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TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Devil's Highway

Written by Stan Applegate | Illustrated by James Watling

PB 978-1-56145-184-5

Ages 8–12 | Historical Fiction
AR • RC • Lexile • F&P • GRL T, Gr 5

ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1811, 14-year-old Zeb and 11-year-old Hannah team up to make their way down the dangerous Natchez Trace, a haven for thieves and murderers. Zeb, despite reports to the contrary, is a good-hearted boy who is determined that he is a killer and is determined to find him. Hannah, who escaped from her kidnappers, the treacherous Mason Gang, is trying to get home to her family and her Chickasaw Indian friends. As they nervously travel the dangerous road together, Zeb and Hannah learn to value each other's survival skills, courage, and determination.

Author Stan Applegate includes the history, danger, natural phenomena, and Indians who lived along the Trace and encourages readers to visit the Trace today. Maps inside the front and back covers show the Natchez Trace and the United States as they existed in 1811. Milepostsat each chapter opener indicate location on the present-day Trace.

THEMES

- History, early 19th century America
- Determination, belief in oneself, courage
- Friendship
- Racism
- Native Americans
- Extinction of species
- Heroes, training and treatment

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Dr. Stanley Applegate's historical-fiction series of early nineteenth century life on the treacherous Natchez Trace is a natural springboard for multidisciplinary study. White Bird invites Dave' novels on 19th and 20th grade

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stan Applegate received a B.A. from Penn State University and an Ed.D. from Columbia University. He has held several positions within the education ministries of the governments of North Carolina, and Bermuda. Expert in Education for the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), he was Deputy Director of the Latin American Regional Office of Education for UNESCO in Chile, and Chief of Education, Science, and Technology with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Dominican Republic, Jordan, and Egypt. He lives with a wife, a retired teacher, near Atlanta.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

James Walling was born in England and lives now in Atlanta. He has been teaching art and design at art education at McGill University. He has illustrated more than twenty-five books, including Sessmer, The Tree That Owns Itself, and Natchez Under-the-Hill.

Peachtree Teacher's Guide for
THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY
was prepared by Honey Henry Jenkins, who based a curriculum on this book for 5th and 6th grade students at Berglund Elementary School in Blayton, Georgia.

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PEACHTREE
PUBLISHERS
phone 404.876.8761 • 800.241.0113
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www.peachtree-online.com

updated 5/13/10

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