



# School-Home Connection

**Your child is reading “Iditarod Dream” by Ted Wood.** This nonfiction selection follows fifteen-year-old Dusty Whittemore as he races his team of sled dogs across the Alaskan wilderness to compete in the Jr. Iditarod sled-dog race. You may enjoy discussing the story and doing these activities with your child. Together, you can develop and explore your child’s language skills.

## Sled Dogs

Together, make up a list of questions about sled dogs and sled-dog racing. Then look for answers in encyclopedias and online resources if you have access to a computer. You may also wish to look for these titles at your local library.

- *Sled-Dogs: Speeding Through Snow (Dogs Helping People)* by Alice B. McGinty. Rosen Publishing Group, 1999.
- *Dashing Through the Snow: The Story of the Jr. Iditarod* by Sherry Shahan. Millbrook, 1997.

## VOCABULARY

### Vocabulary Riddles

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Iditarod Dream”:

headquarters	tangle
positions	pace
handlers	

Discuss the meanings of these words. Take turns making up riddles that use these words in either the riddle questions or answers.



### TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

## Dear Dusty

You and your child can compose a letter to Dusty Whittemore, the boy in “Iditarod Dream.” Before writing the letter, ask your child questions such as: What would you most like to ask Dusty about the race? Was there one part of Dusty’s story that you found especially exciting, scary, or interesting? Then help your child write the letter. You may be able to send the letter to Dusty through the book’s author, Ted Wood at Walker and Company, 435 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014. Your child may wish to share the letter with classmates after reading “Iditarod Dream.”

