

GLOSSARY

(Meanings explained here are only for the use of the words in this book.)

ancestors: persons who came before you in a family line, such as a grandfather, or someone earlier

bear: a large, heavy animal with thick fur and a very short tail

borrow: to be allowed to use something—such as money—for a period of time, with the promise to return it

cache: a place for hiding or storing something, such as food or other things that are needed

caribou: a North American animal having horns; of the same family as a *moose*, but smaller

cartridge: the case, usually metal, which holds the powder in a shot from a gun

cough: to clear the throat by forcing out air with a sudden loud noise

creek: a small river or stream

degree: a measurement for temperature. Example: 20 degrees below zero

famine: a great lack of food that causes starving in a large region

frost: moisture which freezes and gives a white appearance to the things it covers

gambling: the playing of games in which the winner gains something of value, usually an amount of money

gambler: a person who plays such games

grubstake: money loaned to a man starting on a journey seeking gold, to allow him to buy food and other things he needs. The person lending the money receives a share of what is found.

hallucination: the seeing or hearing of things around you that are not really there. This often happens to people who are very ill or weak.

harness: the strips of leather by which the dogs pulling a *sled* are bound together. These strips are arranged so the driver of the sled can control the movements of the dogs.

howl: the long, sad cry of *wolves*, dogs and some other animals

Indian: a member of one of the many tribes of native people who were already living in North America before people arrived from Europe

missionary: a person sent by a church to teach its religion

missionaries: more than one missionary

mission: the building where the missionaries lived and taught, and also where some of the pupils lived

mitten: a glove with one large covering for four fingers, and another smaller one for the thumb

moccasin: a shoe made of soft leather, without a heel

moose: a large North American animal, having large horns with many points. Of the same family as the *caribou*, but larger

numb: loss of all, or part of, the sense of feeling

otter: an animal having soft, thick fur, which is able to swim. It has a long tail and eats small animals and fish.

ounce: a measurement of weight

scientist: a person who works to learn more about a science

seal: a sea animal with short fur that lives in cold waters and eats fish

sisters: female members of a church group; frequently *missionaries* and teachers

sled: a low wagon on metal rods, used for riding or for carrying things across snow and ice. They are pulled by several strong dogs taught to do this work.

snowshoes: wood frames with leather strips arranged to support a person's weight on top of snow. They are worn on the shoes, to permit walking without sinking into deep snow.

sock: a short stocking

spear: a long metal or wood stick, with a sharply pointed head, which can be thrown by hand to kill an animal

stake a claim: to mark a piece of land on which you believe there is gold. When land is thus marked, it becomes yours and another person cannot honorably search for gold in that place.

trail: the path followed by sleds when they travel from one place to another. The passing of the sleds presses down the snow so the trail can be seen easily.

Ulysses: a Greek king of ancient times who was famous for his wandering

watch: a device for telling time that is small enough to be carried in a pocket

Yukon: a territory of northwest Canada, east of Alaska. Also, a river flowing through this territory and Alaska into the Bering Sea

zero: the amount of cold that is 32 *degrees* below freezing, according to one system of measuring temperature