

M C C O N A U G H E Y



Podcast Education Materials Activity Guide

"Howdy, Educators!"

Welcome to the Hank the Cowdog Podcast Activity Guide. The following pages contain activities designed to coordinate with episodes in the podcast. These activities can be treated as stand-alone supplement/enrichment activities for your classroom's curriculum OR can be taught sequentially as a total podcast unit. Activities can be completed by individual students or within student groups, with no minimum/maximum number of students required.

WANT MORE? ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES can be found at ranchlifelearning.com,

— TO USE THIS GUIDE —

1. Each lesson includes a:

- Activity Number & Title
- Content Area
- Topic(s)
- Objective(s)
- Curriculum Standards

2. EDUCATOR NOTES that includes for each activity a:

- Materials List
- Instructions for Educator
- Background information
- Answer Key

3. RESOURCES - master copies for activity preparations (referenced in ALL CAPS within activity instructions), also available for PDF download at ranchlifelearning.com.

Lost in the Dark Unchartered Forest

A note to educators

1. HOW TO ACCESS THE PODCAST:

You and your students can listen to the podcast episode from any device that is connected to the Internet. Episodes can also be downloaded for use offline.

- You can find this podcast at: <https://apple.co/hankthecowdogpod> or where ever you like to listen to podcasts
- Visit www.hankthecowdogpodcast.com for more information about the podcast.

2. SUGGESTIONS FOR USE:

How you choose to incorporate these podcast activities is up to you –here are a few ways that you can use them in your classroom:

- Listen to the podcast as a whole group. This promotes conversation and is a great will to fill extra time after lunch or before dismissal.
- Have a podcast center where students can listen and complete activities on their own. This way they can replay parts of the podcast as needed.
- Don't feel like you need to do this all at once. Each episode runs from 15 -30 minutes, so you may want to spread it out over a week depending on your schedule.

3. OTHER INFORMATION:

- This podcast was created for children. We believe they are highly appropriate for classroom use. You, however, must judge for yourself what is suitable for your students.
- These resources were created and copyrighted by the National Ranching Heritage Center.
- Questions or comments? Email Julie.hodges@ttu.edu

4. GETTING SET UP:

- Listen to the Podcast
- Read Educator Notes
- Prepare Materials
 - Detective Folder
 - Review and Print Worksheets for each episode
 - Review Podcast Scripts

About this Podcast & Activities

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Hank the Cowdog Podcast is a fun way to engage students in studying fiction and the mystery genre! In this educational packet you'll find everything you need to begin your classroom exploration. It includes directions for group discussions, concise summaries of chapters, and sheets to record story elements. Students will learn how to use strategies to figure out unknown vocabulary words, as well as how to formulate questions while listening to the story. In addition to reading and comprehension, this packet includes activities to involve students in helping to analyze clues that are presented throughout the story.

GRADE LEVEL: 3 - 5

INTRODUCTION:

Lost in the Dark Uncharted Forest by John R. Erickson is in the mystery genre and features themes of loyalty, friendship and belonging. The podcast script is written by Jeff Nichols.

The Podcast is based on Book 11 in the Hank the Cowdog Book Series

BACKGROUND:

Hank the Cowdog leads a motley crew of West Texas ranch characters through a series of hilarious adventures. When he's not patrolling the ranch, he spends his time soaking in Emerald Pond (the septic tank) or sleeping on his gunny sack bed under the gas tank. Here, from the very first Hank story ever, Hank tells readers how he thinks of himself and his job: "When I took this job as Head of Ranch Security, I knew that I was only flesh and blood, four legs, a tail, a couple of ears, a pretty nice kind of nose that the women really go for, two bushels of hair and another half-bushel of sandburs. You add that up and you don't get Superman, just me, good old easy-going Hank who works hard, tries to do his job, and gets very little cooperation from anyone else around here." In Lost in the Dark Uncharted Forest, which is the eleventh book in the Hank the Cowdog series, Hank has to save a little boy. When Little Alfred runs away from home and winds up in the Dark Uncharted Forest being trailed by a bobcat, Hank the Cowdog knows that it's up to him to save his young master. So, mustering up all the courage that the Head of Ranch Security can come up with, he bravely makes his way into the forest. But before long, Hank is even more lost than Alfred. Can he find his master and get them both out of the woods? Or is he destined to pass the rest of his days going in circles?