



Vermont Reads 2016



The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition

by **Caroline Alexander**

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by **Jennifer Armstrong**

A Statewide One-Book Community Reading Program



Vermont communities are invited to participate in a statewide read of two books for Vermont Reads 2016: Jennifer Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* and Caroline Alexander's *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*. 2016 will be the hundredth anniversary year of the climactic and dramatic conclusion of the *Endurance* expedition (1914–1916).

Vermont Reads Shackleton will afford Vermont students and adults alike the opportunity to consider, among other things, the power of vision, courage, and perseverance, the nature of leadership, and the spirit of adventure and exploration. Vermonters will learn about the expedition itself, consider its historical context (including

World War I, and Arctic and Antarctic exploration generally), and come to understand better what is happening today to ice in the Arctic, Antarctica, and glaciers worldwide.

Libraries, schools, and other nonprofit organizations may apply; collaboration among town organizations and businesses is strongly encouraged.

- **RECEIVE FREE** books and programming support for your community.
- **HOST** readings, discussions, and community events in your schools, libraries, and local businesses.
- **LISTEN** to Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Reads feature.

Apply — Applications due December 4, 2015 (winter/spring participation) or June 3, 2016 (summer/fall participation). Visit vermontreads.org or call 802.262.1355.

Vermont Humanities Council
11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602
802.262.2626 • info@vermonthumanities.org
www.vermonthumanities.org



*With support
from the Jack &
Dorothy Byrne
Foundation*



Vermont Reads Shackleton Information and Application

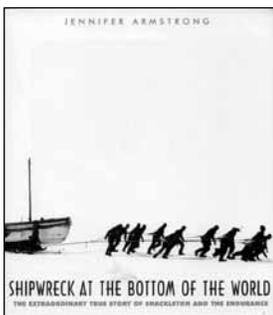


Vermont Reads Supporters

The Vermont Humanities Council is grateful to the major partners that support Vermont Reads. Since 2007, Vermont Reads has been generously underwritten by **Renewable NRG Systems** of Hinesburg, Vermont (formerly NRG Systems). VHC is also grateful for the generous support of the **Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation** and the **Fieldstone Foundation**. **Vermont Public Radio** is VHC's media partner; each year VPR presents several days of Vermont Reads programming.

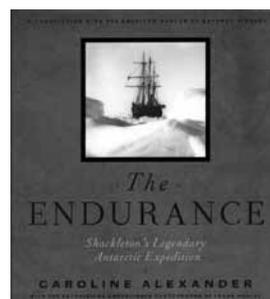
Why Two Books?

There have been many books written in the last century about Shackleton and *The Endurance*. Both of the books that we selected—Jennifer Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* and Caroline Alexander's *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*—are well-written and image-rich. They were both written in the late 1990s and thus include some of the previously unavailable sources and archival materials from the journey.



Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World is suitable in reading level and content for most people in the middle-school-grade reading range (grades 6-8). Like many great books for young readers, we have found it to be very compelling for skilled adult readers as well.

Caroline Alexander's book *The Endurance* is nearly twice as long, written with slightly more challenging language, and contains more images (including many previously unpublished photos taken by Frank Hurley).



The essential story is the same in both books—in other words, you could have a successful book discussion with participants having read either book. If you'd like, we will send you a copy of each book so that you can examine them before deciding what book/s to request. We will be happy to work with you to select the titles and quantities that will work best for your project.

About Ernest Shackleton and the *Endurance*

Renowned explorer Ernest Shackleton and a crew of twenty-seven men set sail about the *Endurance* for the South Atlantic in August 1914, just days before the start of World War I. They were in pursuit of an unclaimed prize in the history of exploration: the first crossing on foot of Antarctica. They came within eighty-five miles of the continent, sailing a hazardous path through the pack ice of the Weddell Sea when the ship was trapped in the ice pack. After nine anxious months, the ship was crushed, leaving the crew stranded on the ice.

The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition and *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* give riveting accounts of this expedition—one of history's greatest epics of survival. Both books feature Frank Hurley's astonishing photography, which brings to life the terrible beauty of that desolate region, the awful destruction of the ship, and the crew's heroic daily struggle to stay alive and make their way back home.

About the Authors

Caroline Alexander was born in Florida of British parents and has lived in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. She studied at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar and earned a doctorate in classics from Columbia University. She has written for *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *National Geographic*, and is the author of seven other books, including *Mrs. Chippy's Last Expedition*, the journal of the *Endurance's* resident cat; *The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty* (2004); and a new translation of the *Iliad* (*The War*



that Killed Achilles: The True Story of Homer's "Iliad" and the Trojan War, 2015). *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* has been translated into thirteen languages.

Ever since the first grade, **Jennifer Armstrong** knew that she would become an author. She loved making up stories and sharing them with

others. The fact that her family treasured books led her to become an avid reader of all types of fiction, and so it was no surprise when she chose to study English and American Literature at Smith College. Armstrong is the author of over 100 books for children from kindergarten through high school. Best known for writing historical fiction, she has also been successful in creating picture books, easy readers, chapter books, young adult novels, as well as nonfiction. Armstrong, who grew up outside of New York City, now lives in Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information on Jennifer Armstrong, visit www.jennifer-armstrong.com.

Participating Communities Receive

- Up to 75 copies of the Vermont Reads titles with a Vermont Reads 2016 seal on the cover. (The number of books awarded depends on the project's size and scope, and creativity.) To purchase additional books at a discount, contact VHC (subject to availability).
- Program ideas, discussion guides, recommended books for all ages, and links to web resources (all found here and on our website)
- Vermont Reads stickers and bookmarks
- Poster templates for promoting events
- Publicity assistance through the VHC media calendar, press releases, and website
- Contact names upon request of prior Vermont Reads project directors who would be happy to share tips for how to make your project successful.

To Qualify

To qualify, the community should have:

- A organization willing to be the primary sponsor/coordinator—a library, a school, a historical society, or social service organization are all possibilities.
- 1-2 representatives of that organization willing to act as project director(s).

- At least two other organizations to join the project team and help develop and carry out the program plan. Involve as many partners as possible. In addition to groups mentioned above, potential local partners might include bookstores; museums; church groups; local businesses; service organizations; afterschool/summer programs; teen centers; senior centers/assisted living facilities; and adult education and literacy services centers. Organizations must develop strong collaborations, plan creative and diverse humanities-based activities that support community-wide reading and discussion of the book and the themes it contains, and undertake vigorous publicity in the months leading up to the activities.

A Note on Dispensing Books: Communities should make a concerted effort to distribute and reuse the books awarded by VHC. Have readers sign their names on the inside cover, comment on the book, date their entry, and pass the book on.

Alternate Version of the Books: VHC has unabridged audio CDs and Large Print copies of *The Endurance* available for lending.

The Vermont Department of Libraries operates a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for the visually impaired and print disabled. Patrons of this library service may access a wide variety of library materials. *The Endurance* is available in digital talking books format and large print [the numbers are: DB 47531 (digital talking book) and LP 47531 (large print)]. And *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* is available in digital talking book format only (DB 49029).

Visit their website to learn more about this service:

libraries.vermont.gov/library_for_the_blind

Program Implementation Dates: Events may be scheduled anytime in 2016. VHC suggests planning activities over a concentrated period of weeks or months.

Application Deadlines: December 4, 2015 and June 3, 2016 for priority consideration. Applications will be accepted beyond the deadlines if books are available.

We will respond to your application within two weeks of the deadline. Award notifications will contain an estimated ship date for your books based upon your event schedule.

Submit your community application at vtreads.org. For other questions contact Mike Dougherty, Community Programs Assistant at mdougherty@vermonthumanities.org or (802) 262-1355.

Adult education centers and correctional facilities should contact Jan Steinbauer, Director of Literacy Programs, at jsteinbauer@vermonthumanities.org or (802) 262-1352.



Vermont Reads Shackleton

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM COORDINATION TIPS



Planning Your Vermont Reads Events

This year's Vermont Reads books, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* and *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*, present opportunities for numerous extension activities ranging from book discussions, to igloo building and art exhibitions. The kinds of activities that promote shared reading and discussion are bounded only by the imaginations that you and your collaborators bring to the project. If you develop a new idea, please let us know so that we can share it with other communities!

Vermont Reads: Shackleton Activity Ideas

Lead a Book Discussion Group – Ideally, a discussion group should be facilitated by a person comfortable leading conversations in which everyone feels encouraged to participate. Facilitators might be teachers, librarians, town VIPs, or others who are skilled and enthusiastic about leading a discussion. Vermont Reads 2016 features two books, but the essential story is the same in both books — in other words, you could have a successful book discussion with participants having read either book. See the [Vermont Reads 2016 discussion guide] for discussion questions and tips for a successful book discussion. Note: VHC does not fund discussion facilitators for Vermont Reads; facilitators should either be volunteers, or project coordinators must make their own honorarium arrangements with facilitators.

Listen to the VPR Broadcast – Gather a group around the radio — or around a computer — to listen to VPR's Vermont Reads program after it is made available on the web. Vermont Public Radio is VHC's media partner for Vermont Reads. Use the program as a lead-in to a discussion. Broadcast dates and times will be publicized when they are available.

Host a Movie Night or Series – There are a number of movies and documentaries about Shackleton, Antarctica, and what is happening today to ice in the Arctic, Antarctica, and glaciers worldwide. They include:

- **Shackleton** – This British two-part TV movie from 2002 features actor Kenneth Branagh as Ernest Shackleton.
- **The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition** – This documentary, released in 2000 and directed by George Butler, is based on Caroline Alexander's book of the same name.
- **Chasing Shackleton** – This 2014 documentary chronicles explorer Tim Jarvis and his crew's attempt to replicate the James Caird's incredible voyage from Elephant Island to South Georgia Island to summon a rescue party to return to Elephant Island and save the rest of the crew.

Vermont Humanities

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Underwriter



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- *The Antarctica Challenge: A Global Warning* – This 2010 documentary film explores the past, present, and future of scientific exploration on Antarctica with a focus on the latest discoveries related to climate change.
- *Encounters at the End of the World* – This 2008 documentary from renowned filmmaker Werner Herzog is an “entertaining travelogue spiked with quirky observations,” mostly focusing on the humans currently inhabiting Antarctica.
- *Antarctica: A Year on Ice* – This 2014 documentary by New Zealand filmmaker Anthony B. Powell is set in Antarctica, specifically in the Ross Island region, home to two research bases. The film focuses on the everyday workers that keep the stations and the equipment running so the scientists can complete their work. Interviewees include a helicopter pilot, fireman, cook, mechanic, storekeeper, and operations manager. gathering or facilitate community “story circles” workshops.



VHC Speakers Bureau – Host one of VHC’s Speakers Bureau programs that relate to some of the broad topics of Vermont Reads Shackleton:

Douglas Brooks – “From Skiffs to Sail Ferries: The Story of Vermont’s Small-Boat Traditions.” Award winning boat builder and

writer Douglas Brooks will discuss the tradition of small boats building from throughout the Green Mountain State, and share his work in recreating some of these historic vessels.

Michael Tougias – “The Finest Hours: The True Story Behind the U.S. Coast Guard’s Most Daring Sea Rescue.” Tougias tells the story of the historic rescue of 70 sailors from two sinking ships during a 1952 blizzard off the coast of New England, and facilitates a discussion about bravery, heroism, and how the generosity of the human spirit can compel all of us to help those in need.

Note that you must apply separately to host VHC-subsidized Speakers Bureau programs. Visit vermonthumanities.org/speakers-bureau to apply and to see the entire catalog.

Panel Discussions or Guest Speakers

– Among the topics Vermont Reads Shackleton addresses are issues related to:

- Climate change; in particular, what is happening today to ice in the Arctic, Antarctica, and glaciers worldwide
- Polar studies
- The power of vision, courage, and perseverance
- The nature of leadership
- The spirit of adventure and exploration in the heroic age of polar exploration and at other times.
- The history and evolution of photography (using Frank Hurley’s spectacular photographs as a starting point)



Convene a panel of informed and interested community members—photographers, sailors, writers, those in leadership positions—to bring their perspectives to these and other issues related to the Shackleton story. Perhaps there are even members of your community who have traveled to Antarctica, who have experience in arctic mountaineering, or who have experience with sled dogs!

Guest Speaker: Michael Tougias on *Survival Lessons* – Award-winning author and compelling speaker, Michael Tougias has conducted extensive research involving people who have survived disasters and obstacles that most of us shudder to think about. He shares what he has learned about decision-making under pressure from researching his six national bestsellers: *Rescue of the Bounty*, *A Storm Too Soon*, *Overboard! Ten Hours Until Dawn*, *Fatal Forecast*, and *The Finest Hours*. Tougias has learned that the techniques used by survivors can help all of us achieve our dreams, manage change, and lead more fulfilling, productive lives. (This lecture includes dramatic slides of some of the survival situations discussed.) This talk is not a part of the VHC Speakers Bureau; please contact Michael directly (508-488-6984; mtougias@comcast.net; www.michaeltougias.com) for scheduling and fee arrangements for this talk.

Boat Projects – Vermont Reads Shackleton and the boats featured in the story (including the ship *Endurance* and the small boat the *James Caird*) provide a great “launching” point

for maritime-related programming. The following resources might be useful as you plan boat-related events:

Boat buoyancy activities –

www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/cre8time/build-boat-buoyancy.shtml

www.teachengineering.org/view_lesson.hp?url=collection/duk_/lessons/duk_float_mary_less/duk_float_mary_less.xml

Boat race science activity –

www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2013/09/boat-race-science-a-school-age-stem-program/

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, located in Vergennes, is a great resource for boat building and maritime history. They are open to the public from May to October, but their resource-rich website is accessible year-round: www.lcmm.org/museum_info/visit.htm

Art Projects – Cold weather has inspired a wealth of artists over the years, including:

- Frank Hurley with his spectacular photographs from the *Endurance* expedition
- Snow artist Simon Beck and his massive geometric snow installations (snowart.gallery)
- Vermont’s own Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley and his photographs of snowflakes: (snowflakebentley.com/)
- Sculptor Alexander Calder and his 1948 mobile “Snow Flurry” (www.moma.org/collection/works/81427).

Invite Vermont Reads participants to create drawings, photographs, sculptures or paintings inspired by cold weather, ice, or glaciers. Arrange for exhibit space at your local library, school, or museum to show participants’ work.

Snow Structure Building – If your community’s Vermont Reads project occurs in the winter months, you might consider igloo or snow structure building activities, inspired by the “dogloos” built by the crew of the *Endurance*. See “How to Build an Igloo and Other Snow Shelters” by Norbert E. Yankielun (books.wwnorton.com/books/How-to-Build-an-Igloo/ and boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/projects/6793/how-to-build-an-igloo/) for more information. In addition, Montshire Museum in Norwich, Vermont, hosts an annual “Igloo Build” day in February of each year.

Culminating Celebrations – Many communities have chosen to conclude their Vermont Reads activities with a festive and fun event, such as a dinner or a themed potluck put on by several collaborating organizations. These final events are also useful for showcasing student work done as part of the Vermont Reads project, recognizing contest winners, or hosting a panel discussion or presentation.

Displays – Libraries, bookstores, schools: Ask both your community public library and your school library, as well as local bookstores, to feature prominent displays of Vermont Reads Shackleton books and other related titles.



Other Notes on Planning Successful Vermont Reads Projects

Know Your Audience – Be sure you know your audience before determining the activity or activities you plan to undertake. You may be interested in hosting programs for adults, young adults, middle-school students, or a combination of these. These books were chosen for their broad appeal to a wide range of people: young and old, strong and fragile readers. You may choose to appeal to a diverse group or target a specific type of reader.

Involve Your audience in Planning Your Programs – In the choice of activities, the planning details, and the on-site coordination of them. This will help everyone feel invested in the events, and increase participation dramatically.

Book Access – Ideally, participants will come to the program — of whatever type — having read some or all of the book. However, with the possible exception of book discussion programs, this should not be a stringent requirement for participation. After all, perhaps an interesting discussion may be just the thing to get the person to finish reading the book! Please make every effort

to accommodate beginning readers or those needing a reading partner. Places to contact for assistance include adult basic education centers, libraries, and schools.

VHC has unabridged audio CDs and Large Print copies of *The Endurance* available for lending.

The Vermont Department of Libraries operates a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for the visually impaired and print disabled. Patrons of this library service may access a wide variety of library materials. Caroline Alexander's *The Endurance* is available in digital talking books format and large print [the numbers are: DB 47531 (digital talking book) and LP 47531 (large print)]. And Jennifer Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* is in digital talking book format only (DB 49029). Visit the Department of Libraries website to learn more about this service: libraries.vermont.gov/library_for_the_blind

Location, Location, Location – Program location possibilities are as numerous as the types of possible activities. Consider transportation needs when deciding on a location and arrange for busing or car pools whenever possible if the need arises. For some, getting to an out-of-the-way site presents a challenge, so consider central locations with easy access (including access for those with disabilities). Traditional sites such as libraries, schools, senior centers, town halls, and civic buildings are excellent, but we encourage you to think non-traditionally as well in order to increase your audience. Try these locations: cafés, coffee shops, and restaurants; retirement communities; city parks and other public-use areas; town pools, beaches and lakefronts; organizations such as the YMCA/YWCA and Boys-and-Girls Club; church function rooms; bookstores; and local businesses.

Collaborations – We ask that all Vermont Reads projects involve at least three community partners. We find that the more community organizations work together on programming, the greater the impact of the programs. Not every program activity has to involve every collaborating organization, but we encourage cross-promotion whenever possible. Collaborations also lead to the maximum number of readers having access to a limited number of books.

Frequent Vermont Reads community partners include community libraries, school and senior centers, but we welcome other partners, too. Local businesses such as bookstores, coffee shops, or even outdoor gear stores might support the program by hosting events, distributing books,

and helping fund program activities. Talk to your local bookseller to see how you might work together to create readings and other events that reach broadly into the community. Many Vermont Reads activities would work well as a part of after-school programs. Contact your local after-school coordinators to get Vermont Reads on the agenda.

Publicity – Any community sponsoring a Vermont Reads Shackleton project should take advantage of the Council's free publicity tools, including notices on our website and in our media calendar. Submit the Vermont Reads publicity form at least one month before the event date. Include a title and description of the activity, plus date(s), time(s), location(s), and contact information.

VHC also provides a Vermont Reads poster templates, as well as digital versions on our website, and graphical elements (Vermont Reads seal, VHC logo, book cover) that can be used to custom design a flyer. Hang posters and notices everywhere you can think of: libraries, schools, colleges, bookstores, churches, general stores and co-ops, restaurants, cafés and coffee shops, laundromats, town halls, community bulletin boards, and other gathering sites.

Contact your local papers, radio stations, cable access channels, and newsletters, to find out how far in advance they require calendar information, and send out a press release about your activity before the deadline. Make use of the social media tools used in your community, such as Front Porch Forum and local organizations' Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. And don't forget: word-of-mouth is still one of the best ways to draw participants.

Food and Beverages – Making food available—and advertising it—almost always increases attendance. Relate food and beverage items to the books for added flair. Have participants join in the preparation of the refreshments. Local grocery stores, co-ops, restaurants, cafés, coffee shops, and other food-service businesses are often happy to donate food items in return for recognition.





Vermont Reads Shackleton

RESOURCES



There are many resources available about or related to Shackleton and the *Endurance* expedition. This list represents a selection of books for many reading levels, websites, and films that may be useful in planning and implementing your Vermont Reads project. We'd love to hear about resources you discover so we can share them with other Vermont Reads communities. Please send to community@vermonthumanities.org or post them on our Facebook page.

Resources about Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition

Books

South! A Memoir of the Endurance Voyage by Ernest Shackleton. Shackleton's own account of the ordeal was dedicated to "My comrades who fell in the white warfare of the south and on the red fields of France and Flanders." Available in print, it is also available online in its entirety through Project Gutenberg: www.gutenberg.org/files/5199/5199-h/5199-h.htm

South with Endurance: Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917, The Photographs of Frank Hurley. This weighty book contains 500 of Frank Hurley's photographs of The *Endurance* expedition, including several color images. These images are interspersed with several essays about the expedition itself, Hurley's life, and his equipment and process. (A related webpage on Frank Hurley: adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hurley-james-francis-frank-6774)

Shackleton's Boat Journey, by F.A. Worsley, and with narrative introduction by Sir Edmund Hillary. Worsley was Captain of the *Endurance* and the person who navigated the *James Caird* from Elephant Island to the whaling station on South Georgia Island. Because this book focuses largely on their incredible journey on the *James Caird* from April 24 to May 20, the narrative may fit particularly well into school or community activities in between those dates in 2016.

Endurance: *Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing. First published in 1959, Lansing consulted with ten of the surviving members and gained access to diaries and personal accounts by eight others in order to write this classic and bestselling account of the expedition.

Mrs. Chippy's Last Expedition 1914-1915: The Remarkable Journal of Shackleton's Polar-Bound Cat by Caroline Alexander. By the author of *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*, this is a humorous, heartwarming, and carefully researched "re-creation" of Mrs. Chippy the cat's journal from the expedition. (Spoiler: As one might deduce from the dates in the title, neither this book nor real life provided Mrs. Chippy with a happy ending. But the cat has been memorialized in bronze at Harry 'Chippy' McNeish burial site: news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3818613.stm)

Shackleton's Forgotten Men: The Untold Tragedy of the Endurance Epic by Lennard Bickel. This book tells the story of the other group of Shackleton's expedition, the Ross Sea party, which landed on the opposite side of Antarctica in order to sledge across the interior of the continent and leave food for the Shackleton party's trip from the South Pole to the Ross Sea. The Ross Sea party too lost its ship, but, convinced that their failure would doom Shackleton's party to starvation, they revised their plans, persevered, and in spite of three deaths and much more, accomplished their mission. Of course, having failed to reach the pole, Shackleton never needed those supplies. (Related website on the Ross Sea Party: www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/shackleton/1914/lostmen.html)

Shackleton's Journey by William Grill. This detailed, 68-page picture book, published in 2014 and only available in hardcover, is a wonderful visual narrative of Shackleton's journey to Antarctica. The story is told through Grill's colored pencil illustrations, including an inventory of all the provisions needed, individual drawings of each sled dog, and a cutaway diagram of the boats-turned-shelters.



Vermont Reads Shackleton

RESOURCES CONTINUED



Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey by Nick Bertozzi. The story of Shackleton and the *Endurance* told in a graphic novel format.

Trial by Ice: A Photobiography of Sir Ernest Shackleton by K.M. Kostyal. This 1999 National Geographic children's book tells the story of Shackleton's life and includes many dramatic photographs.

Spirit of Endurance by Jennifer Armstrong, illustrated by William Maughan. This 11 ½" x 14 ¼" 32-page picture book, written by the author of *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* and featuring a combination of maps, photographs, and large paintings.

Online Resources

The **Scott Polar Research Institute** at the University of Cambridge houses the world's premier Polar Library, extensive archival, photographic and object collections of international importance on the history of polar exploration. www.spri.cam.ac.uk/

The **Royal Geographical Society** is dedicated to the development and promotion of geographical knowledge, together with its application to the challenges facing society and the environment. Its online Picture Library catalog is extensive and easy to use; it includes Frank Hurley's photographs from the expedition as well as extensive image collections of Antarctica and of other polar expeditions. images.rgs.org/search_.aspx?EventCategoryID=1

Shackleton-related centennial Twitter feeds:

@EShackleton
@shackleton100
@danthewhaler

Teaching Guides

Each of the following teacher's guides was created to accompany a separate film about Shackleton and the *Endurance*. These guides contain content summaries, maps, and activity ideas that may be helpful for Vermont Reads 2016 events.

Teacher Resource Material for Shackleton Epic
Created by the Australian National Maritime Museums.
shackletonepic.com/test/wp-content/uploads/ShackletonPrimaryResources.pdf

Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure: The Greatest Survival Story of All Time, Teacher's Guide
Created by the WGBH Educational Foundation.
main.wgbh.org/imax/shackleton/pdf/teachgd_hi.pdf

Where are the boats today?

The *James Caird* is on display at Dulwich College in South London, Shackleton's alma mater: www.dulwich.org.uk/college/about/history/the-james-caird

Learn more about the history and construction of the *James Caird* here: www.sebcoulthard.com/the-james-caird.html

As of October of 2015, the *Endurance* remains lost somewhere in the Weddell Sea. The following news stories from the last 15 years document some attempts to find it:

"What happened to Shackleton's sunken ship?" by Elizabeth Barber, *Christian Science Monitor*, August 14, 2013. www.csmonitor.com/Science/2013/0814/What-happened-to-Shackleton-s-sunken-ship



Vermont Reads Shackleton

RESOURCES CONTINUED



“Endurance Rush: Two rival British teams launch a tenacious race to find Shackleton's long-lost ship”

by Brad Wieners, *Outside*, January 12, 2003.

www.outsideonline.com/1822061/endurance-rush

“The quest to find Ernest Shackleton's lost ship Endurance that disappeared beneath the ice of the Antarctic nearly a century ago”

by Andrew Preston, *Daily Mail UK*, January 5, 2013.

www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-2256577/Ernest-Shackletons-Endurance-The-quest-lost-ship-disappeared-beneath-ice-Antarctic-nearly-century-ago.html

The *Yelcho*, the small steam tug boat provided by the Chilean Government and captained by Pilot (or captain) Luis Alberto Pardo Villalon, successfully maneuvered to Elephant Island in August 1916 to rescue the remaining men on Elephant Island after three previous attempts on different boats had failed. Learn more about this boat, its crew, and Pilot Pardo here:

www.enduranceobituaries.co.uk/theyelcho.htm

“Pilot Pardo, A Reluctant Hero”

www.jamescairdsociety.com/shackleton-news-103719.htm

Resources about Antarctica

Antarctica: A Biography by David Day. This sweeping history of Antarctica, published in 2013, covers two centuries of exploration, scientific investigation, and contentious geopolitics.

Before the Heroes Came: Antarctica in the 1890s by T.H. Baughman. An in-depth look at those who were there before Roald Amundsen, Robert Scott, and Ernest Shackleton.

The Entire Earth and Sky: Views on Antarctica by Leslie Carol Roberts. This 2008 book was described in *Booklist* as

an “elegantly crafted combination of historiography, natural science, and memoir,” with “a poet’s attention to detail.”

Destination Antarctica by Robert Swan. This children’s book recounts a 1986 Antarctic trek dedicated to the memory of explorer Robert Scott.

“100 Years of Humans in Antarctica” from the National Science Foundation: www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=124362&org=NSF

Resources about Polar Exploration

The Worst Journey in the World by Apsley Cherry-Garrard. This classic book, written by the youngest member of Robert Scott’s ill-fated expedition to the South Pole, tells that compelling story.

Mawson’s Will by Lennard Bickel. First published in 1977, it is another extraordinarily compelling polar survival story about a 1911-1913 three-person expedition with two teams of dogs that was to chart 1500 miles of Antarctic coastline. Another classic and masterful story of exploration and survival.

In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette by Hampton Sides. This 2014 book recounts the journey of the USS Jeannette, a North Pole expedition funded by James Gordon Bennett, the wealthy and eccentric owner of the *New York Herald*.

Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica by Sara Wheeler. This is 1999 memoir of a seven-month trip to Antarctica offers a rare female perspective of Antarctic travel. From *Publisher’s Weekly*: “Her wry, lucid account of that journey juxtaposes the epic exploits of heroic early Antarctic explorers with her own adventures. She offers a critical survey of the literature of Antarctic exploration and provides as well insights into the historical and cultural



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RESOURCES CONTINUED



impact of Antarctic exploration on the British and Norwegian national consciousnesses.”

No Horizon Is So Far: Two Women And Their Extraordinary Journey Across Antarctica by Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft. This is a jointly written memoir by two middle-aged schoolteachers, an American and a Norwegian, set out in November 2000 to become the first women to travel across Antarctica on foot.

Antarctic Conquest: The Great Explorers in Their Own Words, selected and introduced by Walker Chapman. This anthology casts light on more than five centuries of exploration of the world’s most remote continent. Texts are divided into five sections: Terra Australis Incognita, 1506-1777 [ending with James Cook]; The Whaling and Sealing Era, 1821-1839 [ending with Charles Darwin]; Toward the Magnetic Pole, 1841-1874; The Heroic Age, 1896-1920 [with excerpts from, among others, Scott, Shackleton, Cherry-Garrard, Amundsen, and Mawson]; and The Age of Mechanized Exploration, 1930-Present [1965].

Resources about climate change and what is happening today to ice in the Arctic, Antarctica, and glaciers worldwide

Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change by Elizabeth Kolbert. A 2006 examination by this Pulitzer-Prize winning author about the global environment and what, if anything, can be done to save our planet.

“How Ernest Shackleton can help world address climate change: The way Shackleton turned failure into triumph is an inspiration for world leaders”
by Paul Kennedy, CBC News, Dec 9, 2014.
www.cbc.ca/news/world/how-ernest-shackleton-can-help-world-address-climate-change-1.2854228

ABC presents: Antarctica Glaciers. This eleven-minute video produced in 2010 by the Australia Broadcast Channel explores what's happening to the world's biggest ice sheet and how it will affect the rest of the planet. (downloadable mp3 and transcript on website) www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/2886106.htm

“Vanishing Glaciers, Then and Now” by James Balog, Moyers & Company, October 12, 2012. A Photography slide show featuring images from Balog’s book, *Ice: Portraits of Vanishing Glaciers*, billmoyers.com/content/vanishing-glaciers-now-and-then/

“Before-and-After Glacier Photos Show Devastating Climate Change Effects” by Nicole Bonaccorso, weather.com, April 7 2015. www.weather.com/science/environment/news/glaciers-then-and-now

Climate.gov
www.climate.gov/

Described as “Science and Information for a Climate-Smart Nation,” this is the climate resources website from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Resources about Shackleton and Leadership

Shackleton: Leadership Lessons from Antarctica by Arthur Ainsberg; *Shackleton’s Way, Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer* by Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell, with a preface by Alexandra Shackleton; *Leading at the Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton’s Antarctic Expedition* by Dennis N.T. Perkins. All three books take the example of Shackleton and his team in order to derive lessons for people today, in the workplace and personal life.



Vermont Reads Shackleton

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. How would you describe the purpose of this expedition?
2. How do you think the expedition was thought of 'back home' in England, in the midst of World War I?
3. What kind of person was Shackleton?
4. How do you assess Shackleton's leadership in handling the expedition overall? What did he do well? What aspects of Shackleton's leadership strike you as most effective?
5. What lessons about leadership can we learn from Ernest Shackleton?
6. How much responsibility should leaders be charged with in this sort of situation? Should they be held responsible for what the ice does – or just for their own decisions and what they can control?
7. Shackleton obviously has the respect of the crew – why? What has he done to earn their respect?
8. Who were the other heroes in the book besides Shackleton?
9. What lessons about teamwork or following did you learn from the crew? What does it take to be a good follower? How does that differ from being a good leader?
10. What were the crew members' roles and responsibilities?
11. Have you been to places with severe climates, perhaps similar to Shackleton and the *Endurance* crew? Describe the environment: and what it's like to be in this kind of environment – how do these conditions affect you?
12. Think about what you have learned about Antarctic exploration and about each crew member's role and responsibilities. Would you be interested in going on a similar expedition? If so, what role might you play? Did you identify with any particular person in this is book and the role that they played?
13. Had they not been trapped by pack ice, do you think that Shackleton's expedition could have been completed given their equipment and state of readiness? In retrospect, is there additional equipment or training that they might have had?
14. After reading the book, would you like to visit places like Elephant Island and South Georgia Island?
15. What unanswered questions did you have after reading this book (or these books)? What did you want to learn more about after learning about Shackleton and the *Endurance*?

Additional Ideas for a Dynamic Discussion

- Use a facilitator, preferably someone who loves literature, has experience leading discussions, and has taken the time to read and research the book carefully. He or she should be prepared with a list of stimulating questions (the above list is a good start) and should try to include everyone in the conversation. He or she should also provide a brief biography of the author. Consult with VHC for trained discussion facilitators in your area.
- Make every attempt to seat people in a circle. If the group is too large for this configuration, ask people to speak loudly and clearly so that everyone can hear, or, as appropriate, ask them to stand and face the group when talking.
- Don't forget the introductions! Be creative — in addition to stating their names, people might briefly share their general impressions of the book, their reason for attending, or something about the book for discussion.
- Discussion facilitators should use a “closer” to end the discussion. One example is asking everyone (or, if the group is large, volunteers) to share a final thought about the book or the experience they've just had discussing it. Or ask volunteers to read their favorite sentence or paragraph from the book.
- Serve refreshments!

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