUOTATION

He scared the loneliness right out of me.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has just happened? What does this mean?

ENRICHMENT

Some species of weasels have brown fur in the summer that changes to white in the winter. The change is genetically programmed, and it is triggered not by the temperature, but by the length of daylight. When daylight grows shorter in the winter, the brown summer fur of the weasel starts changing to white at the belly and then eventually covers the entire body. This helps the weasel avoid predators in the snow. When the days begin to grow longer again in the spring, the reverse happens, and the white fur begins to turn brown for summer.



Chapter 19: I Have a Good Look at Winter and Find Spring in the Snow

READING NOTES

Coney Island a popular amusement park located in New York City

VOCABULARY: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. the snowy **crag**s _____
2. the deer to their **copse** _____
3. a pretty good **barometer** _____

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. What animal does Sam use to forecast the weather?

2. What unwanted visitor gets into Sam's tree? How does he get there? Why does he come?

3. What alarms Frightful?

4. How does Sam feel about the creature?

5. How is he sealed in his tree overnight?

6. What vitamin deficiency does Sam have, and what animal organ does he eat until springtime?

QUOTATION

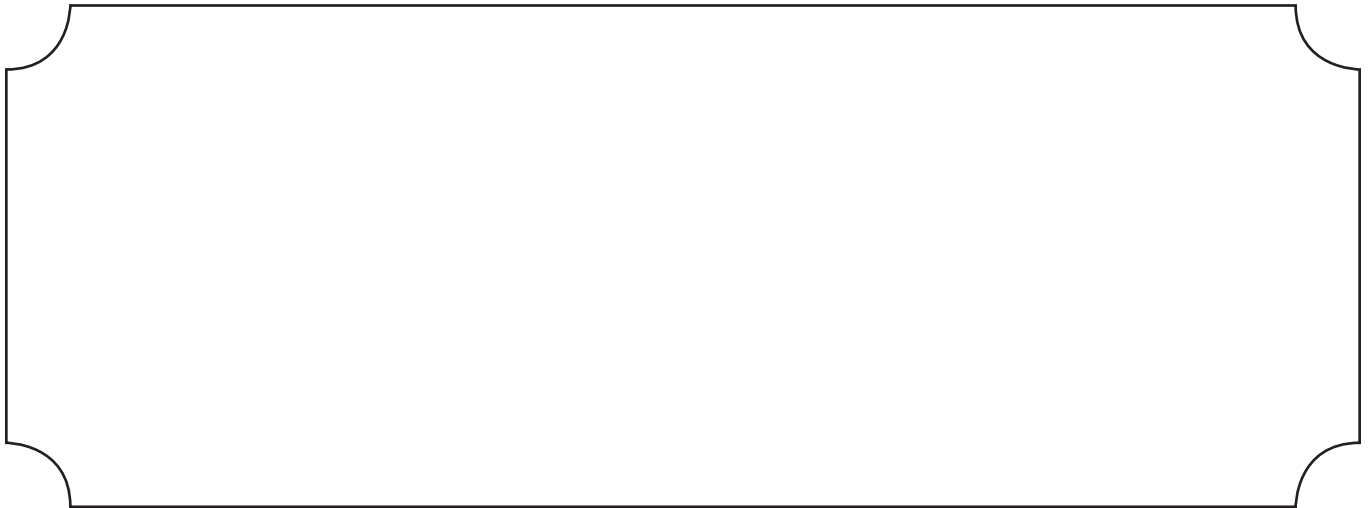
That day I heard the drip, drip begin, and by evening some of the trees had dumped their loads and were slowly lifting themselves to their feet, so to speak.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read the quotation above. What is the "drip, drip" of which Sam speaks? What is happening?
2. Why do you think Sam cried when spring came? What emotions was he feeling?

ENRICHMENT

1. In this chapter, Sam builds an igloo. Describe how you would build your own igloo. Include a drawing.



2. Using the description from the chapter, draw Sam's snowshoes.

