

# The Valley of No Return

*A serialized story for newspapers*

John Tomerlin, Author

Michael Lacapa, Illustrator

Sherrye Dee Garrett, Ed.D., Teacher's Guide

---

DISTRIBUTED BY:



## Introduction

*The Valley of No Return* teacher's guide gives students an opportunity to interact with literature, art, and the newspaper through this story by John Tomerlin. The illustrations are provided by Michael Lacapa.

The story takes place in the Havasupai tribal lands and surrounding canyons. Two young people use all of their survival skills to escape flooding rivers. Their adventure builds their courage and their friendship.

## Lesson Plans

The chapter lesson plans are divided into four parts:

**Vocabulary** identifies important vocabulary words in the chapter. Teachers may use the vocabulary instructional activities they choose, such as identifying phonics elements, using root words and affixes, or determining meaning from context.

**Just the Facts** questions are literal-level questions. Students can usually find the answers in one sentence.

**Let's Discuss** questions require students to obtain meaning across text and to think critically.

**The Valley Survival Guide** activities on each page have students connect events and topics in the chapter to the real world through newspapers. These are cumulative activities that build each day.

### Additional Activities

Several activities for exploring the Havasupai world and understanding story elements are provided. Two graphic organizers help students focus on the character development of the main characters in the story.

### Puzzles

A crossword puzzle and a word search are provided.

## Acknowledgements

This teacher's guide was developed by the Use The News foundation in collaboration with Breakfast Serials. It was created by Dr. Sherrye Dee Garrett.

Use The News Foundation seeks to develop educational projects that provide resources addressing human rights issues such as diversity, character education, health and nutrition, safety, disaster preparedness, the environment, and the elimination of prejudice. Founded in August 1998, the Foundation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that fosters partnerships with schools, Newspaper In Education programs, and their business sponsors. For information, contact Dr. Betty L. Sullivan at 415-861-1637 or via e-mail: BETTYSNIE@aol.com.

*The Valley of No Return* is syndicated by Breakfast Serials, an organization founded by Avi to promote reading by providing good children's literature for newspapers. For more information, contact:

Linda Wright  
**Breakfast Serials**  
859 South York Street  
Denver, Colorado, 80209  
Telephone: 303-777-0538  
e-mail: reader@rmi.net

# The Discovery

## Just the Facts

1. What was Captain Merriman's profession?
2. What dialect did the Havasupai speak?

## Let's Discuss

3. What did the Havasupai have in their village that made them self-sufficient?
4. What was the relationship between Captain Merriman and Wilman Manakita, the headman of the village?
5. Why do you think white people didn't learn the Yuman language?
6. Why do you think Jamie hoped that his father's mission would fail?
7. Why would the federal government take valuable land away from the Havasupai?
8. Do you think Jamie's father will be happy with his discovery of silver? Why?
9. What could happen to the Havasupai if a mining company moves into the valley?
10. Make a prediction: What will happen as a result of Captain Merriman's discovery?



©2002 Michael Lacapp

## In the Real World

*There are many adventures in this story. You can follow the events by finding newspaper items for a Valley Survival Kit. Use a notebook or folder to collect newspaper clippings each day. After you paste your newspaper clipping in your notebook, write several sentences that explain your choice.*

**Today:** Find photos or drawings in the newspaper for clothes that would be appropriate for the desert and canyons. Find outerwear and footwear. Paste your clothing selections in your notebook.

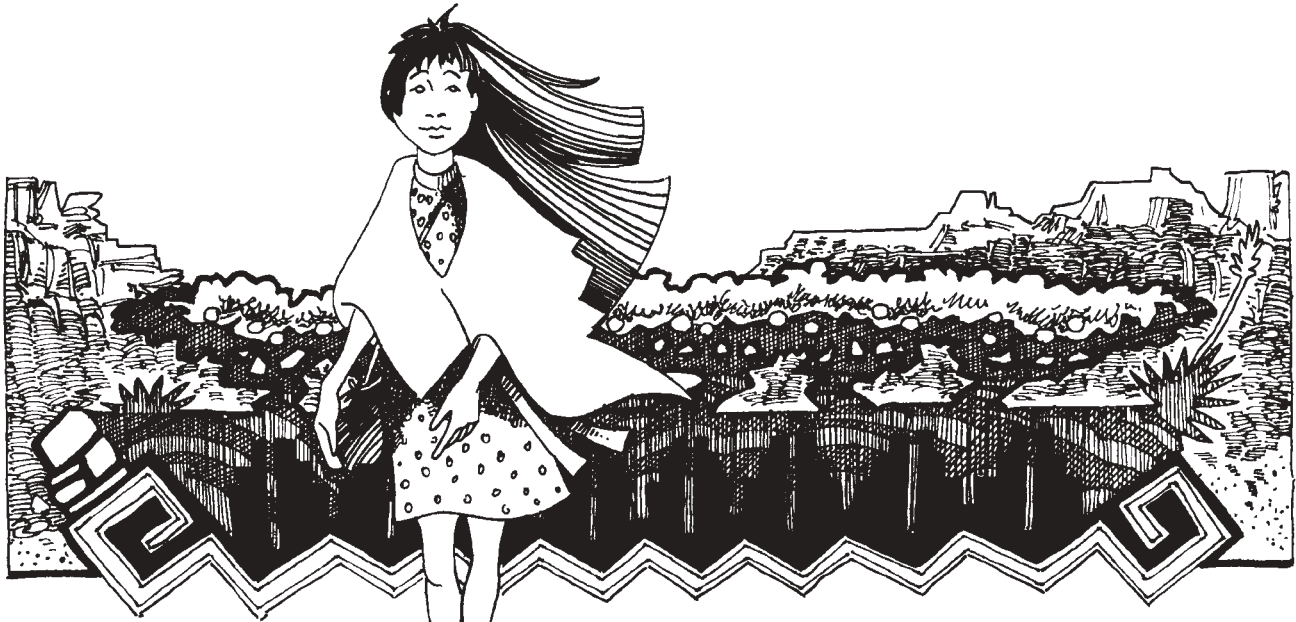
## VOCABULARY

- **Plateau** (n)  
a large land area with a level surface raised sharply above adjacent land
- **Switchback** (trail) (n)  
a zigzag road or trail for climbing a steep hill
- **Tiresome** (adj)  
tedious, boring

# **T A B L E   O F   C O N T E N T S**

Introduction . . . . .	4
Lesson Plans . . . . .	5
Trivia Questions . . . . .	23
Additional Activities . . . . .	24
Puzzles . . . . .	27
Answers . . . . .	29

# Dead Man's Falls



©2002 Michael Lacapa

## Just the Facts

1. What did Jamie and his father eat for breakfast?
2. Why were the Great Falls sometimes called Dead Man's Falls?

## Let's Discuss

3. Why would Captain Merriman assume the Speaker was on official business when he came to visit?
4. Why do you think Salia is friendly towards Jamie?
5. How might Jamie use the different items in his emergency supplies?
6. How does Salia show her independence?
7. What tells you that it was difficult to get to the falls?
8. What do you think Captain Merriman and the Speaker talked about?
9. What do you know about Jamie's character so far?
10. Make a prediction: Where does the rope lead?

## In the Real World

*There are many adventures in this story. You can follow the events by finding newspaper items for a Valley Survival Kit. Use a notebook or folder to collect newspaper clippings each day. After you paste your newspaper clipping in your notebook, write several sentences that explain your choice.*

**Today:** Use newspaper stories and ads to find food you could take with you on a trip in the desert. The foods cannot require refrigeration or cooking. They shouldn't be too heavy. Paste your food selections in your notebook.

## VOCABULARY

- **Ear-splitting** (adj)  
extremely loud
- **Reveille** (n)  
a bugle call at sunrise
- **Tanned** (adj)  
made into leather
- **Taunts** (n)  
insults

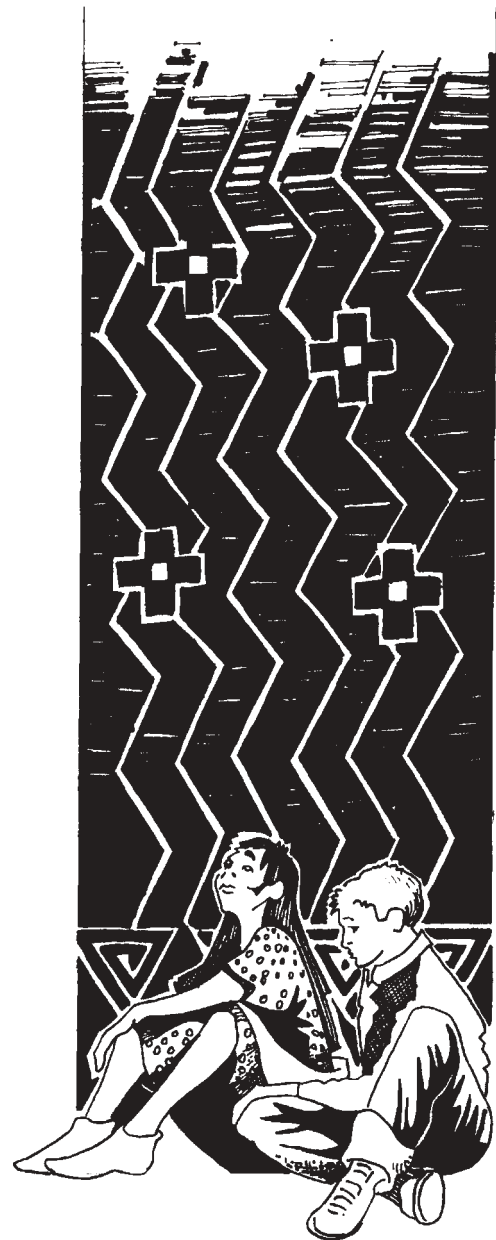
## Flood

**Just the Facts**

1. Where did Salia and Jamie seek safety?
2. What preparations did the Havasupai make for leaving the village?

**Let's Discuss**

3. Why did Salia bring dried meat for the picnic?
4. How did Salia and Jamie get to safety behind the falls?
5. Why were there knots tied in the rope?
6. Why was Jamie afraid he might not be able to climb back up the rope?
7. Why was it such a serious problem when the rope had been pulled up?
8. Why do you think Lucco pulled the rope up?
9. Why do you think the Speaker doesn't seem as concerned about Salia as Captain Merriman is about Jamie?
10. Make a prediction: What will happen to Salia and Jamie?



©2002 Michael Lacapa

**In the Real World**

*There are many adventures in this story. You can follow the events by finding newspaper items for a Valley Survival Kit. Use a notebook or folder to collect newspaper clippings each day. After you paste your newspaper clipping in your notebook, write several sentences that explain your choice.*

**Today:** Use newspaper stories or ads to find something that would help you signal people in the village from Dead Man's Falls. Paste your newspaper clipping in your notebook.

**VOCABULARY**

- **Bridling** (v)  
putting reins and bits on horses
- **Lore** (n)  
a body of knowledge
- **Pitch** (n)  
a dark substance, like tar
- **Plume** (n)  
large column of water
- **Sledge** (n)  
a strong, heavy sled
- **Troopers** (n)  
members of a cavalry unit