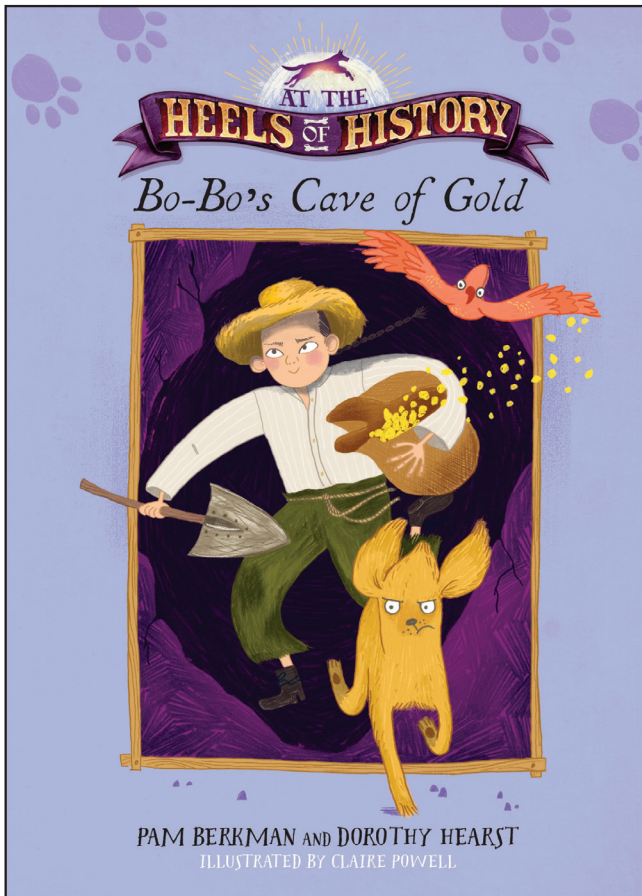




CURRICULUM GUIDE

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Bo-Bo's Cave of Gold

BY Pam Berkman
AND Dorothy Hearst
ILLUSTRATED BY Claire Powell

Hunt for treasure during the California Gold Rush with big-hearted Bo-Bo, a scruffy-eared, golden-brown mutt, in this second installment in the At the Heels of History series.

The search for gold is on!

Bo-Bo has been inseparable from her human companion Sheng ever since Sheng found her in the California foothills. But when Bo-Bo frees a caged bear in town, its owner demands a huge price from Sheng for losing the bear. Where can Bo-Bo and Sheng find that much gold? Their only chance is a fabled cave rumored to be filled with treasure, on a path loaded with danger. Can Bo-Bo and Sheng find it in time?

PamBerkman.com

AtTheHeelsOfHistory.com














DorothyHearst.com

The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all discussion questions meet the following Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1

-  What had the dog, Sage, done to be called “soft” by Thunder, the leader of the pack? What do Sage’s actions reveal about her character? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3**
-  What emotional and physical challenges does Sage face once she is no longer a member of the dog pack? How does the character Choi Hung change Sage’s outlook on her situation? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3**
-  Why do you think that Choi Hung is determined to bring the boy Sheng and Sage together? Find text evidence to support your opinion of Choi Hung’s kind actions.
-  What actions between Sage and Sheng let the reader understand that the two will be good friends?
-  How did Sage’s name change to Bo-Bo? Why does this new name go well with her new life with Sheng, his father, and Uncle Gwan? Why are names important? What’s the origin of your name?
-  What dreams and real-life problems led Sheng’s family to leave their home in China for the gold fields of California? How do taxes, the cost of supplies, and white prospectors make it especially difficult for prospectors from China? Why do you think the Chinese prospectors are treated differently from the white prospectors? How does that make you feel?
-  Describe Bo-Bo’s encounter with the caged bear and compare it to her interaction with the old miner at the beginning of the book.
-  What was the result of Bo-Bo’s good intentions toward Resilience, the bear? How did solving one problem create another for Sheng and his family?
-  Even though Bo-Bo saw herself as too soft, she was determined to help Sheng solve the problem she had created with Mr. Smeets. How did Bo-Bo’s encounter with the ringtail help?
-  Even with the map, Sheng and Bo-Bo face many dangers while trying to find the legendary cave. Think about the different challenges from nature and other animals that threaten Sheng and Bo-Bo. In your opinion, which challenge is the most dangerous? Give reasons for your opinion.
-  Sheng and Bo-Bo cross paths with Thunder and the rest of Bo-Bo’s old dog pack. Thunder is still angry with Bo-Bo and threatens to harm her. How does this confrontation between the dogs reveal how Sheng and Bo-Bo really feel about one another? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3**
-  How do Bo-Bo’s past deeds of kindness toward others help her to escape Mr. Smeets and his men and to get gold for Sheng?
-  Sheng and his family left China due to famine and war only to find more hardship when they came to California. What lessons do you think that Sheng and his family learned through all of their challenges that might help them in their new life in San Francisco? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2**

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Seeking Gum San

People came from all over the world to California during the Gold Rush in the hopes of striking it rich. The authors of *Bo-Bo's Cave of Gold* describe the unfair taxes and treatment that Sheng's family had to experience as they worked their claim. Gather more research about how the Chinese were treated during the time of the Gold Rush in California. Use your research to write an informative report about what life was like for the Chinese in search of Gum San (Gold Mountain) in California. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2](#)



Illustrating a Legend

Read Uncle Gwan's description of the legend of Crooked Cave near the end of chapter four. Create an illustration for the legend based on the details provided by Uncle Gwan. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7](#)

Kindness Matters

During the confrontation between Thunder and Bo-Bo near the cave, Thunder once again states that Bo-Bo is weak and soft. Bo-Bo responds, "It's not weak to care what happens to other creatures, and to help them! It's not weak to be kind." Use Bo-Bo's statement as a beginning to an opinion piece. Write a persuasive essay that gives reasons and examples to support Bo-Bo's view of the power of compassion and kindness. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1](#)

Attention, Shoppers

As the supply of gold dwindled, some miners became more competitive, some gave up their efforts to find gold, and some saw more opportunity to make money as a merchant. Research the prices of everyday items during the Gold Rush in California—from shovels and pickaxes to bacon and eggs. Design an advertisement for a general store in San Francisco that includes descriptions and costs of mining equipment and groceries. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2](#)

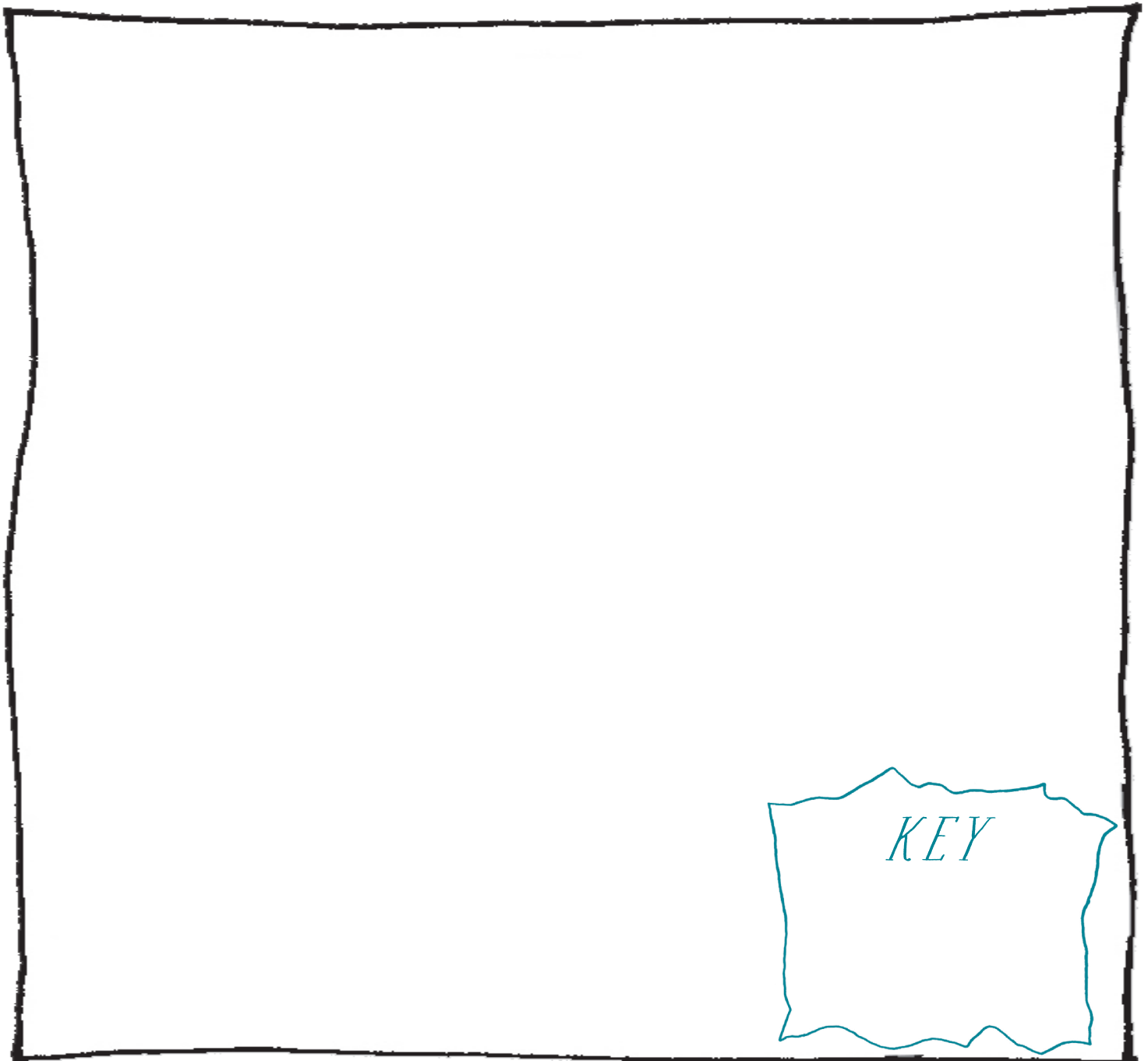


The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

THE MAP IS THE KEY

The ringtail that Bo-Bo meets in town promises to help Bo-Bo solve Sheng's financial problems by providing a map. This map is the key to Sheng's good fortune! Re-read the section at the end of chapter nine that describes the map. Use the story information to create your rendition of the map to Crooked Cave. Include symbols for the landmarks on the map and include a key that describes what each symbol means.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7](#)



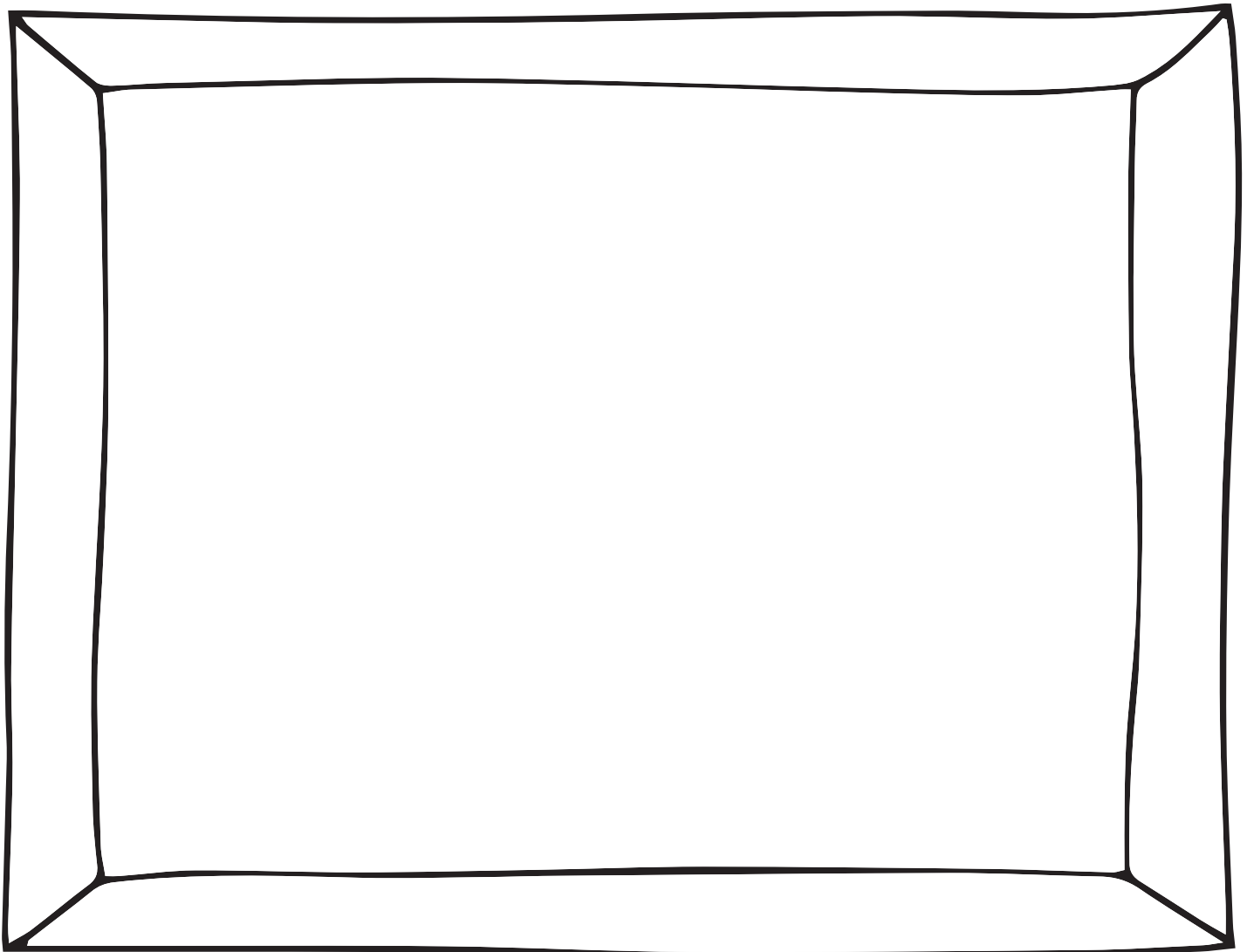
CHARACTER TEXT EVIDENCE

Select one of the main characters in *Bo-Bo's Cave of Gold*. Find text evidence from the story that describes the character. Draw a portrait of the character you select.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3



TEXT EVIDENCE



USING CONTEXT CLUES

Pam Berkman and Dorothy Hearst, the authors of *Bo-Bo's Cave of Gold*, use rich vocabulary to describe the adventures of Bo-Bo and Sheng. Look at the underlined words in the first column below. Use the rest of the words in the sentences as clues to help you write a definition for each underlined word. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4;**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.4

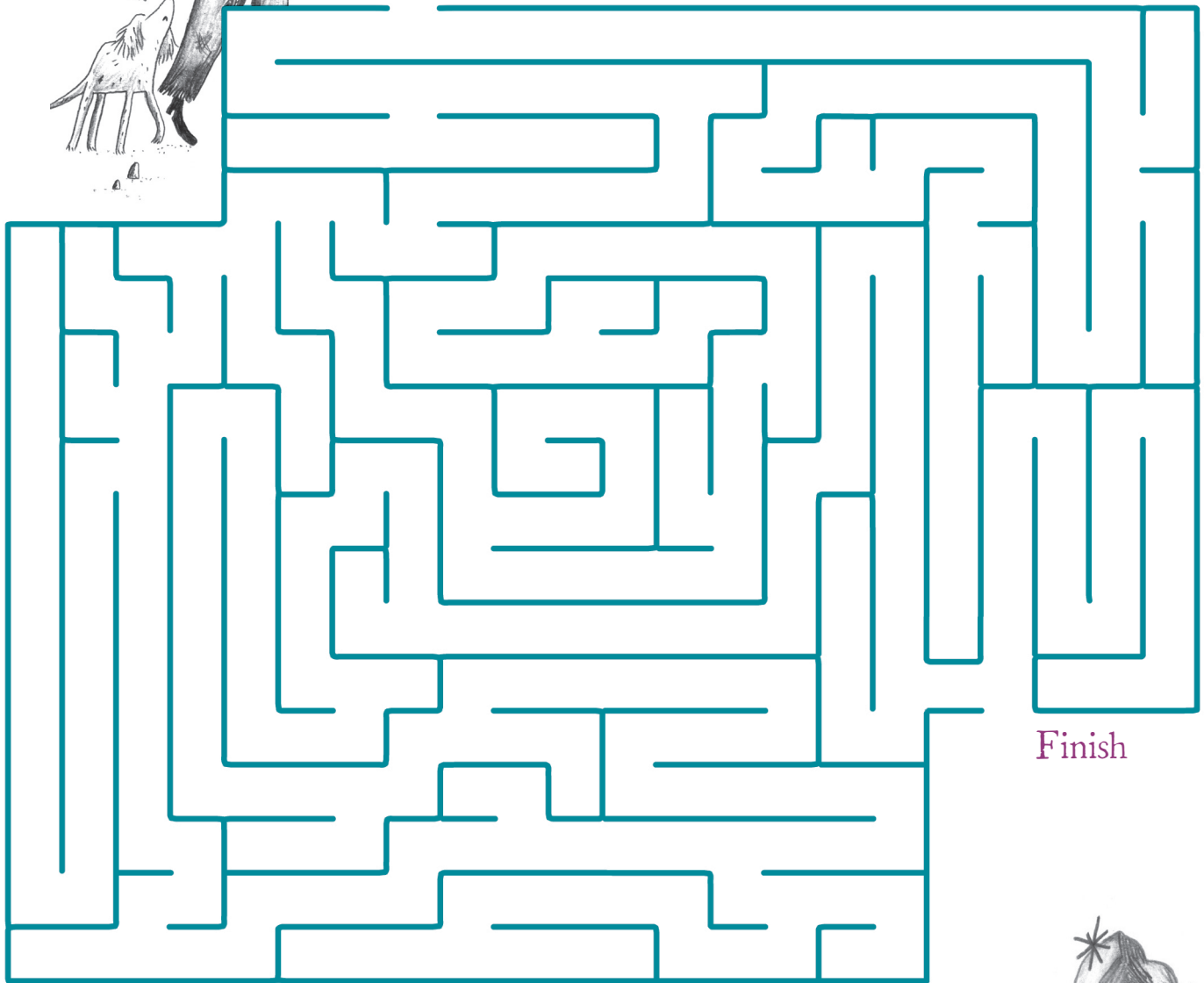
| Sentences from the story | What the underlined word means |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>“There was once a <u>prospector</u>,” he began as he always did, “who struck it rich. But he made enemies who wanted his gold.”</p> | |
| <p>She came back with a roll of <u>tattered</u> canvas in her mouth. It was crumbling around the edges.</p> | |
| <p>She hurled herself against the stump, catching her paws between two roots. She <u>hauled</u> herself out of the water.</p> | |
| <p>“I saw you rescue that bear,” the ringtail said. “That was <u>bold</u>.” That surprised Bo-Bo. <i>I’m not bold</i>, she thought.</p> | |

MAZE

Bo-Bo and Sheng must deliver ten ounces of gold by sundown to save their claim!
Can you help them find their way to the golden nuggets?



Start



Finish

