

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"The Race Against Death"

1. Consider the last line of the introduction: "Unfortunately, the people of Nome would not be that lucky." What literary device is the author using? What purpose does it serve? (literary devices, author's craft)
2. A place that is remote is far away and hard to get to. In the section "A Deadly Outbreak," how does the author support the idea that Nome, Alaska, was a remote place? (key ideas and supporting details)
3. Why was the trip to Nome so dangerous for the mushers? (key ideas and details, inference)
4. On page 9, the author writes, "In spite of the risks, Shannon pushed on, pausing for only a few hours near the end to rest his dogs and warm his frozen body." What does this detail tell you about Shannon? (inference)
5. Personification is the assignment of human qualities or emotions to nonhuman animals, objects, or ideas. What is the author personifying in the following line on page 10: "The minutes crawled by as Balto sniffed through several feet of snow . . ." What effect does this personification create? (figurative language, mood)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

"The Race Against Death"

1. Why is it unlikely that the people of Nome would face the same crisis today that they faced in 1925?

2. Why do you think the story of Nome captured national attention?