

# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### Chapter 1

#### Historical Note:

In Chapter 1 is not set in Silent One's regular village on the Saguenay River because it is winter. In the winter, people in Montagnais villages leave would break up into smaller family groups to form hunting parties. They'd head south, setting off on snowshoes to hunt animals like moose and beaver once their summer supplies of food had run out. In this case, the Montagnais had traveled south to the woods near Samuel de Champlain's French settlement at Quebec.

The Iroquois who lived further south had more permanent villages because they had developed agriculture. They lived in a slightly warmer climate and were able to grow corn and other crops that would see them through the winters. The Montagnais, though, were still hunters and gatherers in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, relying very much on whatever animals and plants were available at any given time of year. In some seasons, as in the winter of 1609, food was extremely scarce, and starvation was common.

#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- What do you think you would have done if you were faced with the decision of whether or not to try and cross the river?
- Why don't you think Silent One speaks any more?
- In the last line of this chapter, Silent One says, "We are saved." But he adds the words "for now." As a reader, what does this make you think about what might lie ahead for Silent One and his people?

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Social Studies/Language Arts...*

Look at this picture of the French settlement at Quebec from the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Imagine that you are Silent One, viewing the Habitation from across the icy river. Write a journal entry about the Habitation as if you are describing it to someone back in your village.



VOCABULARY

sapling: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

waning: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

treacherous: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. A **simile** is a figure of speech where a writer describes something by comparing it to something else using the word like, as, or than. Which of the following is NOT an example of a simile from this chapter?
  - a. Hunger gnaws at my belly like a wolf.
  - b. The ice chunks are too large to carry – heavier than a full-grown moose.
  - c. The current tosses huge blocks of ice like children playing ball.
  - d. Nearly the entire river has turned to stone this winter
  
2. In Chapter 1, Silent One says that his people call to the Frenchmen but they shake their heads. Why are they most likely unwilling to cross the river?
  - a. They do not want the Indians to survive.
  - b. They do not have any food and know they cannot help the Indians.
  - c. They know the river is too dangerous to cross.
  - d. They do not have permission from their leader.
  
3. Based on the context in which it is used in Chapter 1, the Montagnais word *mitshim* means:
  - a. danger
  - b. food
  - c. ice
  - d. river

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: Why was Silent One’s old name, *Uhumish*, appropriate for him before he stopped speaking? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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## Chapter 2

### Historical Note:

The character of Etienne is based on a real teenager who was with Samuel de Champlain at his settlement in Quebec. His name was Etienne Brule. He spent time with the Huron in 1610 and returned to serve as an interpreter, since Champlain did not know the native languages.

The real Etienne had a reputation as a troublemaker – one who wasn't fond of following rules. Eventually, he left the French and ran off to join the Huron. He lived with them many years and traveled with them to what is now Lake Superior. Historians aren't sure what happened after that, but something went terribly wrong. It is believed that the Huron killed Etienne

Brule when they suspected him of dealing with a rival tribe later on.



Etienne Brule at the mouth of the Humber, 1615  
Charles William Jefferys (1869-1951)  
National Archives of Canada, Ottawa

### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- Why do you think Silent One acts differently than the others in this chapter?

### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Life Science:* Food poisoning was common in the 17<sup>th</sup> century because there were so few ways to preserve food and keep bacteria from growing. While Silent One does not understand the science behind his thought, he knows that eating some meat can make people sick. Read the following article about food poisoning at KidsHealth.org.

[http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/stomach/food\\_poisoning.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/stomach/food_poisoning.html)

Based on what you read, what symptoms do you expect the Montagnais men and women who ate the meat might develop? What treatments might be available to them?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 2*

VOCABULARY

carrion: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

clamoring: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

gaunt: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why won't Champlain allow his men to provide more food when the Montagnais ask for it?
  - a. He believes the Montagnais leaders are being greedy.
  - b. He wants the Montagnais to go away.
  - c. He doesn't have any more food.
  - d. He wants to save the food that he has left for his own men.
  
5. Based on the information in Chapter 2, Steps Too Soon can *best* be described as:
  - a. Courageous
  - b. Impulsive
  - c. Creative
  - d. Intelligent
  
6. Why were the Frenchmen keeping the dead dog and pig near their settlement?
  - a. In case they ran out of beans and bread
  - b. As a way to attract the Montagnais to their camp
  - c. As bait for the foxes
  - d. As a superstition, to scare off evil spirits

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: At the end of Chapter 2, Silent One says, "And the dog in the oak will have his revenge." What does he mean by this statement? Support your answer with details from the text.

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### Chapter 3

#### Historical Note:

In the journal quote that begins Chapter 3, Champlain says many of his men are sick with scurvy. Scurvy is a disease caused by a deficiency of ascorbic acid, or Vitamin C. It was a common ailment among sailors in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries because their diets were so limited, and they went so long without fresh fruits and vegetables. Champlain himself suffered a bout of scurvy in the winter of 1609 but recovered. Symptoms of scurvy include bone and joint pain and loosening of the teeth.

The cure for scurvy that Silent One provided for the Frenchmen probably would have worked quite well. He brewed the leaves of a cedar tree, which is now known to contain significant amounts of Vitamin C.

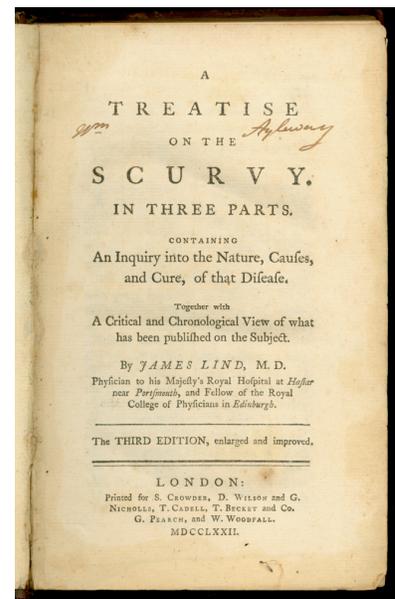
#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- Why do you think Silent One decides to go with Etienne to help the sick Frenchmen?
- As Silent One considers Champlain's promise of friendship in this chapter, he says that Champlain's words feel "warm but weak, like a broth that has not steeped long enough over the flames." What do you think he means by that comparison?
- Etienne promises Silent One that the Iroquois, the enemies of the Montagnais, will be impressed with the Frenchmen's "strong magic." Why do you think he uses this phrase?

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Mathematics/Social Studies:* Scurvy is a disease that was written about in many 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century journals and ship's logs because it had such an effect on sailors. The book pictured at right is one of the early scientific studies of this disease. Look closely at the Roman Numerals that make up the copyright date. In what year was this book published?

NICHOLLS, T. CADELL, T. BECKET and Co.  
G. PEARCH, and W. WOODFALL.  
MDCCLXXII.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 3*

**VOCABULARY**

scurvy: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

dysentery: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

convulse: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Silent One describes his approach to the French settlement and writes, “We enter through the gate in the palisade.” Based on the context of this sentence, a palisade is:
  - a. A small building used to store food.
  - b. A wall or fence used for defense.
  - c. A storehouse for keeping weapons.
  - d. A thickly planted row of trees.
  
8. When Silent One says, “I hear the voice of Singing Bear” in this chapter, he means:
  - a. He hears a Frenchman who sounds like Singing Bear.
  - b. Singing Bear isn’t really dead.
  - c. Singing Bear’s ghost is talking to him.
  - d. He has a memory of something Singing Bear said.
  
9. At the end of Chapter 3, Silent One’s attitude toward the Frenchmen can best be described as:
  - a. Cautious
  - b. Trusting
  - c. Hateful
  - d. Loving

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 3, Silent One discusses how his people first viewed the Frenchmen. What did the Montagnais notice was different about Champlain and his men? Use details from the text to support your response.

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## **Chapter 4**

**Historical Note:** In Chapter 4, Brave One and Steps Too Soon hunt for beaver so they can trade with the French. This trade situation created a change in the way Native American people made use of the beaver. Before the French, the Montagnais and other neighboring tribes hunted only as many beaver as they needed for personal use. Once the French arrived, though, there was a much greater demand for the beaver pelts, and this led to over-hunting for the first time. This website, from a living history group in Minnesota's fur country, provides a timeline of the fur trade in the New World.

<http://www.whiteoak.org/learning/timeline.shtml>

### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- Why do you think Silent One is troubled by the other boys hunting?
- What evidence do you see in this chapter to suggest that the presence of the French may be changing the Montagnais ways of life?
- If you were Silent One, how would you feel about making the trip north to the Saguenay?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*ELA/Creative Writing:* Have you ever been especially happy to see the sun after a long winter? Read Silent One's description of the coming of spring in Chapter 4:

*Brother Sun greets us this morning. Our long winter ended with the new moon, but still, I am surprised to see his face. There were so many nights when my hunger woke me, so many days when I stumbled in weakness. I was not sure I would see the snow melt.*

*But this morning, the sun warms the soil. The shad run in the river again. We pull in great nets of them to dry and smoke. The women gather wood for the fire. The children run and kick the deerskin ball in the clearings.*

Rewrite these two descriptive paragraphs using your own language and signs of spring that a modern boy or girl might appreciate.

VOCABULARY

agile: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

endure: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

flurry: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Silent One says that the name Laughing Seal is a fitting one for his little sister because:

- a. She is playful.
- b. She is clever and moves easily.
- c. She is a strong survivor like the seal.
- d. All of the above.

11. A simile is a figure of speech in which one thing is described by comparing it to something else using the word like, as, or than. Read this description of Steps Too Soon:

*Steps Too Soon does not turn away. He circles in on me like a prowling coyote.*

The author probably compares Steps Too Soon to a coyote to show that Steps Too Soon is:

- a. hairy
- b. threatening
- c. quiet
- d. clever

12. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is described through a direct comparison to something else, without using the word like, as, or than. Which of the following is an example of a metaphor?

- a. But this morning, the sun warms the soil.
- b. He spends hours watching them split wood and grind corn, scurrying like ants amid the buildings of the Habitation.
- c. He squints down at me, and his words are whispered arrows.
- d. Champlain will keep his promise to you.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 4, Silent One says he “looks for lies” in Etienne’s eyes but sees none and listens. How does Etienne try to convince Silent One to go with the French on the journey north? Use details from the text to explain your answer.

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### Chapter 5

**Historical Note:** Silent One goes with Champlain & the other Frenchmen back to Tadoussac, a fur-trading settlement where the Saguenay River meets the St. Lawrence River on the north side. This is one of Samuel de Champlain's drawings of the Tadoussac region, which is still noted for its abundant wildlife. Today, Tadoussac is the oldest remaining French settlement in North America.



<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>

### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- What are Silent One's first impressions of the French leader Pont Gravé?
- Why do you think the French need to have the natives accompany them on the voyage south?
- In Chapter 5, Silent One remembers a moment he shared with Singing Bear in the forest. Why do you think this particular memory returns to Silent One now?

### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Life Science/Botany:* In Chapter 5, Silent One recalls a day spent gathering blue cohosh, a medicinal plant, with Singing Bear. The Montagnais and other Northeastern tribes made use of many plants in their environment for medicine and other purposes.

Visit the website below from NativeTech, a site that features Native American technology and art. Explore some of the other plants used by tribes of the Northeast.

<http://www.nativetech.org/plantgath/plantgaht.htm>

Do you recognize the names of some of the plants? Were some used in ways that surprise you?

Imagine that you are Silent One and you've decided to write down some of the wisdom that Singing Bear taught you about the healing plants. Make a list of medicinal plants you might find near your village with notes on how to use them.

VOCABULARY

stench: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

arquebus: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Based on the information in Chapter 5, how is Champlain’s shallop different from the Montagnais canoes?
- a. The shallop is smaller and lighter.
  - b. The shallop is larger and more difficult to maneuver.
  - c. The shallop will be easier to control in the rapids.
  - d. All of the above.
14. Silent One says he and his brother both miss their uncle, but “Brave One misses him with too many words, words that burn too hot, too fast.” Silent One probably most likely means that:
- a. his brother talks too much.
  - b. his brother’s words are not true.
  - c. his brother didn’t know his uncle as long as he did.
  - d. his brother is sometimes too emotional.
15. In the final scene of Chapter 5, two of the men on the voyage get in an argument that ends with their canoe tipping over. The author most likely included this scene to:
- a. Make kids laugh.
  - b. Show the problem with seeking revenge.
  - c. Take the attention away from Silent One.
  - d. Remind readers that there are many canoes in the water.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 4, Silent One remembers something that Singing Bear told him while they were gathering plants one day:

*You must think not only of what happens today or tomorrow, but of what will be here for your children, and the children of your children, and their children, as well.*

How does this quote relate to the gathering of plants in the forest, and how might it relate to the decisions the Montagnais make about war in the future?

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## **Chapter 6**

**Historical Note:** In Chapter 6, *Silent One* describes how the men have made a fire and built a stand for smoking fish. Smoked fish and eel were staples of the Montagnais diet because once smoked, the fish would last for a long time. This photograph, taken at a reenactment site in Ottawa, ON, shows what a small stand for smoking fish might have looked like.

(Insert picture!)

### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- *Silent One* describes how the Frenchmen gather roots and berries and firewood – jobs that he considers “women’s work.” How does *Silent One*’s society compare with ours as far as the roles of men and women are concerned? What kinds of division of labor are there in your house?
- *Silent One* describes small flies, “tiny black spots with wings,” that bite the men and make them bleed. Can you think of a bug in your environment that seems similar?
- Why do you think Champlain agrees to go with the Algonquins all the way back to Quebec at the end of Chapter 6?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Language Arts/Geography:* In Chapter 6, *Silent One* refers to the beginning of the earth, when “muskrat brought the soil from under the waters of the flood.” This is a reference to the Innu, or Montagnais, creation story, which is similar to the Iroquois story.

<http://www.gly.uga.edu/railsback/CS/CSIndex.html>

The website above features links to creation stories from many world cultures. Choose several stories to read and think about what elements the stories seem to have in common. Can you see certain images or themes appearing in different cultures’ stories? How are the stories different depending on the geography of the people whose culture the story represents?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 6*

**VOCABULARY**

plentiful: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

entice: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

crafty: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. In the quote from Samuel de Champlain’s journal at the beginning of Chapter 6, he describes the river as:
- a. calm and peaceful
  - b. quiet and lifeless
  - c. beautiful but dangerous
  - d. small but interesting
17. The Algonquin chiefs tell their people, “We call for you to join us, all, to make an alliance with this Samuel de Champlain and his men.” Based on the context of the passage, an alliance is:
- a. A group of people who have made an agreement
  - b. A battle
  - c. A journey
  - d. A new tribe
18. In Chapter 6, Silent One describes the black flies that are bothering them and remarks on how strange it is that something so small can do so much damage. When he says, “We shall have to be like the flies when we encounter our enemies,” he most likely means,
- a. They will need to draw blood to win the battle.
  - b. They will need to move quickly as if they are flying.
  - c. They will need to sneak up on the Iroquois.
  - d. They’ll need to be strong warriors because their party is small.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: When Champlain suggests that the Montagnais make peace with the Iroquois, Brave One and the others laugh, and Brave One says, “The great French chief does not act the way he speaks.” What does he mean by this? Use details from the text to support your opinion.

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### **Chapter 7**

**Historical Note:** In Chapter 7, Silent One’s mother says, “It is good to cook this way,” referring to the copper pots they got from trading with the French. Before the Montagnais began trading for copper, they used clay pots for cooking, and it took much longer to make a meal. The clay pots couldn’t be heated directly over a fire or they’d break. Instead, the women would heat up rocks in the fire and drop the hot rocks into a clay pot full of water until the water became very hot. This way of cooking meat took a long time and didn’t cook meat as thoroughly as a pot hung directly over the fire.

This copper kettle, photographed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, would be similar to the one Silent One’s mother uses in Chapter 7. (INSERT PHOTO!)

### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- When Etienne is talking to Silent One in Chapter 7, he tells him what Champlain said about trading fairly with the “savages.” The use of this word is disrespectful to native people. Why do you think the author chose to use it in this situation?
- The native people at times seem surprised that the French are willing to trade so much for beaver furs. Why do you think this is the case?
- Do you think Silent One has made a decision at the end of this chapter? What do you predict he will do?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Social Studies/Economics/Ecology:* In Chapter 7, Etienne tries to explain to Silent One why the French are so interested in the beaver pelts. He is correct when he describes the way the European beaver was hunted to near extinction because of the demand for beaver hats in places like Paris. Read the information about the European beaver from the Animal Diversity Web:

[http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Castor\\_fiber.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Castor_fiber.html)

The word economics refers to the way people produce, buy, and sell goods and services. Can you think of other animals that have been threatened because of human activity that relates to economics?

**VOCABULARY**

disperse: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

crimson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

slender: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. A simile is when an author describes something with a comparison using the word like, as, or than. Which of the following is not an example of a simile?

- a. Etienne is skinny as a stray dog.
- b. They talk all at once like ducks and geese.
- c. I step through green leaves onto the quiet moss of the forest floor.
- d. They scurry like insects, gathering bread and meat and barrels of rum.

20. Silent One most likely leaves the fire to go to his uncle's burial hut in this chapter because:

- a. He misses his uncle.
- b. He feels unsure about what to do.
- c. He is frightened by the idea of going into battle.
- d. All of the above.

21. Personification is a figure of speech that gives an inanimate object (something that's not alive) human qualities. Example: The wind reached down my collar with icy fingers. The wind is not alive, but it's described as reaching with icy fingers, like a person. Which of the following is also an example of personification?

- a. The wind shifts, and smoke burns my eyes to make tears.
- b. It is dark, but my moccasins know the way.
- c. Fat crackles with sparks above the flames.
- d. The red slashes (of war paint) stained his face like blood.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: When Steps Too Soon arrives with war paints in Chapter 7, Brave One and Silent One react very differently. How do the boys' reactions show their different feelings and views on going to battle? Use details from the text to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

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## Study Guide

### **Chapter 8**

**Historical Note:** The dancing and feasting that precede the battle are a major focus of Chapter 8 because this kind of celebration was an important part of Montagnais and Algonquin culture. Music in this tradition is still popular in Canada today. One musical group in particular, called Kashtin, has found success recording songs in the traditional Innu, or Montagnais, language. You can share more about this group with your students at this website:

<http://www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/set/6554/>

And students can listen to one of the group's songs at the link below:

[http://theband.hiof.no/sounds/robbie\\_robertson\\_2/music\\_for\\_the\\_native/07.mp3](http://theband.hiof.no/sounds/robbie_robertson_2/music_for_the_native/07.mp3)

Compare the beat of this song to the drumming that Silent One describes in Chapter 8. Do you notice any similarities?

### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- Silent One describes Walks With Eagles as a good husband and a good father, yet he doesn't seem close to his mother's new husband. Why do you think this is the case?
- Why do you think the firing of the French guns is such an important part of the interaction between the French and the natives?
- Why do you think the Algonquins react differently than the Montagnais when the French guns are fired in Chapter 8?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Social Studies/Performing Arts:* In Chapter 8, Silent One joins his people in a feast and dance to prepare for the battle with the Iroquois. Dance was, and still is, an important part of Native American culture. The website below from California State University offers a lesson plan for student participation in one native dance.

<http://www.csuchico.edu/~cguenter/FourArts/DA/DAfrnd.html>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 8*

**VOCABULARY**

thunderous: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

victorious: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

embers: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. In the excerpt from Champlain’s journal, Samuel de Champlain describes the natives’ reaction to the firing of the guns. This reaction can best be described as one of:
- a. Fear and terror.
  - b. Worry and doubt.
  - c. Disbelief and mocking.
  - d. Excitement and astonishment.
23. Silent One says when Champlain fires the arquebus, it “vibrates in my chest like a thousand beating drums.” This is an example of:
- a. A metaphor.
  - b. A simile.
  - c. Personification.
  - d. Alliteration.
24. The feasting and dancing described in Chapter 8 is most likely meant to:
- a. Create a feeling of excitement and unity.
  - b. Use up extra food before the men leave for their journey.
  - c. Give the women a way to participate in the upcoming battle.
  - d. Show the Iroquois how powerful Champlain and his men are.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 8, Silent One finally makes the decision to go to battle along with his brother. Why do you think he makes this choice? Use details from the text to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

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## Study Guide

### Chapter 9

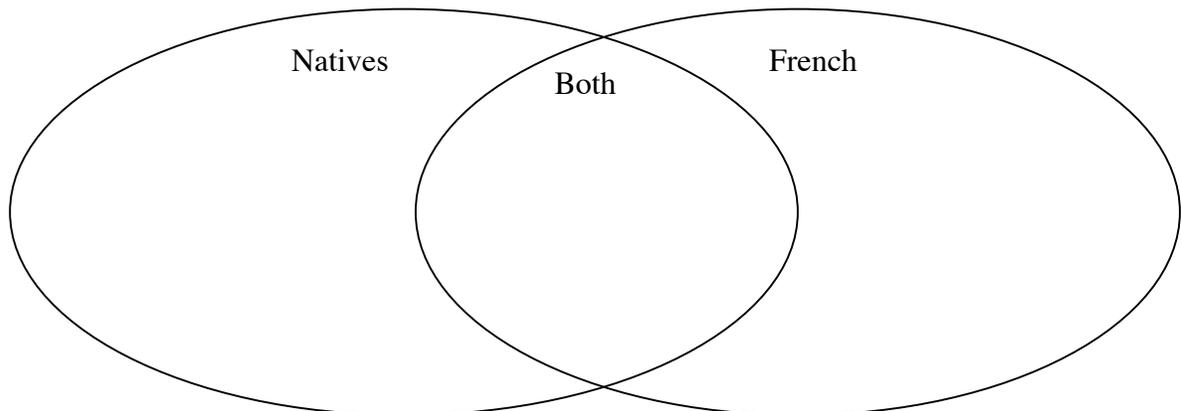
**Historical Note:** Silent One says he tried to stay a good distance from the Frenchmen if he could because “They smell horribly, as they rarely bathe.” Champlain’s men probably did smell quite ripe, but they weren’t alone in their bathing habits. In fact, few people in Europe bathed more than once a month or so during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One reason for this was the fear of disease. With illnesses like the plague ravaging Europe, doctors of the time announced – and believed – that bathing could actually make you sick because it opened up the body to illness. Native Americans, on the other hand, did bathe, and probably would have noticed the smell of their new neighbors, just as Silent One did.

### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- Silent One’s narrative in this chapter shows that he is disgusted by how the French smell and how they use handkerchiefs, blowing their noses and then putting the cloths back into their pants. How do you think the Frenchmen would respond to this if they were told of the natives’ impressions of them?
- When Brave One tells Etienne he does not understand the idea of some Frenchmen having high ranks than others, Etienne says it is no different from the natives having chiefs. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- At the end of Chapter 9, Silent One says they are swept along the river “on wind and words and promises.” What do you think he means by this?

### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Social Studies/Language Arts:* Comparing means pointing out the similarities between two things. Contrasting means pointing out the differences. Often, when people of different cultures meet, they tend to notice one another’s differences first. A Venn Diagram allows writers to brainstorm for compare/contrast essays that require a reader to point out similarities and differences. Make a larger version of the chart below on your paper and fill in notes about the French and the natives in the book.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 9*

**VOCABULARY**

precedes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

raucous: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

plumage: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Read the excerpt from Champlain's journal at the beginning of Chapter 9. Based on the context, a barque and a shallop are probably kinds of:

- a. houses
- b. tools
- c. boats
- d. plants

26. At the beginning of Chapter 9, Silent One suggests that the other men are quieter than usual because:

- a. They are tired.
- b. They are afraid of losing men in the battle.
- c. They are thinking.
- d. None of the above.

27. Though many of the natives and Frenchmen are confident of a quick victory, Silent One's attitude can best be described as:

- a. Angry and upset
- b. Cautious and unsure
- c. Excited and optimistic
- d. Supportive and enthusiastic

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 9, Silent One makes several observations about Etienne. How does Silent One see Etienne as different from the other Frenchmen? Use details from the text to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner  
Study Guide

## Chapter 10

**Historical Note:** The map below shows Samuel de Champlain's depiction of the area covered on his journey to what we now call Lake Champlain.



### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- What evidence is there in this chapter that dreams and visions were important to Silent One and his people?

### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Social Studies/Geography:* Compare Samuel de Champlain’s map above to a modern map of this region from an atlas or online map site like Google Maps. Make a list of similarities and differences.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 10**

**VOCABULARY**

muttering: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

confidence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

shimmering: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. Read the excerpt from Champlain’s journal at the beginning of Chapter 10. Champlain’s impressions of the landscape in this area is best described as:

- a. rugged and rocky.
- b. lovely and rich in resources.
- c. desolate and empty.
- d. mountainous and beautiful.

29. Based on the information in Chapter 10, what do Silent One’s people hope a dream will accomplish?

- a. The dream will tell them when it is time to fight so they will be prepared.
- b. The dream will ensure that they win the battle.
- c. The dream will chase away evil spirits before the battle.
- d. None of the above.

30. Silent One watches the departing warriors and says, “My soul paddles off into the sun with them.” This passage suggests that:

- a. Silent One is a coward.
- b. Silent One is angry at the men for leaving.
- c. Silent One starts to leave, too, but changes his mind.
- d. Silent One would like to be going home, too.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: At the end of Chapter 10, Silent One says, “I remember why I must stay.” Why does he feel like he can’t leave? Explain using details from the text to support your answer.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

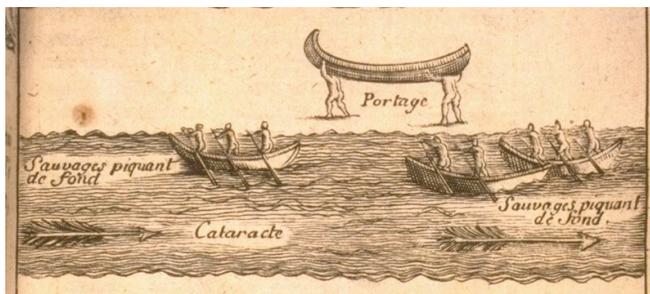
by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### Chapter 11

#### Historical Note:

In Chapter 11, *Silent One* describes portage – the practice of lifting a canoe from the water to carry it around obstacles like rapids or waterfalls. Louis de LAhontan, a French explorer who came later than Champlain, sketched this image of how the Abenaki people carried their canoes as *Silent One* describes.



<http://www.usm.maine.edu/~maps/exhibit2/16c.jpg>

#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- In Chapter 11, *Silent One* says he is afraid because he has not had a vision, but at the same time, he says he is afraid of what he might see. Why do you think he feels this way?
- Why might the natives have decided not to tell Champlain about the rough waters they would encounter on their journey? Do you think the French have a right to be upset?

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Social Studies/Learning from Primary Documents:* Imagine that you are a famous historian who has been hired to rewrite Samuel de Champlain's diary in modern language for young readers. Read this passage from Champlain's journal at the beginning of Chapter 11. On a separate piece of paper, write a new paragraph that means the same thing but is written in modern language, with modern sentence structures.

*No Christians had been in this place before us; and we had considerable difficulty in ascending the river with our oars.*

*As soon as we had reached the fall, Des Marais, La Route, and I, with five men, went on shore to see whether we could pass this place; but we went some league and a half without seeing any prospect of being able to do so, finding only water running with great swiftness, and in all directions many stones, very dangerous, and with but little water about them.*

*-Voyages of Samuel de Champlain*

VOCABULARY

disembark: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

coax: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

sleek: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

31. Silent One says of Etienne, “He has learned our ways as quickly as he has learned our language. Perhaps it is because he has fewer winters, and the language of the Frenchmen is not stuck so deep in his throat.” Based on this statement, with which idea below would Silent One *most likely* agree?

- a. White men cannot learn the ways of native peoples.
- b. Older people tend to be smarter and learn things faster than young people.
- c. Young people tend to learn more quickly because they aren’t as set in their ways.
- d. Language is easier to learn than customs.

32. Which sentence below contains a simile?

- a. The flames fan up in a sudden whoosh.
- b. The language of the Frenchmen is not stuck so deep in his throat.
- c. The smell of roasting fish fills me with hunger.
- d. Its scales sparkle in the firelight like colorful glass beads in the sun.

33. Why does Brave One call Champlain a dog when they’re talking in the canoe at the end of this chapter?

- a. He cannot understand the French language and thinks Champlain sounds like a dog.
- b. He is still angry that some Frenchmen have turned back.
- c. He thinks Champlain is very ugly.
- d. He is trying to provoke Champlain to fight.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: Steps Too Soon was so named because of his tendency to act too quickly and get himself into trouble. Is this still an appropriate name for him? Why or why not? Give specific evidence from Chapter 11 to support your opinion.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### **Chapter 12**

#### **Historical Note:**

Etienne Brule, the real historical figure on which the character Etienne was based, also felt a connection with the native people of North America. In 1610, Samuel de Champlain sent Etienne Brule to live with the Huron, to be a sort of exchange student and learn the language. He ended up spending a year in their village on the Georgian Bay, learning not only their language but also their customs. The real Etienne Brule was also fond of Indian women. A French missionary living with the Huron actually wrote about Etienne's many Indian girlfriends in a journal entry from that time period!

#### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- How do you think Silent One feels when Etienne Brule says he might like to marry an Indian girl?
- Why do you think Etienne is drawn to the lifestyle of Silent One and his people?

#### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*English Language Arts...* When Etienne talks with Silent One in Chapter 12, he says he knows his secret will be safe, since Silent One doesn't speak. He doesn't expect a response from Silent One in the conversation, and he doesn't get one. But what do you think Silent One might say if he spoke?

Imagine that you are Silent One. Write a letter to Etienne, discussing your feelings about the conversation.

**VOCABULARY**

custom: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ritual: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

furrows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

34. What does Samuel de Champlain think of the way the Natives send out scouts to check for enemies and then let everyone sleep through the night?

- a. He thinks it is a wise idea.
- b. He likes the idea but worries about the men becoming lazy.
- c. He thinks the idea is foolish and dangerous.
- d. He likes the idea and wishes his own men would do the same.

35. In this chapter, Brave One and some other men are referred to as scouts. In this context, the word scout most likely means:

- a. A Boy Scout or Girl Scout.
- b. Someone who hunts for food.
- c. Someone who leads the other warriors.
- d. Someone who checks out territory in advance and watches for the enemy.

36. Silent One says Etienne is somewhat like Brave One because:

- a. He is a fearless fighter.
- b. He acts older and tougher than he is.
- c. He makes poor decisions.
- d. He chooses the wrong companions.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: How do the French and the Natives differ in their ideas about staying safe at night? Explain why people on each side believe their ideas and practices make more sense. Use details from the chapter to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### Chapter 13

#### Historical Note:

Silent One describes the hut, or tent, built by his people's medicine man in Chapter 13. This ritual of "shaking tent" was an important one in Innu, or Montagnais, society, and it wasn't just used in times of battle. The medicine man, or Pilotois, as the French called him, might go into the tent before a hunt, too, order to talk with the caribou spirits.

This illustration of the shaking tent is from Lucien M. Turner's book, *Indians and Eskimos in the Quebec-Labrador Peninsula (Ethnology of the Ungava District, Hudson Bay Territory)* and is shared at the website <http://www.innu.ca/shaking.html>.



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#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- What do you think of the description of the shaking tent in Chapter 13? Why do you think this tradition is so important to the warriors?
- Do you think Silent One is right to compare it to the Frenchmen "praying to their gods?"

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*English Language Arts/Point of View...* Chapter 13, like the rest of this book, is told from the point of view of Silent One. Imagine how Etienne or Samuel de Champlain might describe the same scene with the medicine man in his shaking tent. Rewrite the scene from the French point of view.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 14*

**VOCABULARY**

soothsayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

emerge: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

victorious: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

37. Based on the information in Chapter 13, a *Pilotois* might also be called a:

- a. Visionary
- b. Warrior
- c. Chief
- d. Doctor

38. At the beginning of Chapter 13, Etienne tells Brave One he has had a dream. Based on the context of his statement, which of the following is true?

- a. Etienne has become a medicine man.
- b. Etienne is lying.
- c. Etienne is making a joke.
- d. Etienne is trying to anger Brave One.

39. Which of the following is *not* a prediction made by the *Pilotois*, or medicine man?

- a. They will win the battle.
- b. They will go tomorrow and encounter the Iroquois further up the lake.
- c. They will kill many of their enemies.
- d. They will lose many men in the battle.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: How do Silent One and his people feel about the importance of dreams and visions? Give specific examples from Chapter 13 to support your opinion.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### **Chapter 14**

#### **Historical Note:**

*Chaousarou*: In the Chapter 14 excerpt from *Voyages of Samuel de Champlain*, Champlain describes a great fish the natives call *Chaousarou*, with dangerous, sharp teeth and a long snout. Modern believers of the story of “Champ,” Lake Champlain’s legendary monster, often point to this passage as evidence of a great creature in the lake, dating back all the way to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. But what did Champlain and his men really see? Some historians think it may have been a relative of the garpike, a fish that lives in modern Lake Champlain, too, but isn’t seen in such great size. The garpike in this photo lives at the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center on Lake Champlain.

#### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- Study the image of the garpike provided. Based on Champlain’s description, do you think this is the fish he saw? Why or why not? What else might it have been?
- Why do you think *Silent One* dreamed that he was *Chaousarou*? How might his dream relate to the battle with the Iroquois?
- At the end of Chapter 14, *Silent One* says he knows that battle is coming. Based on his narration, how do you think he feels about this?

#### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Science...* Read the online article “Is Lake Champlain Home to a Sea Serpent?” from *Voice of America*.

[http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2006-03/2006-03-21\\_voa14.cfm?CFID=7413480&CFTOKEN=14488016](http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2006-03/2006-03-21_voa14.cfm?CFID=7413480&CFTOKEN=14488016)

Imagine that you are a scientist who has been hired to determine if there is, in fact, a creature in Lake Champlain and if so, what it is. Based on the article and Champlain’s journal, what theories do you have about Champ so far? How might you conduct research to prove or disprove those theories?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 14*

**VOCABULARY**

abundance: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

prey: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

visionary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

40. He told me of the mountains that rise on either side of the valley, like giants stretching into the clouds. This sentence from Chapter 14 is an example of:

- a. alliteration
- b. a metaphor
- c. a simile
- d. irony

41. Silent One watches as the great fish Chaousarou

- a. eats a blue heron
- b. attacks another fish
- c. eats a seagull
- d. leaps from the water

42. What does Silent One learn from his dream in Chapter 14?

- a. Chaousarou will attack one of the Frenchmen.
- b. The battle will happen soon.
- c. The Iroquois will win the battle.
- d. The party will soon return to Quebec.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: While the great fish Chaousarou is new to the Frenchmen, it is not new to Silent One and his tribe. How does Silent One describe his people's relationship with Chaousarou? Include specific details from the text in your answer.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

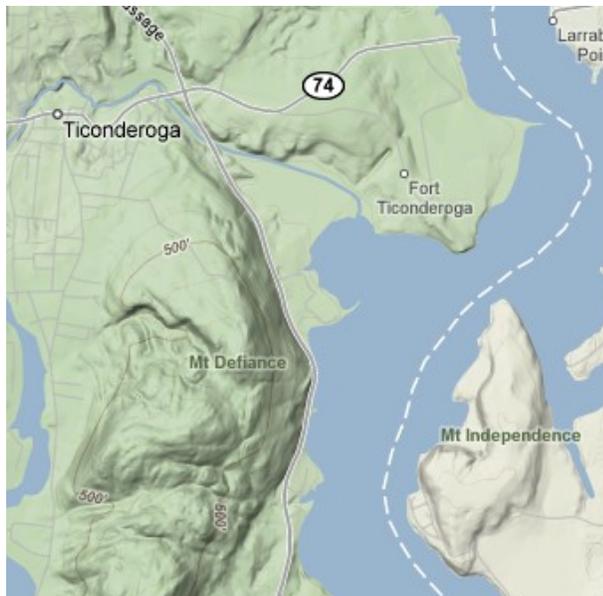
by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### Chapter 15

#### Historical Note:

In his journal excerpt at the beginning of Chapter 15, Champlain says he sees the Iroquois drowning “in a lake near a mountain.” Many historians believe Champlain was describing the peninsula near what is now Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain. The Google Earth terrain image at the right shows this possible location.



#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- How closely does the topographical map above match what Champlain describes seeing in his dream?
- What differences did you notice between Champlain’s dream and Silent One’s dream? What cultural or background issues might account for some of these differences?

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Visual Arts...* What might Silent One’s drawing in the dirt have looked like? Use a pencil or charcoal to draw your version of his dream. On the other side of the paper, create a drawing to represent Champlain’s dream.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 15*

VOCABULARY

abode: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

encampment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

furrow: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

43. Which of the following is not an example of a simile in Chapter 15?
- a. He pesters me like the flies on the riverbank.
  - b. The sky has turned from black to purple to pink.
  - c. Etienne and the other men crowd me like vultures that smell death.
  - d. It is the Frenchmen who chatter all at once like shore birds.
44. Silent One etches pictures in the dirt in order to:
- a. convince Champlain to talk about his dream.
  - b. show the men that there has been no vision yet.
  - c. show the men what will happen according to his vision.
  - d. convince the other men that they will not encounter the enemy soon.
45. Silent One and Champlain both have dreams that suggest:
- a. many French, Algonquin, and Montagnais warriors will die.
  - b. there will be no battle with the Iroquois on this voyage.
  - c. the great fish will join in the battle.
  - d. their party will encounter the Iroquois soon.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: Do the Montagnais and Algonquin warriors believe that dreams can predict the future? Write a paragraph explaining your thoughts, using specific details from Chapter 15 to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner  
Study Guide

## **Chapter 16**

### **Historical Note:**

Birch Bark Canoes... In Chapter 16, *Silent One* describes the birch bark canoes made by his people. In the summer of 2007, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum worked with traditional Abenaki craftsman Aaron York to craft a birch bark canoe to help celebrate the Champlain Quadricentennial – the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Champlain’s 1609 voyage. If you visit the Maritime Museum ([www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org)) in real life or online, you can learn more about birch bark canoes in the Champlain Valley. (Photo courtesy LCMM.)



### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- The mood of *Silent One*'s group seems to change in Chapter 16. Why do you think after all these days of traveling, things have grown more serious?
- What details did the author include to convey the idea that the feeling of the men was quieter and darker?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Math/Science/Technology...* Algonquin and Montagnais craftsmen used the bark of the birch tree in the making of their canoes. You can get a sense for what it was like to work with bark by making your own model canoe. (Note: Don't pull bark from a living birch tree, as it will hurt the tree. Find a dead tree or downed branch in the woods instead.)

Follow the directions at the NativeTech website below to create you own model canoe.

<http://www.nativetech.org/brchbark/canminit.htm>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 16*

**VOCABULARY**

embarked: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

plunge: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

courage: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

46. Brave One's mood at the beginning of Chapter 16 can best be described as:

- a. courageous and confident
- b. quiet and unsure
- c. angry and frustrated
- d. terrified and hysterical

47. Silent One's main reason for fighting the Iroquois seems to be:

- a. to avenge his uncle's death.
- b. to gain a reputation as a warrior.
- c. to earn the respect of Champlain.
- d. to keep his brother safe.

48. Walks with Eagles recognizes the Iroquois by:

- a. the sound of their war cries
- b. the way their canoes sit in the water.
- c. their location along the lakeshore.
- d. the clothing they wear..

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: Twice in Chapter 16, Silent One thinks back to the words of his uncle Singing Bear. Choose one of these situations and explain why you think Silent One chooses to remember his uncle at this time. Use details from the text to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### **Chapter 17**

**Historical Note:** While it may sound to us like kids arguing in the lunchroom, the barrage of insults traded by the two sides on the night before the battle was, in fact, documented in Samuel de Champlain's journal. He writes:

*Meanwhile, the entire night was spent in dancing and singing, on both sides, with endless insults and other talk; as, how little courage we had, how feeble a resistance we should make against their arms, and that, when day came, we should realize it to our ruin. Ours also were not slow in retorting, telling them they would see such execution of arms as never before, together with an abundance of talk as is not unusual in the siege of a town.*

### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- Silent One reminisces about his village and his mother as he listens to the Iroquois chant. Why might he be thinking about his home on this night?
- How do you think Silent One and the others feel as they wait for the battle to begin? Can you find evidence in the text to support your ideas?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Performing Arts...* The night before the battle must have been a dramatic one. Rewrite Chapter 17 as a script to be performed on stage. Take turns playing the parts of the Iroquois and the French, Algonquin, and Montagnais warriors. How does this dramatic interpretation affect your ideas about this conflict?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 17*

**VOCABULARY**

barricade: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

stockade: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

conceal: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

49. Based on the description in Chapter 17, the shouting back and forth the night before the battle was most likely intended to:
- a. Prepare the men mentally for battle
  - b. Intimidate the enemy
  - c. Help the men deal with nerves and fear
  - d. All of the above

50. The Iroquois man who asks the French and their allies if they wish to fight reminds Silent One of his brother because:
- a. He is foolish and impulsive.
  - b. He is young but brave.
  - c. He is loud and clumsy.
  - d. He is small but strong.

51. Based on Chapter 17, the men wait until morning to begin fighting because:
- a. They need sleep in order to have energy to fight.
  - b. The Iroquois need time to build a stockade.
  - c. Both sides are waiting for additional warriors to arrive.
  - d. They need light in order to recognize friend from enemy.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: What similarities can you find between the Silent One's people and their enemies, the Iroquois? Use details from the text to support your ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# *Champlain & the Silent One*

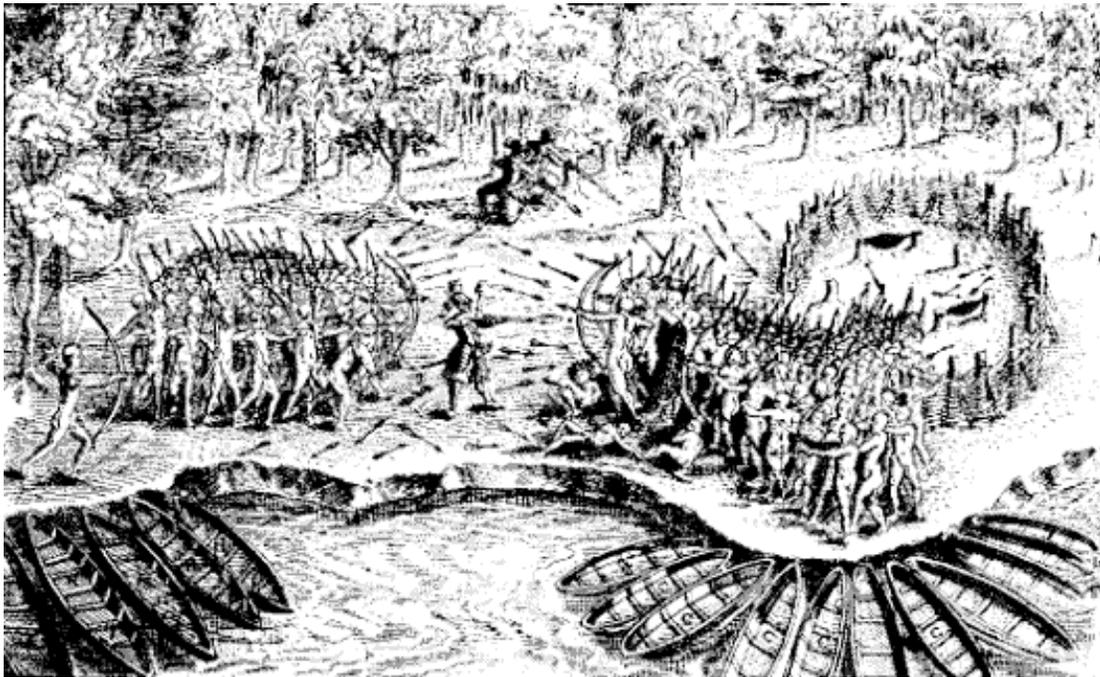
by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### Chapter 18

#### Historical Note:

The drawing below, from Samuel de Champlain's journal, is perhaps the most widely known image of this 1609 battle with the Iroquois. Even though it is considered a primary source, based on Champlain's own account, historians recognize that it is inaccurate in at least a few ways. First of all, the natives are portrayed as wearing nothing at all, and this would not have been the case. Second, take a look at the trees. Are they trees that normally grow in the Northeast? Historians believe Champlain's mapmaker sketched in these palm trees after the original drawing was done and chose to make them the same as the trees in the drawings of Champlain's trips to the West Indies.



#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- Champlain's account of the battle with the Iroquois is the only written version of the events of that day in 1609. Do you believe it is a completely reliable source? Why or why not?
- 

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*English Language Arts/Visual Arts...* Imagine that you are an art critic and historian, writing a review of Champlain's drawing of the encounter with the Iroquois. Based on Champlain's written account and on your knowledge of history, write a review of the drawing.

**VOCABULARY**

lunge: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

cower: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

sorcery: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

52. In Chapter 18, Silent One compares Champlain to a turtle because:
- a. he moves too slowly preparing for battle.
  - b. he acts like a coward and hides from the enemy.
  - c. his armor looks like a turtle's shell.
  - d. he crawls low on the ground as he advances toward the enemy.

53. Steps Too Soon's actions in this chapter suggest that:
- a. He is afraid.
  - b. He is more interested in talking about battle than fighting.
  - c. He underestimated the chaos and danger of battle.
  - d. All of the above.

54. When Silent One throws his spear, he says, "*I lose sight of it, but one of the Iroquois men facing off against Brave One falls to the ground at the right time, and I know.*" This suggests:
- a. Silent One has killed or injured a man.
  - b. Champlain has fired the arquebuse.
  - c. Brave One has won his fight with the Iroquois man.
  - d. The French and their allies have won the battle.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 18, Silent One refers to Champlain's gun as magic and sorcery. How do you think the Iroquois view the French weapons? Use specific details from the text to support your response.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### **Chapter 19**

#### **Historical Note:**

The taking of prisoners was a regular part of native warfare during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. So was the gain of material goods as a result of battle. Champlain's journal goes on to say:

*After gaining the victory, our men amused themselves by taking a greater quantity of Indian corn and some meal from their enemies, also their armor, which they had left behind that they might run better. After feasting sumptuously, dancing and singing, we returned three hours after, with the prisoners. The spot where this took place is in latitude 43° and some minutes, and the lake was called Lake Champlain.*

#### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- Why do you think Silent One seems to view the battle differently than Champlain, who seems to celebrate the victory?

#### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*English Language Arts/Point of View...* Chapter 19, like the rest of this book, is told from the point of view of Silent One. Imagine how one of the Iroquois prisoners might tell the story portrayed in Chapter 19. Rewrite the scene from the point of view of an Iroquois prisoner.

**VOCABULARY**

bleary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

grimace: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

scuttle: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

55. Samuel de Champlain's journal excerpt at the beginning of Chapter 19 suggests:

- a. the French and their allies lost the battle.
- b. warriors on both sides were wounded.
- c. warriors on both sides were killed.
- d. All of the above.

56. Silent One returns to his role as a healer in Chapter 19 by:

- a. removing the arrow from his brother's arm.
- b. giving his brother medicine plants.
- c. securing the arrow in his brother's arm so it can be removed safely later.
- d. stitching up the wound in his brother's arm.

57. At the end of Chapter 19, Silent One suggests that Champlain may be too quick in declaring that not a single one of their men was lost. Why?

- a. Silent One saw more of the battle than Champlain.
- b. Silent One knows that injuries from a battle may kill a man several days later.
- c. Silent One believes the battle may not be over.
- d. None of the above.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: How would you describe Silent One's feelings as he watched the Iroquois prisoners being led away? Use details from the text to support your ideas.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

## by Kate Messner

### Study Guide

#### Chapter 20

#### Historical Note:

In Chapter 20, Silent One describes the armor his warriors took from the retreating Iroquois men. Historians believe that warriors on both sides of the battle might have worn wooden armor like this replica, modeled by an Abenaki reenactor. Can you imagine how heavy it must have been to carry around?



#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- Steps Too Soon did not go to the front of the lines in battle, yet he is aggressive toward the Iroquois prisoner now. What do you make of his attitude? What do you think accounts for the change?
- Why do you think Brave One found himself unable to fire his arrow during the battle?
- Why do you think Brave One is so frustrated with Silent One at the end of Chapter 20? Does he have a right to be angry?

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*English Language Arts/Point of View...* Select a role, audience, format, and topic from the chart below for a journal writing activity.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Brave One	Silent One	Speech	Why I'm upset with you
Champlain	King of France	Letter	Outcome of the Battle with the Iroquois
Steps Too Soon	Jury	Argument in his defense	Why I didn't go to the front line in the battle
Iroquois Prisoner	His ancestors	Song	Violence among native tribes

**VOCABULARY**

harangue: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

enumerate: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

sinew: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

58. Steps Too Soon's attitude in Chapter 20 can best be described as:

- a. Sad and remorseful
- b. Upbeat and enthusiastic
- c. Bitter and vengeful
- d. Frustrated and discouraged

59. As Silent One listens to Steps Too Soon taunting the Iroquois prisoner as he sing, Silent One says:

*It is all true. He knows nothing can be said to change the river's course.*

When does Silent One most likely mean by this?

- a. The prisoner will be killed because of a long-standing tradition.
- b. The prisoner deserves his fate.
- c. The prisoner will have to go with them because of the way the river flows.
- d. The prisoner is in control of his own fate.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 20, Silent One says the prisoner's fate is "as sure as the sunset. And the sun sinks lower in the sky with every stroke of our paddles. What feeling do you think the author intended to convey through this comparison? Use details from the text to support your response.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner  
Study Guide

## **Chapter 21**

### **Historical Note:**

Torture was part of the tradition of warfare for many historic cultures, including some Native American tribes. Warriors were expected to endure whatever happened to them if they were captured. Even though they were enemies, their bravery was often admired by their captors. Some prisoners who displayed truly exceptional courage were adopted into tribes rather than killed.

### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- Why do you think Silent One has so many questions at the beginning of Chapter 21?
- Why do you think the Iroquois prisoner continues to sing through all that he endures?
- Why do you think Silent One finally chooses to speak after all this time?

### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*English Language Arts/Creative Writing...* This chapter ends in a very dramatic way – with a scene that ends the torture but results in the death of the prisoner. Do you think it's a realistic ending? How else might Chapter 21 have ended? Brainstorm possible ideas, and then write a new ending for the chapter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapter 21*

**VOCABULARY**

kindle: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

emit: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

merciless: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

60. In chapter 21, Etienne meets Silent One and suggests that he step back from the fire to eat. Based on the context of this scene, Etienne most likely does this because:
- a. he wants to make sure Silent One gets his share of food.
  - b. he thinks Silent One may be upset by the torture of the prisoner.
  - c. he does not want Silent One to eat all of the food.
  - d. he knows Silent One will be busy caring for his brother.

61. When Brave One refuses to take part in torturing the prisoner, he says, “I will take no more from them in Singing Bear’s name.” Which statement below best captures his meaning in that statement?
- a. Singing Bear would have wanted us to keep fighting.
  - b. The Iroquois warrior has already suffered enough.
  - c. The Iroquois warrior should accept his punishment with courage.
  - d. It was wrong to steal the Iroquois helmets and corn.

62. After Silent One speaks in Chapter 21, Walks With Eagles speaks to the group gathered around the fire. His attitude toward Silent One in this scene can best be described as:
- a. ridiculing
  - b. angry
  - c. joyful
  - d. respectful

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 21, Brave One explains why he chooses not to take part in the torture of the prisoner. How does this set him apart from his friend, Steps Too Soon, showing the differences between the two boys? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

## Study Guide

### **Chapters 22-23**

#### **Historical Note:**

17<sup>th</sup> Century Science and Medicine: If a doctor heard about Brave One's symptoms today – a fever and a wound oozing yellow pus, he or she would probably conclude that Brave One's wound had become infected with bacteria and prescribe an antibiotic – a kind of medicine that kills bacteria and is used to treat infection.

In Silent One's time, members of the tribe known as healers would also recognize that Brave One's condition was dangerous, though they didn't yet know about microorganisms like bacteria. Silent One uses a plant called dogbane to treat the wound. Dogbane is also called Indian Hemp sometimes, and it had other medicinal and non-medicinal uses. The fiber of the stem was actually used to make an early form of thread – not unlike the cotton thread we often use today.



#### **Discussion and Journaling Questions:**

- If you were Silent One, how might you answer Steps Too Soon's questions about how the prisoners should be treated? What are the risks for Silent One in suggesting that perhaps there is a better way to deal with enemies?
- At the beginning of Chapter 23, Silent One says, "Bad spirits follow us." Why does he think this? What does his thought process suggest about Montagnais beliefs about how the world works?
- Do you think Steps Too Soon was telling the truth about his dream? If not, why don't you think Silent One challenged him on this right away?

#### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

*Science/Botany...* Imagine that you are a 17<sup>th</sup> century native healer like Silent One. What other plants would you recognize in the forest? How would you use them? Take a look at the list of medicinal plants at the Native Tech website below.

<http://www.nativetech.org/plantgath/plantgaht.htm>

Take some notes on how the different plants might have been used. Then write a diary entry discussing your work with the people of your village on a day you tended to some different ailments. Discuss the symptoms you treated and how you cared for the people.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Champlain Study Guide: Chapters 22-23*

**VOCABULARY**

wretched: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

inclement: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

pungent: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

63. Based on the beginning of Chapter 22, with which statement below would Steps Too Soon be most likely agree?
- a. It is important to show mercy, even to enemies.
  - b. It is wrong to question the way things have always been done.
  - c. Prisoners should be treated with dignity and respect.
  - d. There is always room for new ideas about how to live.
64. Silent One fails to answer Steps Too Soon’s questions in Chapter 22 because:
- a. he doesn’t believe Steps Too Soon deserves a response.
  - b. he is too tired and hungry.
  - c. he doesn’t think his answers will make a difference.
  - d. he doesn’t know how to respond.
65. The warriors’ reaction to Steps Too Soon’s story of his dream suggests that:
- a. There is often fear of a new attack after a battle.
  - b. The men do not believe Steps Too Soon.
  - c. The men did not feel like the battle was over.
  - d. Steps Too Soon will soon be a leader of the tribe.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: Consider the modern idea of conservation – the careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion. How does Silent One practice conservation strategies? Use details from Chapter 23 to support your response.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# *Champlain & the Silent One*

by Kate Messner

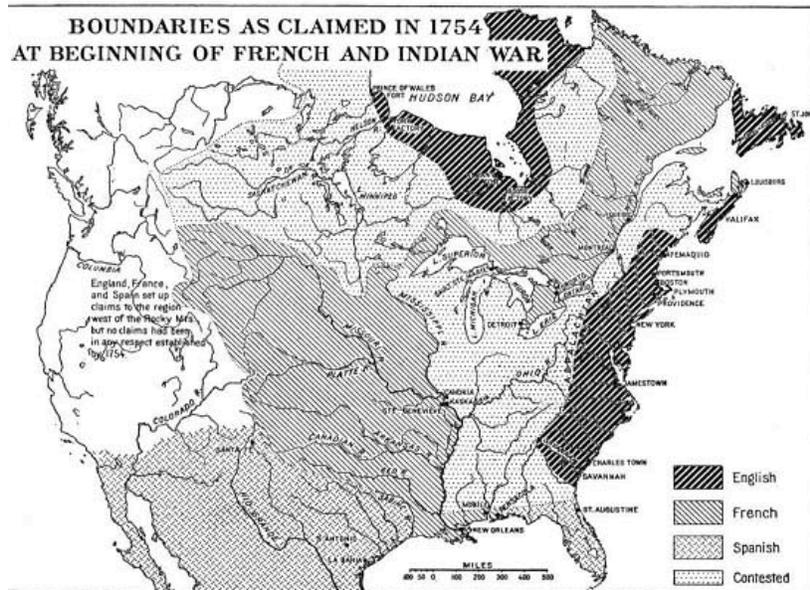
## Study Guide

### Chapters 24-25

#### Historical Note:

Though Silent One speaks of peace with the Iroquois at the end of this story, history tells a different tale...for more than a hundred years. Samuel de Champlain's alliance with the northern tribes – the Montagnais, Algonquian, and Huron – set the stage for the British alliance with the Iroquois.

When the French & Indian War began in earnest in 1754, these alliances held fast, ensuring that Silent One's tribe would remain fierce enemies with the Iroquois. It wasn't until the war ended in 1765, when the French were driven from North America, that the rivalry between the two nations began to die down.



#### Discussion and Journaling Questions:

- What do you think Silent One chooses not to argue with the warriors who are showing off scalps when they return from the battle? Do you think he fails as a peace maker by not speaking up?
- Silent One says he left his village a boy and returns as a young man. How do you think he has grown?

#### Interdisciplinary Connections:

*Social Studies/Current Events...* The cyclical violence that existed between the Indian tribes in Champlain and the Silent One had gone on for many, many years. What examples of this kind of violence can you find in more modern times? Work with your teacher or librarian to find situations in the world that seem to mirror the cycle of violence that existed in North America in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Work with a small team of classmates to read about one such example and brainstorm ideas for how a peacemaker might help bring that cycle to an end.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Champlain Study Guide: Chapters 24-25**

**VOCABULARY**

burly: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

pageantry: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

flickering: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

66. When Etienne asks Silent One about the “savage pageantry” of parading enemy scalps upon return from battle, Silent One explains that it happens because it is a tradition.

*“Perhaps one day, my people will choose another path. But for now, this is our way.”*

Silent One’s explanation can best be described as:

- a. Discouraged and sad
- b. Hopeful but realistic
- c. Angry but accepting
- d. Embarrassed and ashamed

67. Based on Chapter 25, the purpose of the dancing in Silent One’s village seems to be:

- a. to celebrate the victory over the Iroquois.
- b. to give thanks.
- c. to bring the people back together after their time apart.
- d. All of the above.

68. Based on evidence in the text of this story, which of the following predictions would be most likely to come true in the future?

- a. Steps Too Soon will become a chief of his tribe.
- b. Silent One will become a warrior and fight many more battles.
- c. Silent One will stop visiting his uncle’s burial hut.
- d. Silent One will become a leader among his people.

Answer the following question in a short paragraph: In Chapter 25, Walks with Eagles bestows upon Silent One a new name, Quiet Eagle. Do you think this is a more appropriate name for him now? Why or why not? Use details from the text to support your opinion.

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