

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

## RED FEVER by Caroline Clough



www.florisbooks.co.uk

### Themes/issues addressed in this book

Family, friendship, illness, life post-apocalypse, death, grief, boats, surviving, rejection, trust, Aberdeenshire, the Sea

### Book Summary

Toby's little sister, Sylvie, is desperately ill, but finding medication to treat her is proving difficult as most of Scotland's population has been wiped out by Red Fever, a deadly virus. Pirates are patrolling the coastline, and packs of wild dogs are terrorising the survivors. As Sylvie's condition deteriorates, Toby and his father race against time to try to save her. They rescue Jamie and his dog Belle, and together, Toby and Jamie embark on an expedition to Aberdeen to rescue Jamie's mother, a doctor. She has been monitoring Cerberus, the dogs' leader, and she may have medicines to treat Sylvie. They find her trapped under a rock fall, but unharmed, and they make a bid for freedom, thwarting pirates and dog packs as they flee. Eventually they make it to safety and they discover that there is a safe haven in Orkney, free from disease and dogs, so they set sail northwards to try to rebuild their lives.

## BEFORE READING

### Group Activities

- Discussion: have you ever required medication to make you feel better? Did it work?
- Discussion: where do everyday things like food and petrol come from? What would happen if there were no petrol stations or shops? How would you eat and travel?
- Discussion: what is pack instinct?

## AFTER READING (note, contains spoilers!)

### Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when:
  - a) The pirate ship fires at the *Lucky Lady* (chapter 3)
  - b) Toby falls asleep and his Dad snaps at him (chapter 6)
  - c) The pirate doesn't give Toby away (chapter 7)
  - d) Jamie tries to run away (chapter 12)
  - e) Jamie finds his Mum (chapter 17)
- Toby continually tries to stop himself from thinking about his Mum because he is still grieving for her, and thinking about her is painful. Write three paragraphs on grief and the ways in which Toby copes with his Mother's death. Explain whether you think he is coping well or badly, and give reasons for your answer.
- Think about living on a boat instead of in a house. Would you like it? Write down five things you might have to do differently if you lived in a boat rather than in a house.

### Group Activities

- Class discussion: crying is for girls. On page 54, it states that "Toby hated crying. That was for girls." How do you feel about this statement? Do you think it is true? Do you think that it is sometimes more acceptable for girls to cry than for boys? How do you feel about that? Give reasons for your answers.
- Class project: lighthouses. Find out what lighthouses are used for, how they are operated, how many there are in Scotland, and so on. Research the history of lighthouses in your own country and around the world, and if you live near the coast, perhaps you could have a class visit to a lighthouse to see how it works. Draw some pictures of lighthouses to decorate your classroom walls. You may use the books, magazines, and the internet to carry out your research.

(continued overleaf)

### Kelpies Series Summary

The award-winning Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Floris Books took over the list in 2001, republishing classic works by authors such as Kathleen Fidler, Mollie Hunter, George Mackay Brown and Allan Campbell McLean. Since then, we have continued to add to the series with a range of highly successful new Scottish novels for children including books by Gill Arbutnott, Alex Nye, Lari Don, Anne Forbes, Annemarie Allan, Mike Nicholson and Margaret Forrester.

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

### 5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P4-P7

#### Listening:

Listening in Groups  
Listening for Information, including instructions and directions

#### Reading:

Reading for Information  
Reading to Reflect  
Awareness of Genre

#### Talking:

Talking in Groups  
Talking about Texts  
Talking about Experiences, including feelings and opinions

#### Writing:

Functional  
Imaginative

### National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stage 2

#### English: Reading

Reading Strategies  
Response to Texts, including analysing and evaluating  
Reading for Information

#### National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading  
Text-Level Writing  
Vocabulary

- Class activity: maps. There are lots of place names of towns and villages in Scotland, and Aberdeenshire in particular, mentioned in the book. Make a list of as many as you can and then, taking a map of Scotland, try to find as many as you can on your map. Compare with the others to see which group were able to plot the most.

## Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean (page numbers of example words in brackets):

adamant (151)	contingency (137)	immunity (85)	pulsating (38)	stagnant (176)
ammunition (200)	crevice (188)	inaudible (143)	pungent (10)	succumbed (32)
amplify (19)	dehydration (55)	makeshift (126)	putrefying (69)	tarpaulin (75)
antibiotics (25)	derelict (70)	mariners (13)	quizzically (110)	taut (47)
ascent (11)	dominance (154)	mechanism (112)	radar (27)	tension (82)
bombardment (201)	epidemic (66)	molten (206)	rhythmic (18)	tentatively (196)
cacophony (159)	estuary (90)	parapet (51)	scavenge (109)	transparency (101)
cavalry (153)	fatigue (121)	plume (31)	scrounged (23)	unfurled (107)
chaotic (214)	flotsam (7)	promenade (163)	solitary (222)	utility (37)
civilisation (43)	fungi (108)	promontory (127)	spar (8)	viral (121)
compound (116)	granite (164)	prow (95)	spontaneously (208)	visible (174)