

LEVELED BOOK • H

# Sled Dogs to the Rescue



Written by M. Aboff • Illustrated by Jani Orban

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## Focus Question

What lessons do the sled dog teams teach us?

## Words to Know

Alaska  
blizzard  
driver

famous  
medicine  
teams

Page 3: The press photographs one of the sled dog teams, including Balto in the front, for a reenactment of their arrival in Nome.

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Level H Leveled Book  
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### Correlation

LEVEL H	
Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13-14
DRA	14



*BALTO OF NOME.*

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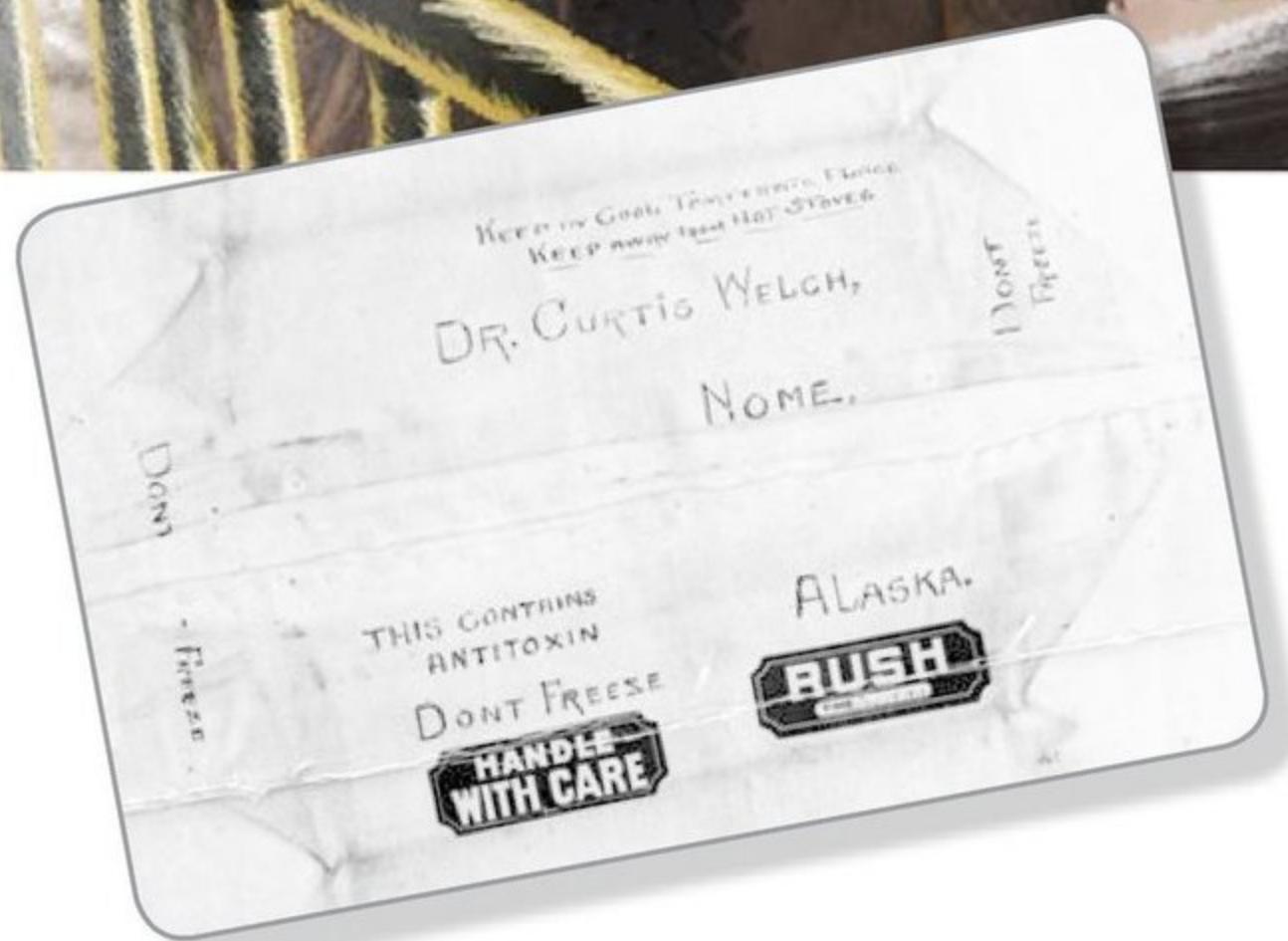
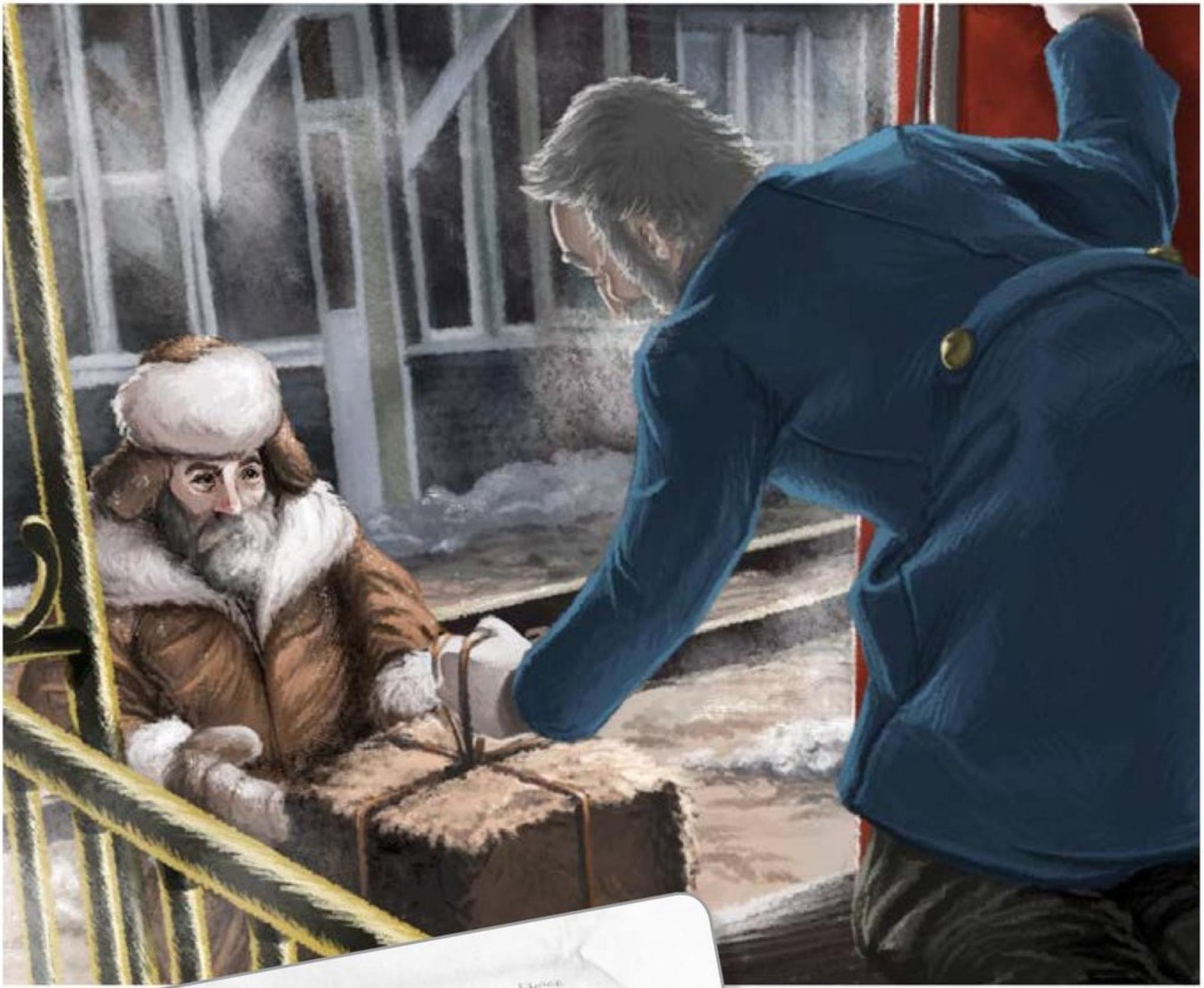


The town's only doctor worked to save lives in this hospital.

## A Terrible Disease

In January 1925, a big storm hit Alaska.

Children in a town in Alaska were very sick and needed medicine.



The package containing the medicine for the children (inset)

The medicine could be brought part of the way by train. There were still 674 miles (1,085 km) to the town.

Sled dog teams had to bring  
it the rest of the way.





The teams raced from the last train stop in Nenana to the town called Nome, where the sick children lived.

## The Great Sled Dog Relay

The medicine came by train  
and was given to the first team.  
The race was on.



The medicine was passed

from team to team.

It often had to be warmed

by the fire.

One driver and his lead dog,  
Togo, raced for more miles  
than any other team.



Togo and his driver



Balto and his driver



## The Dogs Deliver

Another driver and his lead dog,  
Balto, raced in a **blizzard**.

At one point, the wind blew  
them over.

The driver had to dig the medicine  
out of the snow.



When the last team was not ready to leave, Balto's team went on instead.

Five and a half days after the race began, they made it to the town.





Togo's team (top) and Balto's team (bottom) pose with their drivers. They all became famous after the race.

## After the Race

After the race, Togo's team went all over the United States. Balto's team did, too.

Balto's team lived the rest  
of their lives in a zoo.

Balto was the most **famous**  
of the sled dogs.



Balto and his  
team pull children  
at the zoo (top).  
Balto poses for  
the artist who  
built a statue  
of him (right).





Balto's statue honors all of the sled dogs that raced to the town (main). Balto and his driver visit the new statue (inset).



However, the other dogs also helped save the sick children when there was little hope.

## Glossary

<b>Alaska</b> (n.)	a U.S. state in the extreme northwest corner of North America (capital: Juneau) (p. 4)
<b>blizzard</b> (n.)	a severe snowstorm with cold temperatures, heavy snows, and strong, steady winds (p. 10)
<b>driver</b> (n.)	a person who controls and directs a vehicle or other form of transportation (p. 9)
<b>famous</b> (adj.)	well known (p. 14)
<b>medicine</b> (n.)	a drug or remedy used for treating an illness or condition (p. 4)
<b>teams</b> (n.)	groups of animals harnessed together to pull vehicles (p. 6)

# Sled Dogs to the Rescue

A *Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book*

Word Count: 210

## Connections

### Writing

Do you think the sled dogs and their drivers are heroes? Write a paragraph that explains why or why not. Use details from the book in your answer.

### Social Studies

Draw the state of Alaska. Label at least five important landmarks.

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