Connect to the Literature

1. What Do You Think?
   - What was your reaction to the story?

Comprehension Check
   - Why are Walt and his father living on Mazy May Creek?
   - Why does Walt steal the claim-jumpers' sled and dogs?
   - What do Walt and Loren Hall do at the end of the story?

Think Critically

2. Review the first three paragraphs of the story, beginning with “Walt Masters is not a very large boy . . .” and ending with “His father is a good man, strong and brave, and Walt is growing up like him.” What important point about human nature is the author presenting here?

3. What sort of person do you think Walt will grow up to be?
   - Think About:
     - his willingness to protect Loren Hall’s land
     - the risks he takes in stealing the dogs
     - the decisions he makes as he races toward Dawson

4. Active Reading | Monitoring Your Reading
   Review the reading strategies that you recorded in your Reader's Notebook. Which strategies most helped you understand the story? At what point in the story did you use these strategies?

Interpret Interpretations

5. What If? Suppose this story took place today in a remote part of Canada or Alaska. How might it be similar? How might it be different?

6. Connect to Life Like the Klondike prospectors, many people still dream of “striking it rich.” What kinds of “get-rich-quick” schemes in modern life are you aware of? How reliable do you think such schemes usually are? Explain your answer.

Literary Analysis

Protagonist and Antagonist
   In a story, the protagonist is a main character who is involved in the story's conflict. An antagonist is a force working against the protagonist or main character. The antagonist may be another character, a force of nature, or even a force within the main character.

   In “The King of Mazy May,” Walt Masters is the protagonist. The five claim-jumpers are the antagonists. The trail leading to Dawson might also be considered an antagonist because it is a natural barrier that Walt must overcome.

Paired Activity Readers often feel sympathy for a story’s protagonist and dislike toward a story’s antagonist. How did you feel about Walt and the claim-jumpers? With a partner, go back through the story and find the passages that influenced your feelings. When you have finished, discuss your findings with your partner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passages About Walt</th>
<th>Passages About Claim-Jumpers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last of all, he has a good heart, and is not afraid of the darkness and loneliness, of man or beast or thing.</td>
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THE KING OF MAZY MAY 1