

ghost
writer™



**FUN
AND
PUZZLES**



DONNA'S JOURNAL

Things I Never Knew about the Old West

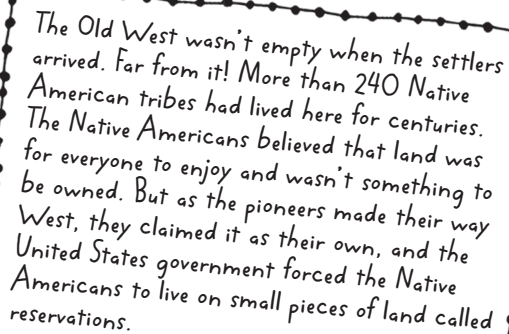


The Gold Rush really was a race to find gold. After gold was discovered in California in 1848, over three hundred thousand people hurried to the West Coast of the United States to "strike it rich" first! Can you imagine?

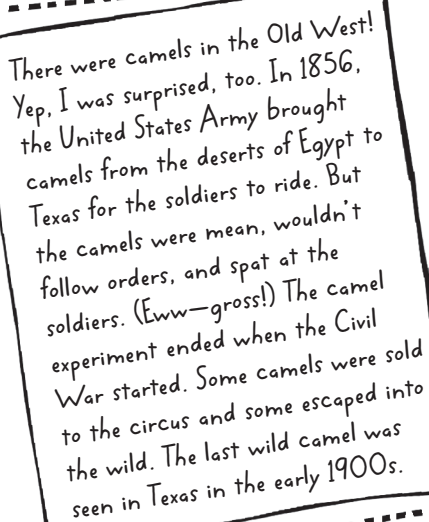
Cowboys weren't just white men. About one in every three were Mexican, and one in every four were freed black slaves who'd headed West at the end of the Civil War for a better life. Thousands of Chinese immigrants were also part of the Old West, working under horrible conditions to build the first railroad across the country.

Cowboys smelled funky! They often wore their clothes for weeks without changing or washing. (Sounds like Curtis after basketball—yuck.) Cowboys wore denim jeans with chaps to protect their legs from thorny branches, and bandannas to keep trail dust out of their noses and mouths. Wide-rimmed hats blocked the sun's glare and were used as cups to scoop water.

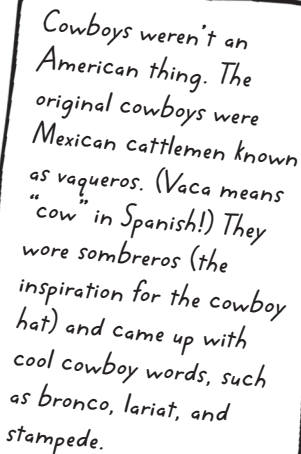




The Old West wasn't empty when the settlers arrived. Far from it! More than 240 Native American tribes had lived here for centuries. The Native Americans believed that land was for everyone to enjoy and wasn't something to be owned. But as the pioneers made their way West, they claimed it as their own, and the United States government forced the Native Americans to live on small pieces of land called reservations.



There were camels in the Old West! Yep, I was surprised, too. In 1856, the United States Army brought camels from the deserts of Egypt to Texas for the soldiers to ride. But the camels were mean, wouldn't follow orders, and spat at the soldiers. (Eww—gross!) The camel experiment ended when the Civil War started. Some camels were sold to the circus and some escaped into the wild. The last wild camel was seen in Texas in the early 1900s.



Cowboys weren't an American thing. The original cowboys were Mexican cattlemen known as vaqueros. (Vaca means "cow" in Spanish!) They wore sombreros (the inspiration for the cowboy hat) and came up with cool cowboy words, such as bronco, lariat, and stampede.

Ruben's Who Said It?



Learning lines for a play is a part of "getting into character." Thinking about how a specific character would think or react in a situation makes it easier to get a sense of his or her

personality. See if you can use the different ways the characters in *Trinity* speak to determine which character said what. Match the quote from the story to the character who said it.

1. "Those bald boys tried to take over the ship. So I shut it down."

2. "I'm the one who brought the rebels here."

3. "A rotten kid hit me with my own shovel."

4. "Doggit!"

5. "You've entered my home without an invitation. For that alone I should let my pet devour you."

6. "Come out, come out."

7. "My folks could be buzzard food by then!"

a. Gilroy

b. Mayor Wilder

c. Hitch

d. Dale

e. Lady Tell

f. The Camarillo Kid

g. Rivin rebel

Chevon's Daring Definitions



Context clues, which are words or phrases that help the reader of a story understand a sentence or idea better, always help guide me when I'm reading.

If there's a word that's stumping me, I look at the rest of the sentence to see if there are clues that can help me figure out what the word means. Or I use what I already know about the story so far to make my best guess. Give it a try using what you already know from *Trinity*.

1. The outlaw on the Most Wanted poster was a dangerous _____ being tracked by the sheriff.

- a. desperado
- b. Colorado
- c. avocado

2. If I were a _____ in the 1850s, I would have traveled to California in search of gold and other minerals.

- a. poet
- b. prospector
- c. pool cleaner

3. I ran up and down the different dead-end paths and tunnels, trying to find my way out of the _____.

- a. lake
- b. labyrinth
- c. refrigerator

4. My favorite kind of horse is a _____. I love its pale golden coat and white mane.

- a. Siamese
- b. German shepherd
- c. palomino

5. Hiking is too _____ for me. You never know if you'll come across a snake or a bear—or some quicksand!

- a. treacherous
- b. friendly
- c. fabulous

6. Oh no! While everyone was asleep, the _____ stole two hundred cows from the ranch.

- a. hacker
- b. rustler
- c. dancer

7. If I get _____ after a lot of studying for a big test, I take deep breaths to calm down.

- a. frazzled
- b. puzzled
- c. tickled

8. I walked down the long _____ that led from the school's front door all the way to the principal's office.

- a. ski slope
- b. highway
- c. corridor

Curtis's Horse Humor



I was so surprised when we found out Hitch's ride was not a real horse! Hitch is definitely cool, but having a space motorcycle is on another level. Since I'm not getting a space motorcycle anytime soon, it got me thinking about having my own horse. I know I live in a city, but just imagine me on the wide-open plains, galloping to school. We'd go super fast, kicking up dust and jumping over creeks. My horse and I would be buddies. I'd even tell him some of these hilarious horse jokes.

What type of horse goes out only at night?

A night-mare!

What did the pony say when it had a sore throat?

I'm a little hoarse!

What sickness do horses hate the most?

Hay fever!

What do you call a horse that lives next door?

A neigh-bor!

What has two arms, two wings, two tails, three heads,
three bodies, and eight legs?

A person on a horse holding a chicken!

What happens when a black horse jumps into the Red Sea?

It gets wet.

What is the difference between a horse and a duck?

One goes quick and the other goes quack.

Why did the cowboy ride his horse?

Because the horse was too heavy to carry!

Chevon's Brainteasers



Trinity is a story about perception, which is basically our ability to make sense of what we observe. Often we have good first observations, but sometimes they can be wrong.

When Hitch came to town wearing his black hat and talking sternly, I immediately thought he was a bad guy. It turns out he was the hero. Actually, Dale was the real hero, and my first perception of Dale was that she was just Hitch's sidekick. My brain sure played tricks on me in this story!

Want to really challenge your brain? See if you can figure out these Old West brainteasers!

1. A woman rides into town on Sunday, stays two days, and leaves on Saturday. How is this possible?
2. A horse is tied to a fifteen-foot rope and there is a bale of hay twenty-five feet away from him. The horse eats from the bale of hay. How is this possible?

3. You're riding a horse. In front of you, an elephant moves at the same pace and you can't overtake it. To the left of you, a hippo runs at the same speed. To the right of you, there's a cliff. A lion is chasing you. How do you get to safety?

4.  +  = 20

 +  = 18

 -  = 8

 +  +  = ?

Ruben's Reading List



Trinity paired two unlikely things, outer space and Westerns, to make an awesome mash-up of history and fantasy (and a little sci-fi!). Since my grandpa owns a bookstore, I decided to search out a few more reads that remind me of *Trinity*. Most on the list are fantasy—I think you'll like 'em!

- *Cleopatra in Space* series by Mike Maihack
- *Game of Stars* by Sayantani DasGupta
- *The Gauntlet* by Karuna Riazi
- *Pi in the Sky* by Wendy Mass
- *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez
- *Neil Armstrong and Nat Love, Space Cowboys* by Steve Sheinkin
- *Zita the Spacegirl* by Ben Hatke

In the Kitchen with Curtis

On-the-Trail Corn Bread

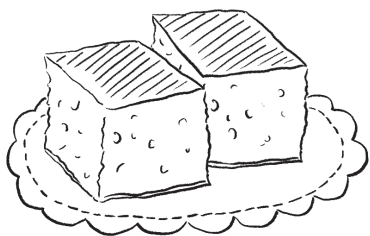


When I get home from school, I like to dig into a burrito or a big deli sandwich, or even dip veggies in hummus. Between school, basketball, and Ghostwriter, I need extra fuel to keep

me on my A game. On the frontier during pioneer times, it was hard to find fresh ingredients to cook a filling meal, but both Native Americans and cowboys loved corn bread. At home, we usually have corn bread with chili or BBQ dinners, and it's hard to beat. Turns out it's easy to make, too, and you can add tons of different toppings.

Here's the recipe for On-the-Trail Corn Bread.

(Ask an adult to help you put it in the oven and take it out.)



Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup yellow cornmeal

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup white sugar

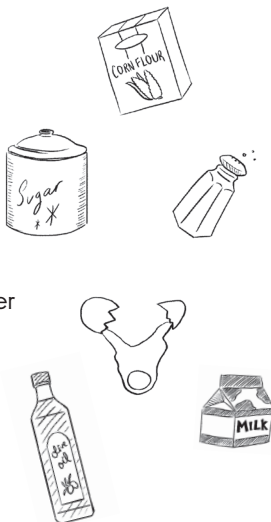
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

$3\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder

1 large egg, lightly beaten

1 cup milk

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup olive oil

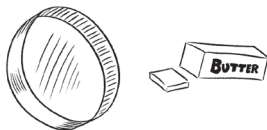


Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).



2. Spray or lightly grease a 9-inch round cake pan.



3. In a large bowl, combine the flour, cornmeal, sugar, salt, and baking powder. Mix in the egg, milk, and olive oil. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.



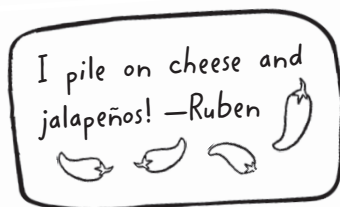
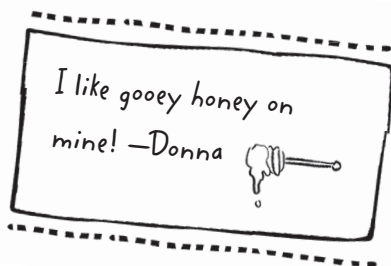
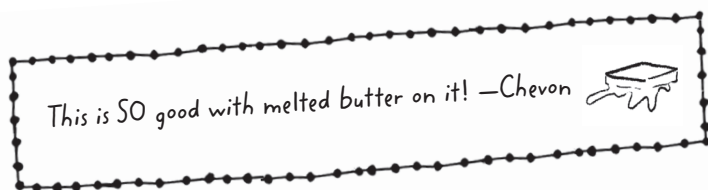
4. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the bread comes out clean.



If you want corn bread muffins, bake them in a muffin pan for 15 minutes.



I shared some corn bread with the crew, and they all put their own spin on it:





Ghostwriter Scramble

Shhhhhh! It's Ghostwriter here with a special, sparkly puzzle.

The Camarillo Kid made the powerful Trinity by combining two precious metals (gold and silver) with a gemstone (diamond). Gemstones are found deep in the earth. After they're polished to a shine, they're used in jewelry.

Unscramble the names of these beautiful gemstones. Use the word bank to help you.

NODDIMA _____

TARGEN _____

MERLADE _____

HESPIRAP _____

PATDZ _____

OLPA _____

ATMYSHET _____



Word Bank

amethyst

diamond

emerald

garnet

opal

sapphire

topaz

My Mystery Word

My mystery word is a synonym for *ghost*. A synonym is a word that means the same, or almost the same, as another word. To find the mystery word, write down all the bolded letters, then unscramble them.

Here's a hint: The synonym starts with the letter P.

P _ _ _ _ _





Answers

Ruben's Who Said It?: 1. d, 2. b 3. a, 4. c, 5. e, 6. g, 7. f

Chevon's Daring Definitions: 1. a, 2. b, 3. b, 4. c, 5. a, 6. b,
7. a, 8. c

Chevon's Brainteasers:

1. Her horse's name is Sunday.
2. The rope isn't tied to anything. The horse can go wherever he wants.
3. Get off the merry-go-round!
4. 13. The horse = 10, the pair of horseshoes = 4, the pair of boots = 2. BUT, in the final equation, there is only one horseshoe ($4 - 2 = 2$) and one boot ($2 - 1 = 1$) so $10 + 2 + 1 = 13$.

Ghostwriter Scramble: DIAMOND, GARNET, EMERALD,
SAPPHIRE, TOPAZ, OPAL, AMETHYST. Mystery Word:
PHANTOM