

Before You Read

Tending Sir Ernest's Legacy

Connect to the Web Site

Think of a time when you wanted to be the first to do something. How did it feel to push yourself to a goal? Who or what helped you with your challenge? What hurdles did you have to overcome?

Partner Talk With a partner, talk about a time when you set a goal and achieved it. Who or what helped you achieve your goal? How did you feel once you achieved it?

Build Background

"Tending Sir Ernest's Legacy" includes a timeline of Sir Ernest Shackleton's voyage across Antarctica and an interview with his granddaughter, Alexandra Shackleton.

- One of the seven continents, Antarctica is mostly covered by a large ice sheet.
- Lichens (a type of moss) and penguins thrive in Antarctica, despite the very cold temperatures.
- Travel to Antarctica was extremely difficult in Shackleton's time, the early part of the twentieth century. Today, icebreakers and aircraft make the journey easier.
- In the winter, temperatures in Antarctica range from -128.6°F to -76°F .

Vocabulary

legacy (leg' ə sē) *n.* anything received from an ancestor or a previous time (p. 305). *A love of music is the legacy my grandmother left me.*

pragmatic (prag mat' ik) *adj.* concerned with practical results (p. 309). *My pragmatic brother was able to quickly find a solution to our problem.*

futile (fū' til) *adj.* useless, hopeless, ineffective (p. 313). *Our attempts to find the contact lens in the swimming pool were futile.*

Meet Kelly Tyler-Lewis

PBS Producer Kelly Tyler-Lewis is a historian and a producer for the NOVA series on PBS. She first became interested in polar exploration when she saw a 1985 PBS program about the Antarctic expeditions of Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen. She began working for NOVA in 1989. She has worked on many television programs and films for NOVA, including *The Endurance: Shackleton's Epic Journey*.



Literature Online

Author Search For more about Kelly Tyler-Lewis, go to glencoe.com and enter QuickPass code GL29763u2.

Set Purposes for Reading

BQ BIG Question

As you read, ask yourself, what would be exciting about being an explorer? What would be difficult?

Literary Element Text Features

Like books, magazine articles, and other forms of writing, Web sites have **text features** to help you find information quickly and easily. These text features include subheads, pictures, photographs, maps, illustrations, captions, charts, tables, and diagrams. Web sites, such as "Tending Sir Ernest's Legacy," often include a menu bar at the top of the page to help you navigate, or find your way around, the Web site and links that take you to other parts of the site or other sites.

Understanding text features will help you find information quickly. Make sure you look carefully at a Web site for links and other text features that can provide additional information.

As you read "Tending Sir Ernest's Legacy," notice how the information from the Web site is organized. In what ways do the text features help you find information?

Reading Skill Distinguish Fact and Opinion

A **fact** is a statement that can be proved to be true, such as "The sun sets in the west." An **opinion** is what a writer believes, based on his or her personal viewpoint. It cannot be proven. "The sunset was beautiful today" is an opinion. You, as a reader, can agree or disagree with an opinion.

When you read, you'll come across writers who try to convince you of their beliefs. When you **distinguish fact and opinion**, you tell when the writer is presenting a fact and when he or she is offering an opinion. Knowing the difference between facts and opinions will help you make up your own mind about the subject.

As you read, think about which parts of the timeline and interview are convincing. Are they facts or opinions? You can prove a fact by using references, such as books and reliable Web sites. If you can't prove a statement, then it is an opinion. Use a graphic organizer like the one below to help you distinguish fact and opinion as you read.

| Example of Fact or Opinion | How I Know |
|----------------------------|------------|
| | |

Learning Objectives

For pages 302–317

In studying this text, you will focus on the following objectives:

Literary Study: Analyzing text features.

Reading: Distinguishing fact and opinion.

TRY IT

Distinguish Fact and Opinion

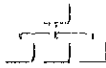
A friend tells you about a movie he or she saw. How would you distinguish between the facts and opinions in your friend's story?



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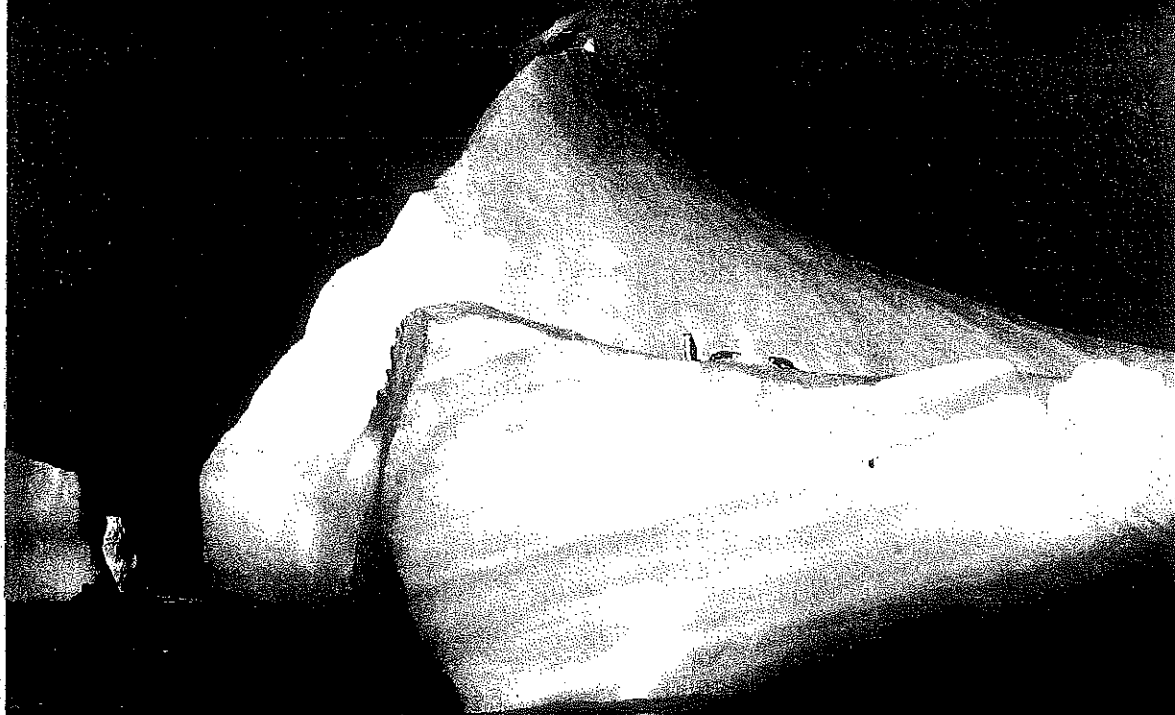


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Tending Sir Ernest's Legacy:


An Interview with Alexandra Shackleton


by Kelly Tyler-Lewis for NOVA

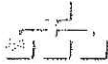



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NOVA UNIT: Why Do You Read?



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Sir Ernest could do far worse than have as his only granddaughter the Honorable Alexandra Shackleton. Life-president of the James Caird Society, which was founded to honor Shackleton and provide information about his expeditions, Ms. Shackleton looks after her grandfather's legacy about as well as the great man himself looked after his men.

Based in London, she has been instrumental in furthering Shackleton historical research, has contributed forewords to books on Antarctic exploration, and consulted for the Channel Four/First Sight Films television drama *Shackleton*, starring Kenneth Branagh. She has even had the honor to christen¹ three ships: the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol ship, *HMS Endurance*; the trawler *Lord Shackleton*; and, most recently, the British Antarctic Survey ship, *RRS Ernest Shackleton*.

In this intimate interview, hear insights about Sir Ernest's motivations and beliefs, strengths and imperfections, crushing disappointments and unparalleled achievements, as only a devoted granddaughter can have them.

NOVA: What was really pushing your grandfather to do this expedition to cross Antarctica?

Shackleton: Well, the Pole had been attained, so he had to abandon that dream. I think he considered it the last great Antarctic adventure—to cross the Antarctic from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea, a distance of about 1,800 miles. Of course, in those days it was felt that it should be done by somebody British. All of the nationalities felt that. The Germans felt that. The Americans felt that. The French felt that. And he considered he was pretty well fitted to do

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#1
Distinguish Fact and Opinion Is this statement a fact or an opinion? How do you know?


#2
Text Features What text features tell you that this is an interview?


¹ When you *christen* a ship, you give it a name in a ceremony.


Vocabulary


legacy (leg'ə sē) *n.* anything received from an ancestor or a previous time



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it, having built up a reputation as a successful leader of the Nimrod Expedition [a 1907 attempt to reach the South Pole, of which he got within 100 miles before having to turn back].

NOVA: It was a pretty ambitious plan, given the stage of Antarctic exploration at that time. Was the monumental challenge part of the attraction?

Shackleton: It was ambitious, but I think he thought it was possible. He was a very practical person, and he would have never attempted anything that he thought could not be done. The main reason was that, above all, he had the lives of his men to consider.

NOVA: When your grandfather left England on the *Endurance*, the First World War² was about to start. What effect did that have on him?

Shackleton: Well, he offered his ship and men to Winston Churchill, who was Secretary of the Admiralty at the time. But he received a telegram back saying simply, "Proceed." So he felt it was perfectly honorable for him to proceed. He was then 40 years old, which would have been too old to fight, and he did lose two members of the expedition who were already in the army.

The thing one has to remember is that nobody thought the First World War would last more than a few months. It was a huge shock when they got back to South Georgia after their many, many adventures and found that the war was still raging.

NOVA: How do you think your grandfather felt at the moment when the *Endurance* was finally stuck in the ice,

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#3 BQ BIG Question

In what way do details in the interview affect your understanding of Shackleton?

#4
Text Features Notice the links at the bottom of the Web page. What link would you click on if you wanted to find a list of books about Antarctic exploration?

² The *First World War*, or World War I, lasted from 1914–1918.

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and he realized he would never attain his goal of crossing Antarctica?

Shackleton: Well, when the ship got locked in the ice, it wasn't a sudden event, of course. The realization gradually dawned on them that the ship was not going to get out, that she was stuck—I think one of the crew members said "like an almond in toffee." Eventually, it became clear that she was being crushed by the ice and had no chance of rising above it. And my grandfather said to the captain, Frank Worsley, "the ship can't live in this, skipper." Then he started making plans for what could be done when the ship finally had to be abandoned. He was a great planner who was always working out what to do in every conceivable eventuality.

For several weeks the ship had been letting out terrible creaking and groaning noises like a human in agony, and then eventually my grandfather called out, "she's going boys," and they saw her disappear. He wrote in his diary, "I cannot write about it." He found it extremely distressing. Of course, it was the abandonment of his dream.

Yet he said to his men, quite calmly, "ship gone, stores gone, now we will go home." And he wrote in his diary, "a man must set himself to a new mark directly the old one goes." And what became his new mark was bringing every one of his 27 men home alive, from a part of the world where nobody knew they were. He knew there was no chance whatsoever of rescue. There were no communications. They might as well have been in space.

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#5
Distinguish Fact and Opinion Is this statement a fact or an opinion? Is it persuasive?

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Text Features Notice the buttons at the top of the Web page. What button would you use if you wanted to reread the interview?

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NOVA: That was probably one of the toughest tests of his character, because he must have been bitterly disappointed.

Shackleton: Bitterly. Also, a ship is more to a sailor than just a floating home. It is a symbol. It's distressing for any captain, any leader of an expedition, to lose his ship.

NOVA: And yet he held himself together.

Shackleton: Indeed, and the men apparently felt reassured. After losing the ship, they felt rather adrift in every sense of the word, and yet he helped them to feel reassured. There was something to set themselves to do.

NOVA: What do you think was going through your grandfather's mind when they had to move onto the ice?


Shackleton: It was an awareness that there would almost certainly have to be a boat journey or several boat journeys. Each man was told he could bring two pounds weight of his own possessions. Leonard Hussey, who had a banjo, thought that he would have to leave it behind because it was too heavy, but my grandfather described it as a vital mental tonic. It proved to be that, though people got quite tired of his repertoire of six tunes.


My grandfather himself set an example. He threw out a handful of gold coins and his gold watch onto the snow, along with the Bible that Queen Alexandra had given him. He tore off the flyleaf³ and put it in his pocket and threw the Bible onto the snow, but it was rescued by a sailor who thought it was very bad luck to throw a Bible away. Eventually both found their way to the Royal Geographical Society in London.


NOVA: How did you think he felt when he realized that his plan to travel over the ice was just not going to work?


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3 Here, a *flyleaf* is a specially printed page at the beginning of a book.


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Shackleton: When that method didn't work, I think he simply switched to the next method. He was extremely **pragmatic**, and he always had many alternatives in his mind. Ernest Shackleton did not go in for soul-searching and self-recrimination. He would have called it a complete waste of valuable time.

NOVA: Now, on the journey to South Georgia aboard the *Caird*, how did your grandfather help the men cope with the horrendous conditions?

Shackleton: Well, he was well aware of the importance of a hot drink. Every man was fed every four hours, but if he noticed any member of the expedition failing slightly, he would order hot milk then and there, not just for him, but for everybody, so this man would not, as he put it, have doubts about himself. When he noticed one man suffering particularly from cold, he would rummage in the damp supplies and dig him out a pair of gloves.

NOVA: How do you think your grandfather felt when South Georgia appeared on the horizon?

Shackleton: When they saw South Georgia for the first time, and he realized that Worsley had accomplished his miracle of navigation, he felt huge relief, but sadly that was tempered instantly by the fact they could not land. There was a lee shore,⁴ and they were very nearly driven onto the reefs and sunk. It took two days of agonies of thirst before they could actually land.

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#7

Distinguish Fact and Opinion How would you prove the statements in this paragraph?

4 A **lee shore** is a shore toward which the wind is blowing. A lee shore can be dangerous to boats because they can be blown into the shore.

Vocabulary

pragmatic (prag mat'ik) *adj.* concerned with practical results

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While they were struggling to land, Worsley said he felt this almost detached resentment that no one would ever know what they had accomplished. They would just be sunk as if they had been sunk at the beginning of the journey.

NOVA: Even today that journey is seen as nothing short of miraculous.

Shackleton: Yes. They had accomplished what many regard as the greatest small boat journey in the world, 800 miles across the stormiest seas in the world in a little boat not even 23 feet long—all the while encountering extremely harsh weather and suffering gales, privations⁵ of thirst, hunger, and everything. It was a colossal achievement, and when they saw the black peaks of South Georgia, they felt huge relief and happiness.

NOVA: Was the *Endurance* expedition the greatest achievement of his life?



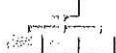



Shackleton: I think so, because against almost impossible odds he brought his 27 men home safely. The boat journey to South Georgia was an epic in itself, and climbing across the uncharted, unmapped island of South Georgia with no equipment was remarkable. To this day, no one has ever beaten his record of 30 miles in 36 hours.

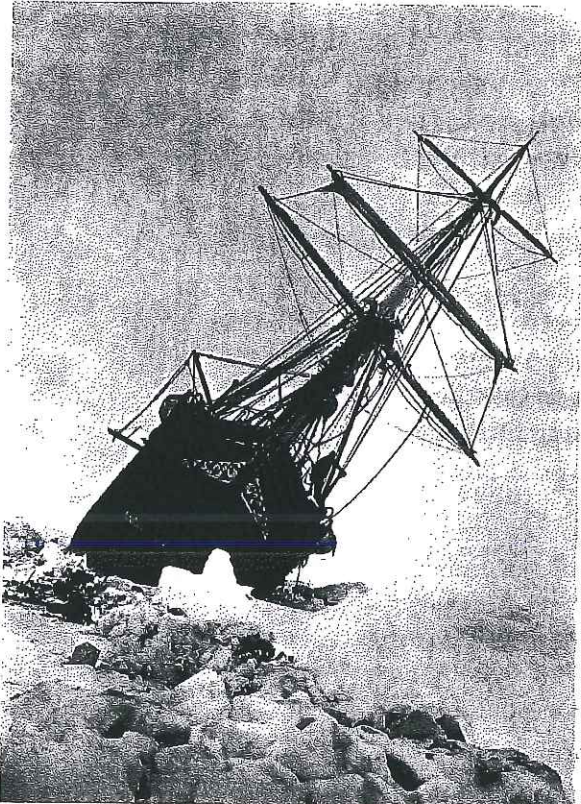
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#8

Distinguish Fact and Opinion Is this statement a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

⁵ **Privations** are acts of taking away something, such as water or food.

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← The *Endurance* in its final hours.

Shackleton's Voyage of Endurance Timeline

When he left South Georgia Island on December 5, 1914, in his bid to be the first to cross the Antarctic continent, Ernest Shackleton had no idea that the next bit of land he touched (save for remote Elephant Island) would be that very same South Georgia—a year and a half later and after having not so much as set foot on the Antarctic continent. The story of what happened in between, outlined below, constitutes one of the most stupendous polar survival sagas of all time.

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Text Features What additional information do the photo and caption provide?

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1914

August 1 ●
Endurance departs London the same day
 Germany declares war on Russia

August 4 ●
 Shackleton offers his ship and crew
 to British government for war effort

August 8 ●
 After Shackleton receives one-word telegram from
 Admiralty ("Proceed"), *Endurance* departs Plymouth

October 26 ●
 With final crew on board, *Endurance* leaves
 Buenos Aires, Argentina for South Georgia

December 5 ●
Departs Grytviken whaling station, South Georgia—
last time crew would touch land for 497 days

December 7 ●
 Enters the Antarctic pack ice

December 30 ●
Endurance crosses Antarctic Circle

1915

January 10 ●
 First sighting of Antarctic continent (Coats Land)

January 18 ●
Endurance becomes beset⁶ in the pack ice

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#10
 Text Features Which text
 features tell you this is
 a timeline?

⁶ Here, *beset* means "surrounded" or "trapped."

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February 22 ●

Drifts to 77th parallel in Vahsel Bay, farthest south the ship will reach

February 24 ●

Shackleton orders halt to ship routine

May 1 ●

Sun vanishes for season, not to reappear for four months

June 22 ●

Crew celebrates Midwinter's Day with a feast

August 27 ●

Frank Hurley takes famous nighttime photos of *Endurance*

September 2 ●

Pressure ice makes the *Endurance*, according to Perce Blackborow, "literally [jump] into the air and [settle] on its beam."

October 27 ●

At 5 P.M., Shackleton gives order to abandon the *Endurance*

November 1 ●

After **futile**, three-day attempt to march over the ice, Shackleton has crew erect Ocean Camp

November 21 ●

With a single cry of "She's going, boys!" Shackleton and his crew watch *Endurance* sink

December 23 ●

Crew again begins march toward open water, averaging just a mile and a half a day

December 29 ●







Shackleton abandons march, sets up Patience Camp

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Vocabulary

futile (fū'til) *adj.* useless, hopeless, ineffective

#11
Distinguish Fact and Opinion Is the information in this date entry fact or opinion? How do you know?

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1916

January 21 ●
Blizzard blows the camp north across Antarctic Circle

February 29 ●
In honor of Leap Year Day, crew enjoys three full meals

March 31 ●
The ice floe⁷ they are on splits in two, separating them from the three lifeboats, but they get them back

April 7 ●
Elephant Island appears on the horizon

April 9 ●
Crew goes to sea in the three lifeboats, the *James Caird*, the *Dudley Docker*, and the *Stancomb Wills*

April 16 ●
After seven grueling days at sea, lifeboats land safely on Elephant Island

April 17 ●
Shackleton moves camp seven miles to the west, to a spot that comes to be known as Cape Wild—after Frank Wild, who found it

April 20 ●
Shackleton announces that he will attempt to sail the 22-and-a-half-foot *James Caird* 800 miles to South Georgia

April 24 ●
Shackleton and five others depart for South Georgia in *James Caird*

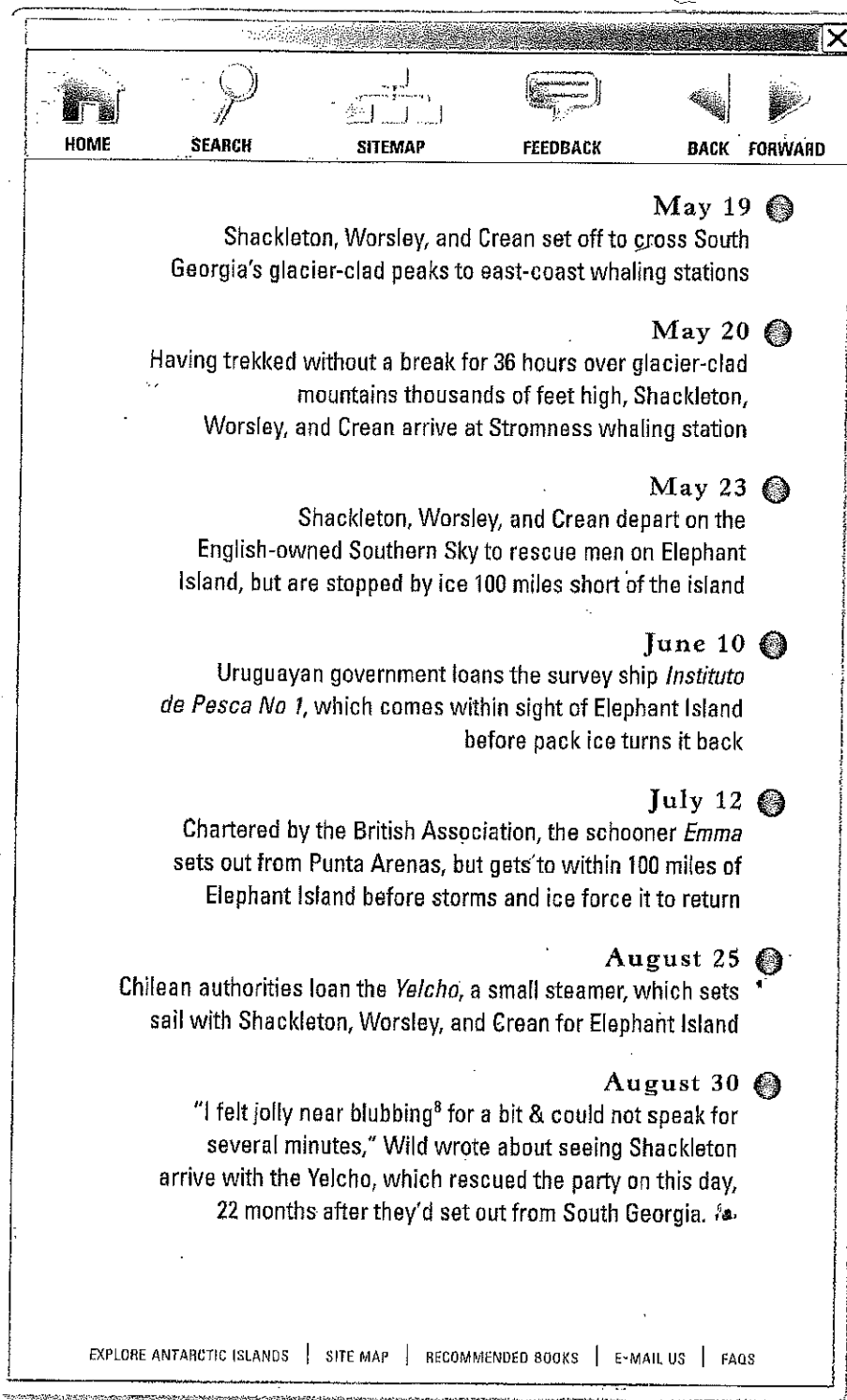
May 10 ●
After 17 days in stormy seas, and with superior navigation by Frank Worsley, the *James Caird* miraculously arrives on the west coast of South Georgia

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#12

Distinguish Fact and Opinion Which contains more opinions—the timeline or the interview?

7 An *ice floe* is a large sheet of ice floating on the surface of a body of water.



⁸ The phrase *I felt jolly near blubbing* is a British way of saying, "I felt really close to crying."

After You Read

Respond and Think Critically

1. What was the goal of Ernest Shackleton's expedition? Explain. [Recall]
2. How does Alexandra Shackleton feel about her grandfather? Use details from the interview to support your answer. [Infer]
3. How does the interviewer feel about Ernest Shackleton's expedition? Explain. [Infer]
4. Would you say that Shackleton's expedition was a success? Why or why not? [Analyze]
5. Do you think the interview shows an objective view of the expedition? Explain. [Evaluate]
6. **BQ** **BIG Question** Which details in the timeline and the interview helped you better understand the conditions in Antarctica and Shackleton's legacy? [Connect]

Vocabulary

Match each boldfaced vocabulary word with a word from the right column that has the same meaning. Two of the words in the right column will not have matches. Then write a sentence using each vocabulary word or draw or find a picture that represents the word.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. futile | a. practical |
| 2. legacy | b. hopeless |
| 3. pragmatic | c. unsuspecting |
| | d. myth |
| | e. gift |

Academic Vocabulary

Food was **distributed** to Shackleton's crew every four hours. In the preceding sentence, *distributed* means "handed out." Think about a time when you distributed something. To whom did you distribute the item or items?

TIP

Inferring

To answer question 2, you must think about details that are provided in the interview. You must also use your own knowledge of family relationships.

- Start by reviewing details in the story. What does Alexandra say about her grandfather? What opinions does she give?
- Consider what you know about family relationships. How might a family member who cares for another speak of him or her?

FOLDABLES Study Organizer

Keep track of your ideas about the **BIG Question** in your unit Foldable.



Literature Online

Selection Resources

For Selection Quizzes, eFlashcards, and Reading-Writing Connection activities, go to glencoe.com and enter QuickPass code GL29763u2.

Literary Element Text Features

1. What text features were used in the timeline and the interview? List examples.
2. How did these features add to your understanding of the subject? Explain.

Review: Author's Purpose

As you learned on page 211, the **author's purpose** is the intention of the author. For example, an author might write to explain, to tell a story, to persuade, to amuse, or to inform. An author may have more than one purpose for writing.

3. What do you think was the author's purpose for conducting and publishing the interview? Did the author have more than one purpose? Explain.
4. Which details in the interview reveal the author's purpose or purposes? For each of the purposes you identify, write down a sentence from the interview that supports it.

Reading Strategy Distinguish Fact and Opinion

5. Give two examples of facts provided in the interview. Then give two opinions. Were you easily able to distinguish the facts and opinions in the interview? Explain. To help you answer the question, refer to the graphic organizer you used as you read.
6. What did the opinions expressed add to your understanding of Shackleton and his legacy? Explain.

Grammar Link

Participles and Participial Phrases A **participle** is a verb form that can function as an adjective. **Present participles** are formed by adding *-ing* to a verb.

For example:

crushing disappointments
a floating home

Past participles are formed by adding *-ed* to a verb. For example:

unparalleled achievements
an abandoned ship

Sometimes a participle that is used as an adjective is part of a phrase called a **participial phrase**. This is a group of words that include a participle and other words that complete its meaning.

For example:

Trekking without a break for 36 hours,
Shackleton, Worsley, and Crean finally
arrived at the whaling station.

The participial phrase, "Trekking without a break for 36 hours," modifies the nouns *Shackleton, Worsley, and Crean*.

Practice Write four sentences about events in the timeline or in the interview. The first two sentences should contain participles. The second two sentences should contain participial phrases.

Research and Report

Internet Connection Use the Internet to research other expeditions to dangerous, remote places. Find out who was involved, where they went, and what they did. Use only reliable Web sites and keep track of your sources. Check the validity of sources by examining several sources of information. Use word-processing software to create a report. Add maps and charts to your report, and share your report with the class.