Prepare your notebook
The first page of your notebook gets lots of wear & tear, so go to the 2nd page and start numbering the pages, including the backs. Number them up to page 6. The 1st numbered page will be your title page.

Table of contents
Go to page number 3 and label it, “Table of Contents.” As you answer questions and do activities in this web search, continue to number the pages in your notebook and add them to your table of contents.

Map it out
Download and print the map of North and South America. You’ll be labeling places mentioned throughout the book on this map. Tape or glue the map to page 6.

Glossary
There will be words throughout the book you’ll be adding to a glossary. You’ll also look up the definitions of those words. Go to the back of your notebook and count inward 5 pages. Label this page, “Glossary.” Use a post-it note to make a tab for this page so it’s easy to find. You’ll be numbering these pages and adding them to your table of contents last.

Whenever you can, buy a copy of any book you’re reading for an assignment. That way, you can highlight important parts and write notes in the margins.

Words and phrases throughout this web search that are written in blue and underlined are links to documents or webpages. Just click on them!

This book is about fictional people, but real events from history. That’s known as historical fiction.

You can look up words for your glossary at www.dictionary.com. Bookmark this site. Look for the meaning used in the book—it may not be the 1st meaning listed!

This web search was created by Cookie Davis. Please report broken links to umacdavis@yahoo.com.
activities and questions

1. Go to the Gold Rush site by Idaho State University, the Sacramento Bee website (under Part 1, read the following sections: The Road West; The Journey by Land; and The Journey by Sea), and PBS Kids website and read about the ways people traveled to California. Describe the 3 main routes from the East Coast.

2. How long were they?

3. What hazards were faced on each one?

4. Use 3 different colors to mark the routes on your map of the Americas. Be sure to make a key.

5. Which do you think you would have chosen? Why?

6. Take this quiz and record how much money you won in your notebook. If you didn’t get all the answers correct, which question(s) did you miss? What is/are the correct answer(s)?

7. Mark The Horn, San Francisco, and Boston on your map.

Authors choose character’s names very carefully. The butler’s name—praiseworthy, tells you something about him.

Add these words and their definitions to your glossary:

SLAVE, LURCH, FRAY, IMPERATIVE, DIRE, ARGONAUT, UNDAUNTED, DESPICABLE

A “stowaway” is a person who hides aboard a ship or airplane to avoid paying for transportation.

A horn spoon

Lines to love!...

“...her smokestack stained the frozen winter sky like ink.”

“A patch of hair fell across his forehead in a yellow scribble.”
activities and questions

1. Jack and Praiseworthy use the sky as “their textbook.” The author mentions the Southern Cross constellation (you’ll need to enter the name in the search box). Name the 4 stars that make up this constellation. What is its proper name? Find another constellation you’ve heard of and name the stars that make it up. Draw the constellation in your notebook.

2. Mark the locations of Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans on your map of the Americas.

3. As the Lady Wilma nears the equator, she is forced to use steam power and not her sails. Captain Swain says, “There’s not enough breeze in these latitudes to snuff out a candle.” Conduct the Blow, Wind, Blow! experiment to see how wind affects weather patterns.

4. Print out this map. Go to the Global Wind Patterns page and follow the directions. Be sure to create a colored legend or key. After completing the map, glue or tape it into your notebook.

5. What are you discovering about Praiseworthy’s character? What three words would you use to describe him?
activities and questions

1. In 1847 Stephen Foster wrote a song called Oh! Susanna that became quite famous. Argonauts heading for California changed the words and renamed it Oh! California. Double-click on the speaker icon below to listen to the song. As the introduction plays, open the lyrics to the original song and the new version so you can read along as the song plays. Listen for contradictions in the lyrics. Write the contradictory lines from the song in your notebook.

2. Why does Captain Swain agree to help the square-rigger?

3. Why do you think Jack keeps asking Praiseworthy to call him Jack instead of Master Jack?

What was it like during the Gold Rush? Find out by watching this video.
activities and questions

1. The author, Sid Fleischman, uses many similes and metaphors as good writers do. Write at least 5 examples of similes from these chapters (I found 15).

2. In one of the last paragraphs of the chapter, Fleischman describes how they discover the Sea Raven gaining on them. Instead of just saying, “The Sea Raven was gaining on them,” he shows you through words how the action plays out. Reread the last few paragraphs of chapter 6 beginning with, “Hanging to the yardarm...” and then look at these Gold Rush works of art. Choose one. Write a paragraph describing the action you think has occurred in your choice. Be sure to show, not tell, what is happening. Include the title of the artwork on the top of the page.

3. Why are the days growing shorter?

4. Mark Patagonia, the Strait of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, and Callao, Peru on your map of the Americas.

Lines to love!

“Dark cliffs seemed to hang like draperies from the misty sky...”
“A thought bolted through him like lightning.”

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

INCLEMENT, GALE, STALWART
activities and questions

1. The Lady Wilma stops just briefly in the Galápagos to search for fuel. Had they stayed, they would have seen an amazing array of endemic animals. Define endemic (add it to your glossary), name 3 animals endemic to the Galápagos and describe what is unique about your favorite. See great photos of the Galápagos animals.

2. Mark the Galápagos Islands on your map of the Americas.

3. Praiseworthy’s hat blew off into the ocean and sank. This is known as symbolism. Why do you think Fleischman included this in the story?

4. Shipping, aircraft, gps, and google earth rely on the use of latitude and longitude to find a specific location on the earth. Learn about latitude and longitude. Take the pretest and record your percentage correct. Once you’ve gone through the website, take the quiz at the end and print page 1 of the Score Summary page.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

AGRICULTURAL, ENDEMIC

WHENEVER YOU TALK ABOUT SOMEONE IN WRITING, YOU USE THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME THE FIRST TIME YOU MENTION THEM. AFTER THAT, YOU USE ONLY THEIR LAST NAME, NEVER THEIR FIRST NAME.

See a cool kid video about the Gold Rush.
activities and questions
1. Much of The Great Horn Spoon is written as if it were a tall tale, but some of the wild stories are true. Search online and see if you can find which of these Gold Rush stories you think are true and which do you think are a tall tale:
   - $10 to take a bath ($254 today)
   - $25 passage on a riverboat ($637 today)
   - Sending clothes to China to be washed
   - Getting gold out of miners’ hair
   - Marrying someone you’ve never met
   - Selling a pick and shovel for $100 ($2,547 today)
   - Towns named Hangtown, Rough and Ready, etc.
   - A Chinese laundryman wearing his hair in a pigtail

2. Jack’s admiration for Praiseworthy grows daily. List 2 things Praiseworthy has done that have surprised and impressed Jack.

3. Mark Sacramento and Panama on your map of the Americas.

Add these words and their definitions to your glossary:
- fiancee
- shorn
- assay
- delicacy

An “undertaker” is a person who takes care of dead people and prepares funerals.

A “ragamuffin” is a child in ragged, ill-fitting, dirty clothes.

Ships left abandoned in San Francisco Bay

Lines to love!

“...the masts as thick as a pine forest.”

“Quartz jackson’s face began to appear, snip by snip, like a statue being chipped out of stone.”
activities and questions

1. Why does Praiseworthy say to Cut-eye or “Doc” Higgins, “A man in your line of work, sir, never knows when he’ll need the services of a good undertaker.”

2. Why do you think Praiseworthy brought along a picture of Aunt Arabella?

3. Watch this video. The man interviewed says, “Mining is an industrial activity and it’s a violent industrial activity.” Why? What damage did mining cause in California?

4. What year was California admitted to the United States? (You’ll need to find this online)

5. How would you have fared in the Gold Rush? Try this game to find out.
activities and questions

1. How do you think it changed Praiseworthy to not have anyone even know what a butler was?
2. What else changed Praiseworthy? Do you think he enjoyed his new status? Give a specific example from the book that supports this.
3. How does Praiseworthy get the nickname, “Bullwhip”?
4. When Jack is tricked into buying the neckties, Pitch-pine Billy tells him, “I'd rather see you break your leg than your word, boy.” Why do you think keeping your word was so important then? Do you think being honest and trustworthy is as important today as it was then? Why or why not?
5. What is the true name of the Sandwich Islands? Mark them on your map of the Americas.
activities and questions

1. A prospector told Jack and Praiseworthy that the ladies had “calico fever,” the men “serape fever,” and “red sash fever.” What did he mean? What type of figurative language is this?

2. Although Fleischman talks about Jack’s back and arms getting stronger and Praiseworthy looking more rugged, he doesn’t truly explain the difficulty of doing this type of work. Imagine you have been at the “diggings.” Write a paragraph to describe how you look and feel. What do your hands look like? Your face? How does your body feel? What about your feet? Use descriptive language and include details!

3. Look online to see what a cradle (used for hunting gold) looks like and draw it in your notebook.

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:

HAUGHTY, VARMINTS, DISDAIN, ELUDED

Lines to love! "The men could be found on almost every claim rocking the cradle, like grizzled nursemards."
activities and questions

1. Watch this video. Who are the 3 men most responsible for the California Gold Rush? What part did each play?
2. Why couldn’t they hang Cut-Eye Higgins?
3. Why did the author choose to have Praiseworthy pound his umbrella into the ground for the first corner post of their claim? What does it signify?
4. The author, Sid Fleischman, uses many similes and metaphors. Write as many examples of metaphors as you can from these chapters (I found 7).

ADD THESE WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS TO YOUR GLOSSARY:
- raunchy
- heinous
- bellowed
- dispatch
- cantankerous
- exuberance
- mused
- invincible
- lithe
- proboscis
- keeled

James Marshall at Sutter Mill, 1850
activities and questions

1. Choose a simile or metaphor from the book and draw it out literally. For example draw “A thought bolted through him like lightning” as an actual lightning bolt shooting through a boy. Be sure to write down the sentence too.

2. This book doesn’t tell much of the story of the Gold Rush. Look up the word extermination then watch this video to learn what the Gold Rush did to California’s Native Americans. What happened to them?

Why all the fuss about gold? See why by watching this video.

To “light-finger” something means to steal it.

San Francisco in 1851


