

Let's Write Explorer Stories

1. Simon Fraser: an Homme du Nord

Have you ever felt proud that you belonged to a special club or a special activity group? Imagine that you are the young sixteen-year-old Simon Fraser. You have already shown your trapping skills and your ability to move about in the rough Canadian wilderness. You are now about to be initiated as a true Northman. This means that you will take part in a ceremony with other Hommes du Nord, and that you will make a promise always to be true to the Northmen group. Describe your feelings and reactions as you are drenched in water, and then asked to stand and swear the Homme du Nord oath.

2. David Thompson: An Apprentice for Fifteen Dollars

When David Thompson was a little boy he was not as lucky as you probably are. David was raised in an orphan school for homeless children in England.

Imagine that you are the young, fourteen-year-old David, and that you have just arrived in an outpost called Churchill Factory on the Hudson Bay. You are small for your age and you are totally blind in one eye. You know no one in this new land, and the outpost you see about you seems strange and uncivilized. Tell about your reactions and feelings as you begin to settle into your new life. Tell about the new things you have to learn about living in a wilderness setting and living in a cold winter climate. Tell about the plans for an exciting future that you find yourself dreaming about...

