Grade 7 Geography Summer Reading Guide
Never Cry Wolf by Farley Mowat

****This Reading Guide is meant to be a resource to help as you read over the summer. You are not expected to come into class with these answers filled out on the first day, but it will be helpful for you to look at this as you read and use it as you prepare for your summer reading assessment that your teacher will assign after the first day of classes.****

Background

Farley Mowat published Never Cry Wolf in 1963. The book is a non-fiction memoir of the 18 months he spent in the Barrens, a treeless area of tundra, studying arctic wolves for the Dominion Wildlife Service. Told that these wolves killed caribou for sport, Farley was surprised to discover that wolves never attacked humans and only culled the deer herds of unhealthy animals. Farley also encountered rampant inefficiency among his government colleagues, which he reports in the often humorous, self-deprecating narrative. The book is credited with changing average Canadian attitudes toward wolves and the arctic ecosystem. Widely read, the book was made into a 1983 biopic by director Carroll Ballard.

Characters

Farley Mowat is the book's first-person narrator. Mowat has firm, preconceived notions about wolves and their place in the natural world, but gradually, through his observations and experiences with the wolves, these preconceptions change.

Ootek is native to the area in which Mowat sets up his study of the wolves. He is a minor shaman to his people and has observed wolves closely all his life. Ootek is fascinated by Mowat's project, and the two men become close friends.

Mike is a trapper who owns a cabin and allows Mowat to use it as his permanent base camp. He introduces Mowat to his cousin Ootek.

George, **Angeline**, their four pups, and **Uncle Albert** make up the family of wolves who become the object of Mowat's study.

Chapters 1-7
As you read the book, watch for these exciting and dangerous moments. Be ready to explain them and discuss your opinions on the events in class.

1. EVENT: Mowat's pilot starts to go in for a landing through the thick cloud.

2. EVENT: Alone on the ice, Mowat hears ”the howling of a wolf pack in full cry.”
3. EVENT: Hiding under his canoe, Mowat is surrounded by the pack of animals.
4. EVENT: Mowat comes face to face with an adult wolf.
5. EVENT: Mowat finds the two adult wolves sitting nearby, watching him.

Chapters 8-13
Mowat soon becomes aware of the adult wolf's individual personalities. Be ready to share your descriptions and thoughts on Angeline, George, and Uncle Albert in class.

Questions to think about after finishing the book:

1. Why do you think Mowat includes the story of his boyhood experience with the fish and his grandmother? Would the book be improved or weakened if this episode were left out?

2. Compare and contrast the wolves’ behavior with the behavior of domestic dogs. How are they alike? How are they different?

3. What did you think of this book? Did you like it?