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# BROVKO'S AMAZING JOURNEY

## Novel Study Guide

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# INTRODUCTION

Some of you may have read *Andrei and the Snow Walker*, the first book in this series, written by Larry Warwaruk. It has many of the same characters you will read about in this novel, which is written from the perspective of Andrei's dog, Brovko. It is the story of Brovko's adventures and misadventures on his amazing journey to the new land of Canada.

## Before you begin

1. Using the front cover of the book, predict the characters you may find in the book.
2. Read the summary of the book on the back cover and answer the following questions:
  - a. What breed of dog is Brovko?
  - b. Who is Andrei and why is he important to the story of Brovko?
  - c. Where does the story take place?
  - d. Approximately when do you think this story takes place?
  - e. Why does Brovko make this amazing journey? What motivates him or pushes him on this journey?
  - f. Which question word is not used in the above questions? Make up a question that will guide you as you read the book.

# Chapter One

## Anticipation Guide

1. If you had to move to another province, state, or country, make a list of things you would pack.
2. How would you feel if you had to leave one of your pets behind?
3. Agree/Disagree statements for discussion:

All dogs care about is sausage.  Agree  Disagree

Dogs have different personalities.  Agree  Disagree

Music is used in many cultures to say hello and goodbye.  Agree  Disagree

Only monks and hermits have visions and dreams.  Agree  Disagree

## During Reading

1. Describe the relationship Andrei and Brovko have.
2. Which girl do you think Petrus likes better?
3. Describe the customs of Ivan Kupalo.
4. How would you feel if you were about to embark on an ocean journey and you heard the song Natasha sang?

## After Reading Extensions

1. Research and compare different courting (dating) rituals found in different cultures such as those found in the countries of immigrants who have moved to Canada. How are they similar to one another? How are they different? How do these traditions differ from First Nations courting rituals? How are they similar?
2. Sacred treasures are often involved in religious ceremonies. Why do you think the staretz or holy man gave the gold object to Andrei's dido or grandfather? What kind of object do you think it could be?

# Chapters Two and Three

## Anticipation Guide

1. Agree/Disagree statements for discussion:

Dogs are social creatures.

Agree  Disagree

Dogs can survive on their own.

Agree  Disagree

Dogs understand what people are saying.

Agree  Disagree

2. What types of chores/tasks need to be done by you and your family members on a regular basis?

3. Where do you go to get food?

## During Reading

1. List the skills needed to survive on a farm in the Ukraine.

2. Write a letter to Andrei from Brovko about how he chooses which people to live with, the Shumkas or the Holochuks, based on what you read in this chapter.

3. What is the significance of the collar?

4. How is the information found in the letter useful to Brovko? How is it useful to you, the reader?

## After Reading Extension

1. Research how dogs are trained to track scents. Discover how much is natural ability and how well dogs can be trained in tracking scents.

2. Based on your research, have a debate in class on whether it would be possible for Brovko to track Petrus, Martha, and Tekla.

# Chapters Four and Five

## Anticipation Guide

1. Animal shelters were not around when this book is set. How do you think people dealt with stray pets?
2. A busker is a musician who plays on the streets, trying to earn money. Share an experience you've had when you saw or stopped and listened to a busker.

## During Reading

1. Make a chart of the names of those who thought highly of Brovko.

| Names | Reason why you wrote the name |
|-------|-------------------------------|
|       |                               |
|       |                               |
|       |                               |
|       |                               |
|       |                               |
|       |                               |
|       |                               |

2. How is the kobzar like today's busker? How is he different?
3. How is the kobzar different from the hermit?
4. What is May Day? Do any other countries celebrate May Day? Are there different names for it?
5. Why is the city of Lviv called the city of lions?

6. Find Lviv on a map. Why do you think so many different nationalities live there?

### **After Reading Extension**

1. Dogs are used as service dogs for many people. Research the many different ways dogs enable people to live independently.



# Chapter Six, Seven, and Eight

## Anticipation Guide

1. List ways for people to travel long distances (methods of transportation).
2. What kind of amenities or services do train stations, bus stations and airport terminals have today?
3. Watch online clips of cattle- or sheep-herding trials for dogs.
4. Watch online clips of circus dogs or agility-trained dogs.

## During Reading

1. Draw a bird's-eye view of the harbour and dock from the information found in **chapter seven**.
2. Draw a storyboard cartoon of how the dog did tricks to get on the train.
3. Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition. How did the sailors prevent it from affecting Hannah? What do people wear now to protect themselves against hypothermia if they fall overboard or their ship sinks?

## After Reading Extensions

1. “You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours” is an idiomatic expression. Give examples from the chapter showing what this saying means.
2. Act out the scenes where the reporter interviews the Kopkos, Herman and the captain of the ship.

# Chapter Nine and Ten

## Anticipation Guide

1. Brainstorm a list of traditional medicines and alternative medicines.
2. If you were ill or injured, what type of medicine would you seek out in order to treat your illness or injury?

## During Reading

1. Two rescue stories are recalled in this chapter. Use a Venn diagram to compare how they are the same and different.
2. How does Andrei try to honour Dido and Snow Walker?
3. Why do you think Snow Walker called the cup “foreign medicine”?
4. Describe the surroundings where the Kopkos are homesteading.
5. What animals does Brovko encounter in his journey? Why are porcupine quills so dangerous for dogs?
6. What is a buda?

## After Reading Extensions

1. Invite an animal health technician or veterinarian to speak on caring for an injured animal.
2. Have groups research how to care for injuries of various animals, and prepare a presentation/demonstration for the class.

# Chapters Eleven to Fourteen

## Anticipation Guide

1. Agree/Disagree statements:

Weeding is an important part of gardening.  Agree  Disagree

Without hilling a potato plant, many potatoes will turn green from the sun's rays.  Agree  Disagree

Tree bark from willow trees can be boiled and then used as medicine to reduce fever.  Agree  Disagree

Animals should never be locked up.  Agree  Disagree

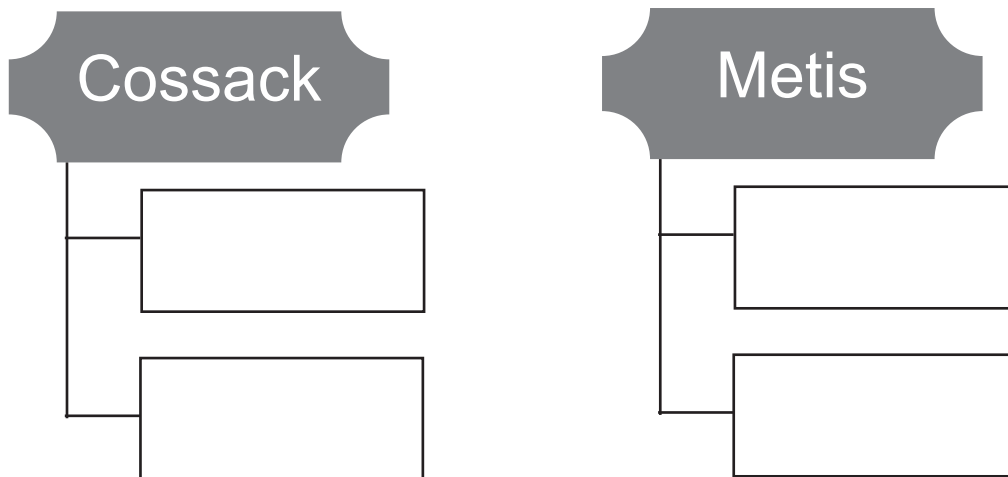
Never feed a dog whole eggs.  Agree  Disagree

Lightning can come out of a clear blue sky.  Agree  Disagree

2. Help out at a community garden or clear an area of the school ground and make it ready for planting.

## During Reading

1. Both Chi Pete and Andrei wear sashes. What are they useful for?
2. The Métis culture and Ukrainian culture are different yet have common features. Make a T-chart using information about the two cultures found in these chapters.



3. What is a summer kitchen? Why would it be necessary?
4. What is Kupalo? When is it?
5. The First Nations people were having a celebration the same night as Kupalo. What kind of dances might they have danced?
6. How do Brovko's fears blind him to the First Nations celebrations?

### **After Reading Extensions**

1. Every year there are stories about stranded campers or mountain climbers who have claimed that different species of wildlife pointed them in the right direction or did something that helped them survive. Make a report on one of these stories. (Enter "people saved by animals" in a search engine.)
2. Fear can keep people from trying new things. Fear can prevent relationships. Fear can keep cultures from understanding each other. Write a "Dear Ann Landers" letter giving advice about how to keep fear from interfering with seeing the truth.

# Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen

## Anticipation Guide

1. Agriculture is a way of life for many people. Brainstorm all that you know about how food is produced, animals are grown, and crops are sold.
2. How do the prairies of North America resemble the steppes of the Ukraine?

## During Reading

1. List the different crops being harvested.
2. Make a comparison chart of the food the Baydas had the first year they homesteaded compared to the second year they homesteaded.
3. How do you think the hermit knew the gold cup was lost?
4. Elders of the First Nations people are often skilled in medicine making. What kind of healing properties do you think kalyna berries have according to how it is used?
5. Why is the return of Brovko's sense of smell so important?

## After Reading Extensions

1. Research the effects of rain during all stages of crop growth.  
When is it most beneficial? When is it least beneficial?
2. Check out the Canadian Grain Commission website. Crops grown in Canada are given a grade. Find out what factors are used to assign value to farmers' grain. How does the grade affect the price farmers are paid for their grain?  
<http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/oggg-gocg/ggg-gcg-eng.htm>

# Chapter Seventeen

## Anticipation Guide

1. Do dogs mate for life or is it just instinct?
2. Does our cultural background influence our opinions or the way we think? Give some examples.
3. What kind of berries are produced by a “kalyna” bush?

## During Reading

1. List the responses of those who witnessed the cup being found.
2. Assign the responses to one of the six hats of thinking. (See link for explanation)  
[http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTED\\_07.htm](http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTED_07.htm)

## After Reading Extensions

1. What is a Red River cart? How is it a part of Saskatchewan’s and Manitoba’s history?
2. Foreshadowing is used by the author to give readers a hint of what’s coming next. What do you predict will happen to Brovka according to the Kupalo tradition?

# Chapters Eighteen and Nineteen

## Anticipation Guide

1. Predict what will happen to the gold cup at the end of the book.
2. When people return after being away for a long time, how do those around them act? If a winning team returns, how are they greeted?

## During Reading

1. How do you think Brovko feels after meeting Brovka? List page numbers where you find the actions that prove your thinking.
2. What is a *skrynia* and what purpose does it have?
3. What was the significance of the wheat tunnel?
4. Describe the different events that happened during the harvest festival.

## After Reading Extensions

1. The buffalo rock is a significant part of First Nations' history in Saskatchewan. Is it still around? Check out this link: [http://www.virtualsk.com/current\\_issue/mistaseni.html](http://www.virtualsk.com/current_issue/mistaseni.html)
2. This story is about Brovko's amazing journey, but there are other journeys taken in this book. What kind of journey does the gold cup have? The Kopkos? The Holochuks? Snow Walker? Choose one and get a copy of the map of the world (or of Canada if you choose *Snow Walker*) and draw their journeys.

## Ukrainian Words

Skrynia

Starche

Dido

Vinok

Viy

Starets

Kalyna

Kobzar

Buda

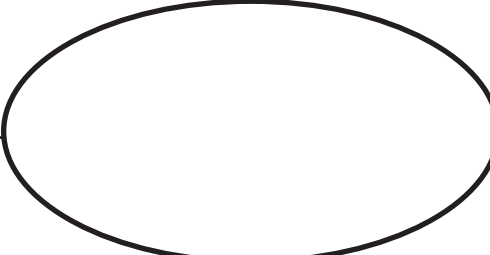
Ivan Kupalo

Bandura

Hopak

Tato

Using a **Fruyer Model** as the template, expand your understanding. Write the Ukrainian word in the oval. If you wish, find a different template to use by searching “Fruyer Model”.

|            |  |                       |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Definition |  | Facts/Characteristics |
| Examples   |  | Non-examples          |