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Reading Notes

debris	the broken pieces left from something that was destroyed
en route	on the way
fraternity	a group of people united around a common interest or cause; a brotherhood *Latin connection: Give a Latin word that <i>fraternity</i> is derived from and its English meaning. Frater: <i>brother</i>
flotsam	the pieces of a ship and cargo floating on the water after a wreck
balustrade	a railing supported by short posts, called balusters
wire(d)	to send a message by telegraph

Vocabulary

1. "I could be worse," said Professor Sherman, rather **feebly**. _____

2. With all the **pomp** and ceremony _____

3. the details of your amazing **exploit** _____

4. Will you please **convey** to the President _____

5. send the following **unprecedented** wire _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the setting for this story? Include the dates during which the story takes place.

2. Give the few details we know about Professor Sherman's trip at this point in the story.

Discussion

1. Look at your answer to Question #4 of the Comprehension Questions. These people have different responses to Professor Sherman's refusal to share his story. What do their responses reveal about their character?
2. "Had I a less fascinating story to tell, nobody, except my fellow explorers, would care where or when I gave account of it." Do you think Professor Sherman is right in saying this?
3. Do you think you would be able to remain as loyal to the Western American Explorers' Club as Professor Sherman under similar circumstances? Why or why not?
4. The setting of this book places it in a very different time from ours, particularly in regards to technology. There were no computers, no Internet, no cell phones. How does that change the way Professor Sherman's story is circulated?

Enrichment

1. We are going to attempt to chart Professor Sherman's journey on a world map located in the Appendix. Mark his starting point with a dot and date it.
2. The term *balustrade* is used frequently throughout the book. Look up a picture of a balustrade and draw it on the drawing page to the right.
3. Research how messages like the President's to Professor Sherman were wired at that time in history.
4. Fill in the newspapers with the headlines from the chapter.

