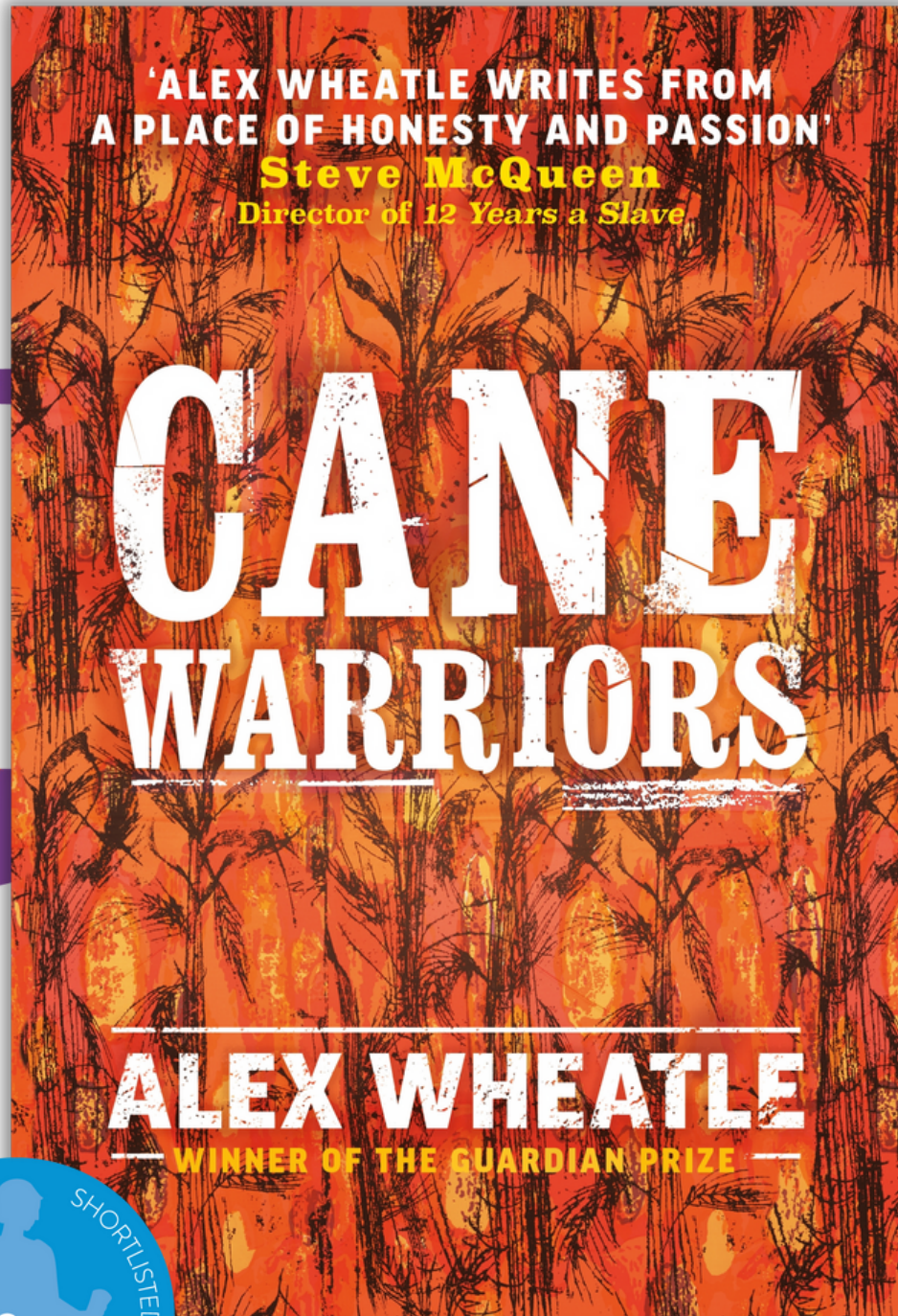


Yoto Carnegie Shortlist 2022 Shadowing Resources



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Cane Warriors **by Alex Wheatle**

Cane Warriors is based on the real-life Tacky's Revolt, a rebellion of enslaved people in Jamaica in the 1760s. It contains several graphic descriptions of violence, including killing and also makes references to rape. These are managed in a sensitive way but, as with any text, we strongly advise teachers to be familiar with the book before recommending it to students.

Cane Warriors

by Alex Wheatle

All of these tasks are designed to be completed in small discussion groups. However, they can easily be done on your own too. Instead of talking about the tasks, you can write down and keep a record of your ideas.

Before Reading

10-20 minutes

- Discuss what you think *Cane Warriors* will be about based on these extracts. You should structure your discussion around the questions below.
 - What other novels do you think it will be like?
 - What genre of novel do you think it will be?
 - What sense do you get of where it will be set?
 - Identify three likely themes?

Extract 1

Miss Gloria wasn't smiling today. She dipped her spoon into the big cornmeal pot and served breakfast to the men. 'Me glad you're still living,' she said to Toolmon, the grey-bearded man who repaired and sharpened billhooks and other instruments we used in the field. She usually said her greeting with a grin. Not today. Maybe she missed Miss Pam too. Louis and the other elders had always instructed us not to '*leggo eye-water*' in front of the white overseers. *Nuh let de white mon see de pain you carry inside.*

Extract 2

We finished our hard labour more than thirteen hours later. Every muscle in my back screamed. I couldn't feel my arms and I believed my kneecaps were about to drop off. The sun had cooked my headtop and somebody could have made a hot drink of my sweat.

Extract 3

I followed him through the door and we made our way to a tall tree. We sat down, resting our backs against the trunk. The insects in the fields were mighty loud this night. Strange birds squawked their squawks. Louis looked here and there before he spoke. We heard the distant crunching from the millhouse. 'Moa,' Louis started. 'Your body good?'

'What do you mean if me body good?'

'You cyan't bruk out if you cyan't run good or if you cyan't kill ah white mon when you need to.'

Extract 4

Swelling hills, open fields and untamed grass lay ahead of us. Only a wide thin arch of the distant western sky hadn't been touched by the rising sun. Louis took the lead, his musket poised in front of him. Tacky was next, followed by Midgewood. Led by the tones of Scallion Mon, we hummed another Akan spiritual. I felt blisters forming on my soles and my neck was stinging fierce where Misser Donaldson's lash had ripped into me.

During Reading

WARNING: DON'T READ THE QUESTIONS BEFORE READING EACH SECTION!

Read up to the page number listed and then answer the questions. You should spend about 5-10 minutes answering each set of questions.

The page numbers are based on the Anderson Press edition (2020)

▪ Read to the end of page 22

- What is interesting or surprising about the book so far?
- Which characters does Moe meet and talk to in the opening chapters? What different roles do they have in his life and the life of the plantation? What roles do you think they will play in the rest of the novel?
- What's it like to read the dialogue that is written in dialect? Can you understand it? What does it bring to the experience of reading the book?

▪ Read to the end of page 42

- Moe is told by Louis that he has to kill Misser Donaldson. Do you think he will go through with it? What are your thoughts about YA fiction that features young people killing others? Do you know of any other YA novels where this happens and, if so, how is this handled by the writer?
- How has life for the enslaved people living on the plantation been presented up to this point? What particular injustices and hardships have been mentioned and how are they presented by the writer?
- How do Moe's mother and father react to the news about what he is planning to do? Would you take the point of view of the mother or the father? Why?

▪ Read to the end of page 56

- All of the overseers at the plantation are killed in this chapter. What is your impression of what happens? Do they deserve to be killed? Do the enslaved people have any other choice? Is this suitable material for a YA novel?

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EVERYONE DIES FAMOUS IN A SMALL TOWN



BONNIE-SUE HITCHCOCK



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Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town **by Bonnie Sue Hitchcock**

Many of the characters in Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town are coming to terms with grief and trauma and the book contains references to child sexual abuse, drugs, mental health issues, death and a child kidnapping. These are managed in a sensitive way but, as with any text, we strongly advise teachers to be familiar with the book before recommending it to students.

Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town

by Bonnie Sue Hitchcock

All of these tasks are designed to be completed in small discussion groups. However, they can easily be done on your own too. Instead of talking about the tasks, you can write down and keep a record of your ideas.

The epigraph

An epigraph is a short quotation or saying which appears before the beginning of a book, a chapter or a poem. An epigraph links to the main themes of the text. The epigraph of *Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town* is:

To those who do not know that the world is on fire, I have nothing to say.

Bertolt Brecht

- Think about what the quotation might mean and what themes you might expect in a book with this as an epigraph.
 - If possible, discuss your ideas with other readers.
 - Keep a note of your ideas so that you can refer back to them as you read.

Take up to 20 minutes to complete this activity.

The setting

The book is set in Alaska, a state in the far northwest of the United States.

- Read this information about the setting and then answer the questions that follow.
 - What types of stories and characters might appear in a novel set here?
 - Why might a writer choose to set a novel in a wilderness area like this?

Some facts about Alaska

- Alaska is the largest American state and also the most sparsely populated. Large areas are many miles from even a small town.
- Alaska was occupied by various indigenous peoples for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. The indigenous population of Alaska is over 15 percent, proportionally the highest of any U.S. state.
- Alaska's per capita income is among the highest in the United States. It's economy mainly depends on its plentiful natural resources, especially fish, natural gas, and oil. Tourism is also important.
- Being such a large state, Alaska has several different climate zones from areas where the weather is a bit like Scotland to areas with severe winters with deep snow and extreme cold.
- More than half the state is federally owned public land, including many national forests, national parks, and wildlife refuges.

During Reading

We recommend working through the book without pausing too often, then doing some more substantial work afterwards. The stories do offer lots of opportunities to pause for reflection, particularly about the different relationships described and the issues raised.

- Keep a journal while reading, pausing to write down your reflections about each of the points below. Where possible, have a discussion with other readers before putting your thoughts down on paper.

The whole book

- Although this is a collection of short stories, there are lots of connections between them. As you read, notice some of the following elements which repeat across different stories:
 - The spread of the wildfire (wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted, uncontrolled fire starting in a rural or urban area, spreading into vegetation)
 - Coyote Jones and his radio show
 - The disappearance of a 6-year-old girl
 - How this story fits under the title of the collection – ‘everyone dies famous in a small town’
 - The role of the Catholic Church
 - The way characters, places and events from one story pop up in a different story, often from a different perspective.

Angry Starfish

- Right from the beginning of the story we sense the tension between Gina and Poppy. As you read, think about:
 - Why Gina resents Poppy
 - Why Poppy has an imaginary friend, and why this makes Gina impatient
 - How their relationship develops through the story
 - One reader said ‘Gina is so whiny and unfair to Poppy. She really annoyed me.’ How far do you agree by the end of the story?
 - When you have finished reading the story, think about why it’s called ‘Angry Starfish’.

Pigeon Creek

- The first few pages of the story are in the third person, but from Ruby’s point of view. How do you get a different perspective on things when the story shifts to Jake’s viewpoint?
- If Martha Hollister arrived at your school, how do you think the other students would react to her?
- Who do you feel most sympathy with by the end of the story? Ruby, Jake or Martha?
- What are some of the ways the story would have been different if the writer had decided to make the car crash a fatal one?