



Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House #46: Dogs in the Dead of Night

Greetings from the Alps!

DURING THIS BOOK STUDY, EACH STUDENT WILL:

- Design a postcard to represent Jack and Annie's experience in the Swiss Alps.
- Discover the purpose of a postcard.
- Review/learn the parts of a friendly letter.
- Compose a friendly letter in the first person to parents.
- Address a postcard.
- Recall facts learned in the book, *Dogs in the Dead of Night* by writing a letter.

Common Core Standards Address:

Reading:

- Concepts of Print
- Word Knowledge and Vocabulary Acquisition
- Comprehension of Fiction
- Literary Genres

Writing:

- Writing Process and Quality Traits
- Conventions of Written English
- Capitalization, Punctuation, Spelling, Parts of Speech, Sentence Writing
- Writing Genres (Friendly Letter)
- Handwriting

Social Studies:

- Locate on a map or globe physical features such as continents, oceans, mountain ranges, and land forms.

46-1S112

Created by: Paula Henson, 2007 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year Knoxville, Tennessee



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Materials:

- A postcard copied from the postcard template (provided) on white cardstock or a large, blank index card.
- 1 postcard stamp
- Markers or colored pencils

Procedures:

Introduce postcards to your class by showing examples. Ask your students if they have ever received postcards, sent them, or have seen them at gift shops or stores. Allow students to respond and discuss their ideas about the purpose of a postcard. Lead them to conclude that:

- Postcards are short letters.
- They don't need envelopes.
- Postcard stamps are less expensive than stamps on letters in envelopes. Why?
- People usually send postcards when they are away on vacation.
- The messages are short and simple, and not too personal because the mail carrier can read the message as well.
- Usually the sender describes their location and what they are doing.

List ideas for typical messages one might write on a postcard. Show students how to address a postcard and where their message should be written. Discuss the parts of a friendly letter reminding students that is a short version of a friendly letter but should still contain a greeting, body, closing, and signature. Postcards do not usually have a return address since they are normally sent from a location where the sender would not have one. Instead there is a description of the location from which the postcard is coming from.

After reading *Dogs in the Dead of Night*, your students will be familiar with the beauty and splendor of the Swiss Alps. Show your class internet pictures of the Alps and their location on a world map/globe as well. Allow them to design a postcard from the Swiss Alps on the blank side of the postcard template (provided) that you copy onto white cardstock. Tell them to pretend that they are Jack or Annie in this adventure and will be writing a postcard to their parents about their experience with Barry the Saint Bernard in the story. Allow them to address their postcards and, if possible, apply a postcard stamp and mail the cards to their parents. Remind them to sign their card as either Jack or Annie and prepare their parents for its arrival!

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Postcard Example:



Postcard Template:

A rectangular postcard template. In the top right corner, there is a smaller rectangular box containing the text "Place Stamp Here". In the center of the postcard, there are four horizontal lines stacked vertically, intended for an address.