

Peachtree Pointers

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS

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Hogsty Reef

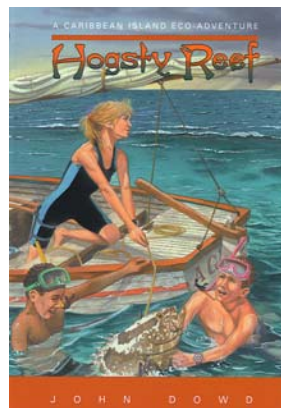
Written by John Dowd

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Young Adult Fiction, Ages 11-15

A Freestone Publication



About the Book

Teenagers Jim and Julia travel to the Turks and Caicos Islands to help Julia's father survey the endangered coral reefs of the Caribbean Sea. Their explorations lead them to North Caico Island where they befriend Marcel, a young Haitian refugee. While fishing off the island's reef, a severe storm blows in and takes Jim and Marcel on a treacherous voyage out to sea. They become stranded on Hogsty Reef. A rusting oil tanker off shore is used as shelter by Jim and Marcel; however, it is also a hideaway used by drug dealers to stowaway their illegal drug money.

Themes

- ✚ Family relationships and grief
- ✚ Personal responsibility
- ✚ Loyalty to friends
- ✚ Refugee issues
- ✚ Ecological protection
- ✚ Drug wars
- ✚ Survival



Praise for Hogsty Reef

"There is lots of action, an exotic location, and the thrill of underlying danger. Young adults will enjoy Jim's hair raising adventures and learn quite a lot about reefs." *Bookselling This Week*

"This interesting, well-written story becomes exciting with elements of adventure and suspense. Readers who enjoyed Theodore Taylor's *The Cay* will like this contemporary island tale." *VOYA*

Hogsty Reef was awarded the American Booksellers Association 1999 Pick of the Lists for Young Adult Readers

Before You Read

Ask readers to think about and discuss the following question and issues:

- ✚ How might you react if one of your parents should die in a terrible car accident? Do you think your feelings toward your surviving parent change? In what ways do you think it would or would not change?
- ✚ How do you think you would be treated by the surviving parent? Do you think you would have more or less freedom than before the death of your other parent?
- ✚ Do you think it is okay to protect a friend from the law? If you knew a friend was residing illegally in your neighborhood, would you notify the authorities? Why or why not?
- ✚ If you found a lot of money that you knew belonged to drug dealers, what do you think you would do with it? Buy a fancy car and

clothes? Give it to charity? Give it to the
As You Read

Ask readers to think about and discuss the following questions and issues:

✚ Do you think Jim was selfish towards his mother and sister when he decided to work for the summer, after his father's death, at the Turks and Caicos Islands? Why or why not?

✚ What is the difference, do you think, between eco-tourism and eco-adventure? Why did the author, John Dowd, call this book an eco-adventure?

✚ Compare and contrast the landscape of British Columbia (the Queen Charlotte Islands) to that of the Caicos Islands. Discuss in terms of landforms climate, flora and fauna, etc.

Activity 1:

On a map of the Caicos Islands, similar to the one in the book, outline in color, the reef that Jim and Julia were exploring.

✚ Describe Jim's reaction to seeing the Haitian refugees at the terminal building and then, later, recovering the remains of the *Agwe*. Do you think Jim's view of the plight of the Haitians changed or remained the same after finding the wreck of the *Agwe*? Do you think Jim would have seen Haitian refugees being arrested at the airport in Vancouver, British Columbia? Why or why not?



✚ What is *lignum vita*? Why does Dowd refer to it often throughout the book?

✚ What was Marcel's relation to the *Agwe*? What was Julie's and Jim's first reaction in meeting Marcel? What language did Marcel speak? Why?

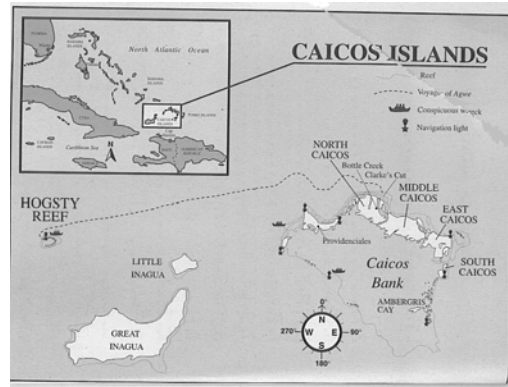
Activity 2:

On a map of the Caribbean Islands locate the country where Marcel was from.

✚ Why was Andreas "firmly" against "harboring" Marcel?

✚ What was the significance of the waterspout that Jim was fixated on? Define what a squall is.

✚ From point #3, being adjacent to Provo, why did Jim think they were headed towards Miami Beach? What direction do you think the wind was coming from?



Activity 3:

Locate "Clarke's Cut" on the map. Place a marker on the spot. Then trace the line to the northern "Bottle Creek" label it as #2. Label the line adjacent to the "communications tower above Provo" as #3.

✚ In the middle Chapter 7 Jim reminisces about his mother, his father's death, George and his mother and his life in Vancouver, BC. Why do you think he would start to think about his life at this point in the book?

✚ In the middle Chapter 7 Jim says to Marcel: "Without being able to see the sun, we can't tell from the shadows where east is." Why is this fact important to the story up to this point?

✚ Define *dorado*, and why it is significant to the story? Find an illustration.

✚ Explain what Julia's and George's strategy was in trying to find Jim and Marcel?

✚ What did Marcel and Jim have in common that was revealed in Chapter 8? How they were very different as far as family relationships were concerned?

✚ What was the significance of the "conspicuous shipwreck" detailed in Chapter 9?

Activity 4:

Locate the “conspicuous shipwreck” near Hogsty Reef and label it #4.

✚ In Chapter 9 Jim and Marcel discuss freedom. Outline their differences and/or similarities in their point-of-views?

✚ What were the islands that Julie suggests, in their “cramped hotel room” that they search by air in their attempt to find Jim and Marcel?

Activity 5:

Circle the islands and label it #5.

✚ What endangered species did they find at “Blood Cay”? What type of human activity was going on there?

Activity 6:

Do a search on the internet on what you can find about turtles and drug smuggling in the Caribbean Region. Find recent articles, maps, photos about turtle protection. Find a picture of what you think the freighter ship Jim and Marcel was staying on looked like. Do you think there are more or less drug smuggling since 1999, the year when *Hogsty Reef* was first published.

✚ What were the islands that Julie suggests, in their “cramped hotel room” that they search by air in their attempt to find Jim and Marcel?

✚ Who was Francois Marot and what was his relationship to Marcel? What did Marot find buried that scared him? What did Marot want to do with what he had found and what was Jim’s reaction to Marot’s suggestion? Why did Jim react that way? What did Jim suggest?

✚ What was the name of the boat that rescued them from Hogsty Reef? How did Jim get the boat and from whom? What did he do after he was reunited with Julia and George? Do you think Jim did the right thing to destroy the boat? Why or why not?

✚ Who was Mr. Smyth and what did he do with the money? What did he do for Marcel? Where did Marcel go?

After You Read

Do you think Jim was morally right in his suggestion to Marot of what the money

could be used for? Do you think government agencies would have found a good use for the money? What about the pain and suffering the money had caused to innocent people because of the drug trade?

Activity 1

Go to the following website:
http://web.stgeorges.edu/about_sg/geronimo/journal/jbeebe.htm

Read the journal entry by John Beebe, Center First Mate, of the GERONIMO. Compare and contrast Beebe’s account of Hogsty Reef to the descriptions made about the Reef by the main characters (Jim, Julie, Marcel) in the book.

Activity 2

Go to the following website:

<http://www.nvo.com/treasure/hogstyreef/>

Read about the treasure that may lay hidden in the Hogsty Reef Area. Write a story, either as Jim, Julia or Marcel, and your adventure(s) in looking for treasure in the Hogsty Reef. Note: Julie referenced the “Silver Banks” in Chapter 1.

Activity 3

Go to any of the above websites and find more information about the Caribbean Area and the Caicos Islands. Put together a multimedia presentation using PowerPoint

software that discusses the political, environmental, economic and social aspects of the region.



Interdisciplinary Connections

Math

Find the distance between (miles/kilometers) Clark’s Cut and Hogsty Reef by using the maps found at the National Geographic website.

Why weren’t you able to determine the distances with the Caicos Islands map in the *Hogsty Reef* book?

Discuss the importance of “scale” before using any map.

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/profiles/mh.html>

Art

Find photographs of the Caribbean Region from various websites. The National

Geographic website at: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/> would be a good start. Paste pictures that you think would make a great addition to the storyline of *Hogsty Reef* using PowerPoint. Explain why you chose the pictures and their connection to the storyline.

Music

Research the type of music that is popular in the Caicos Islands. Explain what “ripsaw” music is, and name the instruments used in performing this type of music. Would Marcel be familiar with this type of music? Why? Would Jim likely to hear ripsaw music in Vancouver, British Columbia? Why or why not? Explain what “junkanoo” music is about. Name some musicians that are popular artists with his genre of music. Do you think music is important to the “identity” of the Caribbean people? Explain your answer.

Technology

Discuss the use of technology that was employed by Jim and Marcel to find their way to Hogsty Reef and what Julie and George used to search for Jim and Marcel. What advances in search and rescue technologies have been developed since 1999? What technology, “off-the-shelf” would have aided Jim, Marcel, Julie and George today? Discuss in terms of latest developments in Global Positioning Satellite Systems (GPS).

Psychology: Grieving and Social Behavior

Some of the stages of grief include anger, denial, guilt, and acceptance. What stage in the grieving process is Jim, early in the book? What step is he towards the end of the book? Are they different? Are they the same? Provide examples from the text to support your conclusions.

After Jim’s rescue, what do you think his relationship will be with his mother and sister? What do you think Jim’s attitude will be towards George and his mother developing an intimate relationship?

Social Studies: Economics

Go to the following website CIA Factbook <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/tk.html>

Answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the economy of the Turks & Caicos Islands based on?
- 2) How many visitors did the Islands have by the late 1990’s? How many from the United States?

3) What has been the trend in tourist trade at the beginning of the 21st Century? Why do you think this has happened?

Social Studies: Citizenship

Find recent articles from newspapers and magazines about Haitian refugees. Where are they trying to go and what has been the policy of other Caribbean nations, including the United States and Canada toward allowing Haitian refugees settlement? How many Haitian refugees have settled in the U.S. and in Canada since 1990? Is the political situation getting better or worse since 2000? Why? What have been the latest trends in drug smuggling in the Caribbean Area since 2000? Is it getting better or worse? Are there countries in the Caribbean area that support drug trafficking? If so, which ones? What kind of relationship do these countries that condone drug trafficking have with the United States and Canada?

Do you think drug trafficking in the area has anything to do with the trends in Caicos Islands tourism?

Social Studies: Geography

From the map, or a similar one, answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the ocean depth of Hogsty Reef? Circled
- 2) Which country claims possession of the Caicos Islands?
- 3) What is the longitude coordinate for the Caicos Islands? From a larger scale map find the latitude coordinate
- 4.) Which direction is Haiti from Clarke’s Cut? Which direction is Cuba from Clarke’s Cut? Which direction is Miami from Clarke’s Cut?

From a scale map, determine:

- 1) The distance in miles/kilometers from Clarke’s Cut to a) Haiti; b) Miami; c) Cuba.

Science / Ecology: Endangered

Species; Environmental Preservation

List the reasons why the coral reef within the Caribbean Area is in danger, as talked about in the book. List the species of plants and animals that are also facing extinction in the Caribbean Area. Go to this National Geographic website to start your search:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>



Science/Weather and Climate

List the various types of weather phenomena discussed in *Hogsty Reef*. Why do you think it is important for traveler's to the Caribbean region to have up-to-date information on weather conditions? Go to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website (NOAA):

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

Answer the following questions:

- 1) How many hurricanes have passed through the Caicos Islands since 2000?; through the Caribbean?
- 2) What is the current weather forecast for Providenciales?
- 3) What is the average temperature for Providenciales during the summer and winter seasons?
- 4) What mistakes, if any, did Jim and Marcel make when they sailed on the Agwe concerning the weather?

Health: Safety

What kind of precautions did Jim and Julia observe as they went snorkeling along the reefs? Do you think Marcel observed the same kinds of precautions? Why or why not?

Related Reading

The Cay

Theodore Taylor

The Cay is the suspenseful story of a young blind boy, Phillip, who is shipped wreck on the island of Curaco, then, a part of the Dutch West Indies from April through August of 1942. The setting is an unnamed cay deep in the Devil's Mouth, a long U-shaped coral banks in the Caribbean. Adolescent readers can identify with Phillip's struggle for independence and his frustration in coping with situations over which he has virtually no control. The entire book is written from the perspective of an adult Phillip recalling his childhood adventure. Ages 9-12. Yearling Publishers (May 28, 2002).

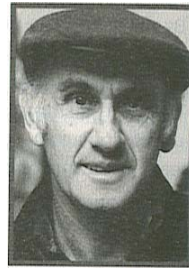
Additional John Dowd Fiction Books For Young Adults

A Ring of Tall Trees, 1992

Abalone Summer, Arthur Ellis Award for best Canadian juvenile crime novel, 1993
Hogsty Reef, 1999.

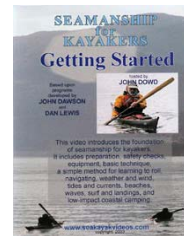
Rare and Endangered, 2000 sequel to *Hogsty Reef*.

About the Author

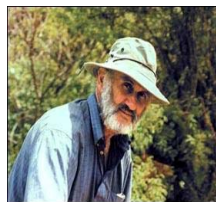


John Dowd is a New Zealand native. He is an adventurer, writer and photojournalist. As a youth he worked as a seaman on a Danish freighter and has taught at Outward Bound Schools in the UK, in New Zealand and in

Canada. On assignment for *National Geographic* magazine, Dowd paddled from Punta Arenas to Puerto Montt in Chile and established the Pulau Putri summer camp for expatriate children near Jakarta, Indonesia. Dowd is the founding editor of *Sea Kayaker* magazine, author of *Sea Kayaking: A Manual for Long Distance Touring*. In 1978 he established himself in the *Guinness Book of World Records* by leading a 3600 km. kayak expedition from Venezuela to Miami along the Caribbean island chain with his wife, Bea. He has also kayaked from Singapore to Java. In 1989, the Dowds packed-up their belongings and moved into a log cabin in the Canadian wilderness. In the solitude, Dowd wrote a series of children's books: *A Ring of Tall*



Trees, Abalone Summer, which received the Arthur Ellis Award for best Canadian juvenile crime novel, *Hogsty Reef* and its sequel, *Rare and*



Endangered. The family has lived in Russia, Italy and Spain before returning to Canada, where John and Bea now make their home.

Other Books by John Dowd

Sea Kayaking: A Manual for Long Distance Touring (D&M 1981, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1997, Douglas & McIntyre, 2004).

Cover illustration by Stephen Wells, 1999.
A teacher's guide to *Hogsty Reef* written by Layne Smith, Columbus, Ohio, April, 2005.
Email: exogeographer@yahoo.com