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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 fraternity is derived from and its English meaning. Frater: brother
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.
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
3. Why is the title of this chapter “Professor Sherman’s Incredible Loyalty”?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

4. Many people tried to get Professor Sherman to tell his story. Who made this attempt? How did they go about attempting to get him to tell it?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

5. How does the President help Professor Sherman?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Quotations

“But, gentlemen,” he exclaimed, “as an honorary member of the Western American Explorers’ Club in San Francisco, I feel sincerely that I owe the first accounting of my extraordinary adventure to that illustrious fraternity!” – Professor Sherman

To whom is he speaking? ______________________________________________________________

“He knew the story of the rescue had news value and that he could sell it for a handsome price to this paper.”

Who sold the story? ___________________ What newspaper bought it? _________________________

“And now,” said the ____________________________, “would it be too much to ask you in return to give to me, to New York, to the nation, to the world, the details of your amazing exploit?”
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 television. 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.