



The Coast Starlight

ACU CORNERSTONE 2022 STUDY

GUIDE

BY LAYLA ROREM



1

"The Real Deal"

- Cast
- Playwright
- Production History
- Theatre

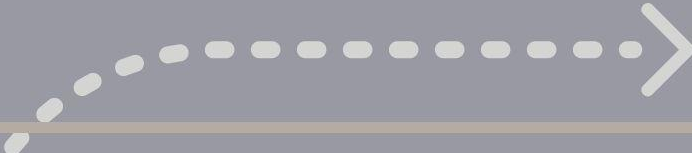

2

"The Story We Tell"

- Themes
- Train
- Earthquakes in CA
- Bugs & Wil-E
- Afghanistan War Overview

3

"Lots of Lists"

- Route
 - Referenced Locations
 - Reference Glossary
 - Military Glossary
 - General Glossary
- 
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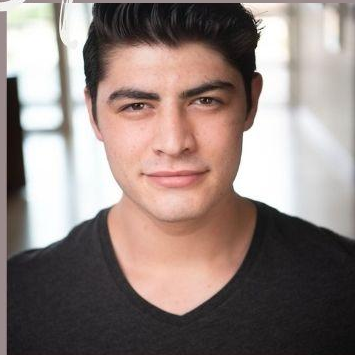
Our Lovely Cast



Ryan as TJ



Nouwen as Jane



Dillon as Noah



Karis as Liz



Landon as Ed



Anna as Anna



Patti as Understudy



Spencer as Understudy

Theatre Etiquette

Rules of Thumb . . .

ACU Theatre is incredibly excited to be performing for each and every one of you! We ask that you do your part to respect the performers and create an appropriate environment.

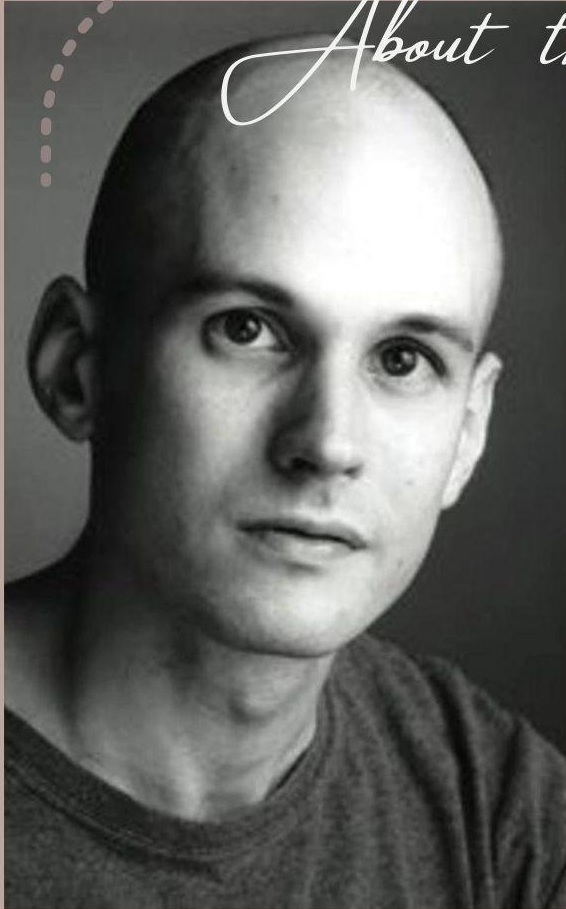
No chatting

Silence devices

No photos/videos

Don't be afraid to participate! Laugh, cry, clap, & experience the story unfold.

Please and Thank You!



About the Playwright

Keith Bunin

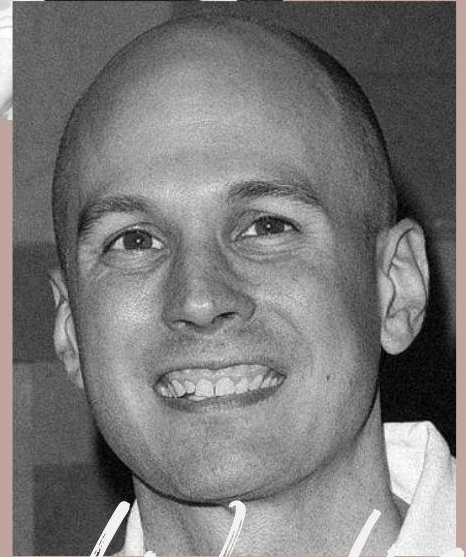
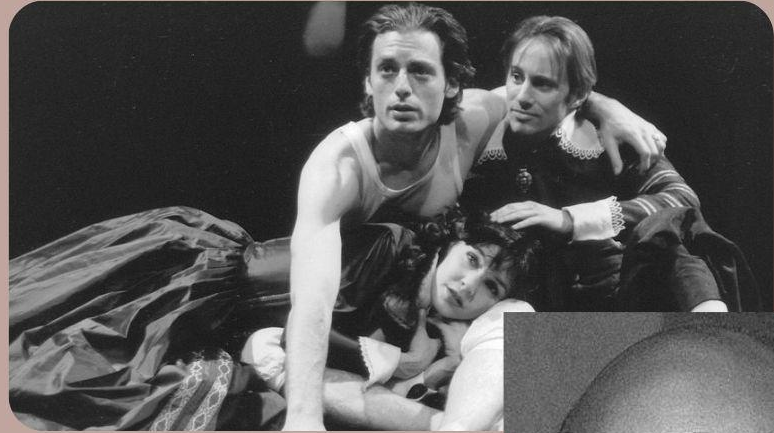
- Raised in Poughkeepsie (puh-kip-see) New York
- His father is half-Jewish and his mother is Catholic
- Was baptized Episcopalian, but his family soon stopped going to church.
- Was accepted to a local Quaker Prep school that had a profound impact on him. (this wide span of religious exposure would go on to influence his later work.)
- Attended Film school at NYU, graduated from Goddard, and finally, got his masters from Columbia University.
- Was nominated for "Outstanding Achievement in Writing on an Animated Feature" at the Annie Awards for his work on the Pixar Film *Onward* (2020).
- His other works include . . .

Film & Television

- *Horns* (2013)
- *Onward* (2020)
- *In Treatment* (2009)
- *Which Brings Me To You*
(Currently Filming)

Plays & Musicals

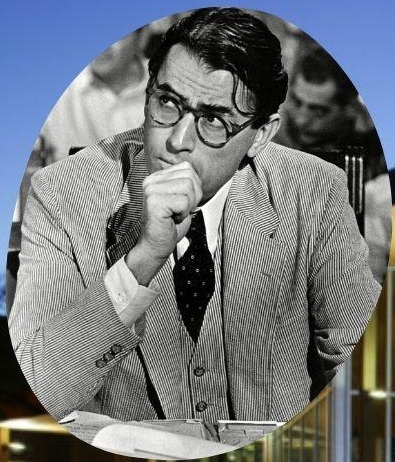
- *The Busy World is Hushed* (2006)
- *10 Million Miles* (2007)
- *The Credeaux Canvas* (2002)
- *The World Over* (2002)
- *The Principality of Sorrows* (2009)
- *Vera Laughed* (2009)
- *Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir* (2012)



Other Works

- We are the **second** official production of the show ever! Yay!
- *La Jolla Playhouse*: DNA New Work Series (2018) Directed by Christopher Ashley
- *La Jolla Playhouse*: World Premiere ran from Aug. 20th to Sept. 15th, (2019) Directed by Tyne Rafaeli
- There is currently a Playbill casting call for a production of "Coast" at the Lincoln Theatre Center (on Broadway) Directed by Tyne Rafaeli
It is set to run from March 13th, to April 16th, (2023)





The La Jolla Playhouse

About the DNA New Work Series

- Created by Christopher Ashley (2013)
- *"Through the DNA Series, playwrights and directors are invited to use the Playhouse's rehearsal space, staff and resources for several days (or weeks) of intensive work to develop their new project. The development process culminates in series of free, intimate readings and workshops open to Playhouse audiences."* (La Jolla Playhouse.org)
- "Coast" was a part of this program in March of 2018

Quick History

- Mel Ferrer, Dorothy McGuire, and Gregory Peck founded the theatre in 1947
- Long break from 1959-1982
- Eventually revived in San Diego in 1983

- Human Connection, Empathizing from Afar
- Running From the Past VS Facing the Future
- Changing Who you are in Order to Find Home
- Making Choices & Taking Risks
- War & Heroism
- Bravery, Compassion, & Cowardice
- Relationships Require Acceptance of Inevitable Pain
- Loss and Grief
- Self-Preservation VS Self-Sacrifice
- Learning from our Mistakes and Helping Others from a Place of Experience.



Themes



Questions to Consider ...

?

Has a stranger ever made a strong impression on you? What might their story have been?

?

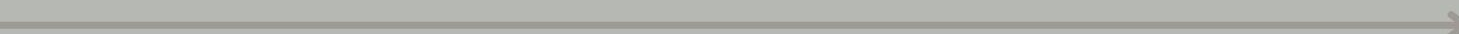

How do each of the characters find purpose and meaning in their lives?

?

which character made the biggest impression on you and why?

?

Do any of the characters mirror each other? Do you see similarities in their unique stories?



The Real Coast Starlight



- About \$250-300 dollars for a trip from LA to Seattle
- Started running in the early 1970s with the name Coast Daylight/Starlight which was eventually shortened
- Its route was one of the first and longest along the West Coast

<https://www.amtrak.com/coast-starlight-train>

California Earthquakes

Review on Tectonic Plates, Faultlines, and Earthquake Origins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7ho6z32yyo>



Specific Faults
Mentioned:

San Andreas
San Jacinto
Lytle Creek Ridge

Article about their effect
on each other:

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/evidence-shared-earthquakes-between-san-andreas-and-san-jacinto-faults>

Helpful Resource: California
Earthquake Timeline with location,
time of day, date, and magnitude
scale:

<https://www.earthquakeauthority.com/California-Earthquake-Risk/California-Earthquake-History-Timeline>

Based on Coast's publication and
setting, here are the two leading
possibilities for what Jane might have
experienced (pg 7):

Ridgecrest-July 2019-*Magnitude* = 6.4-
7.1

Borrego Springs-June 2016-
Magnitude = 5.2



Bugs Bunny & Friends



Some Quick Facts

- According to NPR, the first appearance of Bugs was in a short called "The Wild Hare" in 1940, making him 82 years old!
- Wile E. Coyote & Roadrunner made a splash in "Fast and Furry-ous" in 1949, making them both 73.

SOURCES (both articles are good and worth a read!)

- <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/28/896105935/whats-up-doc-bugs-bunnys-age-cartoon-rabbit-turns-80>
- <https://www.vulture.com/2019/11/wile-e-coyote-road-runner-legacy-looney-tunes.html>

Clips

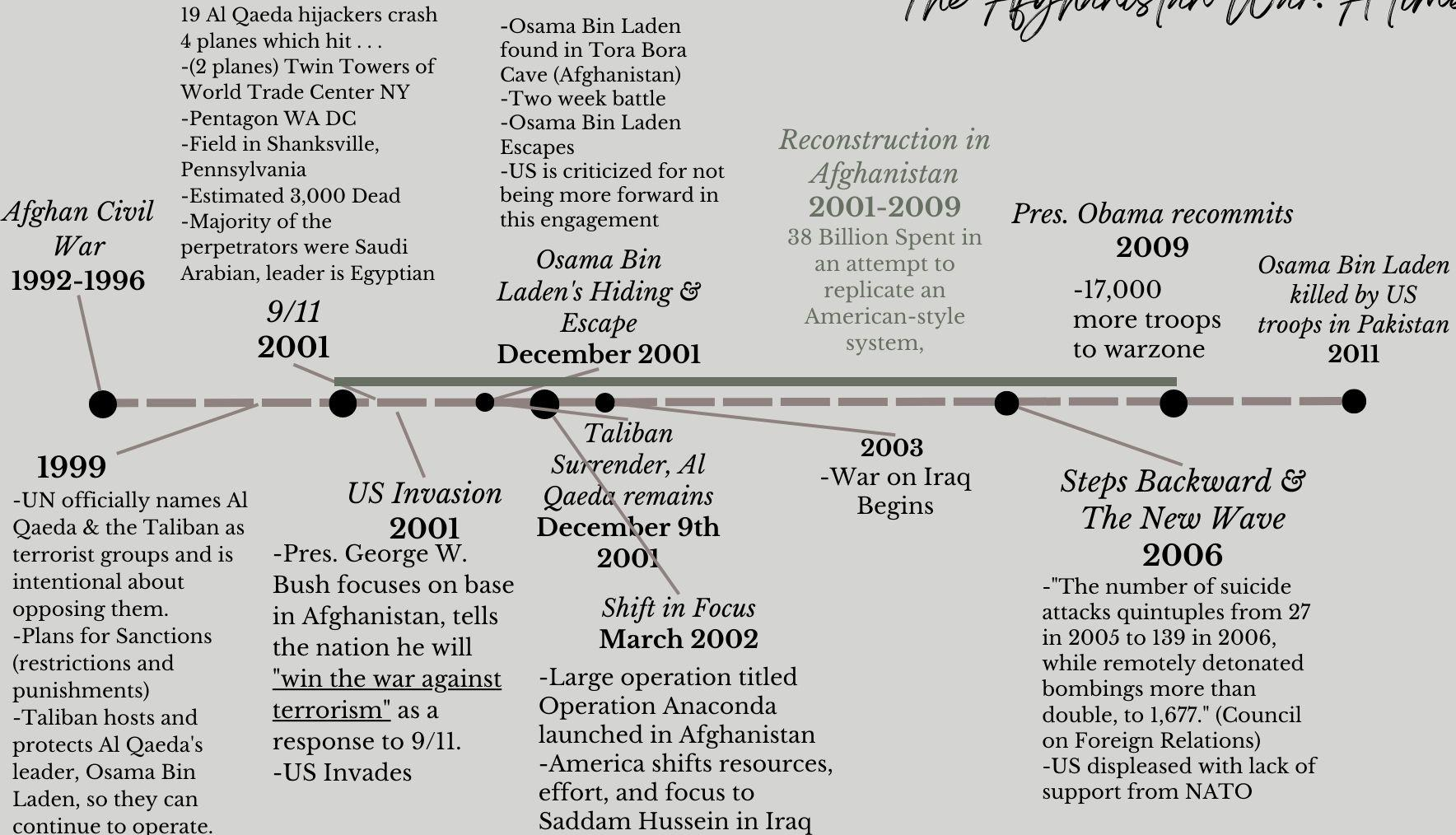


Video Example of Storyboarding

Pixar's *Incredibles 2* (2018)



The Afghanistan War: A timeline



Continued . . .

2014

Pres. Obama's Plan

- Plans for most US troops to be out of Afghanistan by the end of 2016
- Works troops back down to 8,000
- Strategy to ease out

2017

Bombing

- Bomb dropped on Suspected Islamic State in eastern Nangarhar Province (ISIS)

Biden Moves Into Office

2021

Pres. Trump Enters Office

2017

- Initial intention to pull out
- Plans for May 2021 pull out

August 30 2021

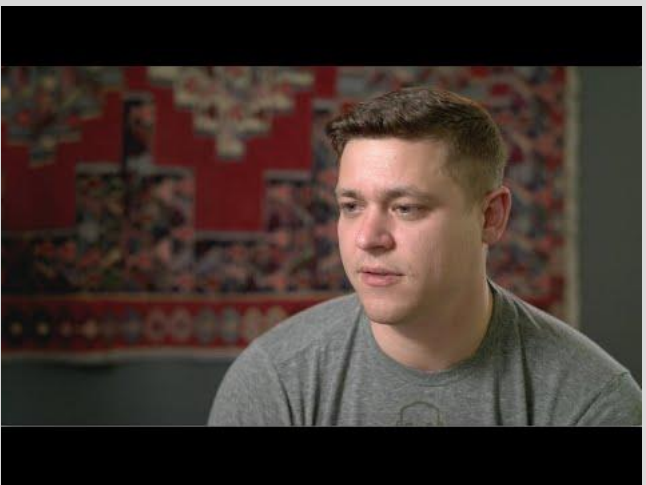
The Final Straw

- Biden pushes back Trump's plan to 9/11 of 2021
- Biden moves plan forward pulls out early on August 30th. It is messy.
- Fall of Afghanistan & Taliban takeover soon after.

The Two Reactions: (Generalized)

1. All of this (the war) was for nothing. The abrupt pull out was unwise and caused chaos. Now the people in Afghanistan are left to fend for themselves, and our work and losses have all been in vain.
2. Afghanistan was never going to be fixed or healed and the war would continue to go on if no one pulled the plug and stopped it. The preservation of our troops must be prioritized.

War Veteran Videos & Interviews



<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1mUhfwr4dE8uHyE7Y2ntNofe8Jmi5Fkw&usp=sharing>

The Route



The Routes

- TJ:
 - Gets on at Union Station LA
 - Exits Seattle WA
- Jane:
 - Gets on at Union Station LA
 - Exits King Street Station Seattle WA
- Noah:
 - Gets on at San Luis Obispo CA
 - Exits Klamath Falls OR
- Liz:
 - Gets on at Salinas CA
 - Exits Portland OR
 - Proceeds to Emeryville CA, Truckee CA, then Denver CO
- Ed:
 - Gets on at San Jose CA
 - Exits Redding CA
- Anna:
 - Gets on at Jack London Square CA
 - Exits Olympia WA



<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1pzPsb9Bv7W-kcKltviac8rUal2V4ysc&ll=43.490687138395884%2C-122.33508201813513&z=5>



Referenced Locations

Organized by assigned colors, so try to remember yours! Page numbers in description, along with an occasional pronunciation guide



What

if

I

spoke?



Referenced Glossary

Big Sur: Published 1962, written by Jack Kerouac. Main character travels to Big Sur on a whim, drinks a lot, falls in love, goes a little insane, gets better and looks forward to going home to New York again. Liz pg. 37

Dionne (dee-aan) Warwick: New Jersey based rhythm and blues singer who boomed in the late 50s and throughout the 60s, but continued to sing throughout the early 2000s. *Do You Know the Way to San Jose?* single earned Dionne her first (but not only) Grammy. (Britannica.com) Liz pg. 26

Don Henley: Texas-based member of country-rock band The Eagles popular in the 1970s. Ed pg. 26 (Britannica.com)

Esalen Institute: "Esalen is a holistic retreat and educational institute. Established in 1962 and considered the epicenter of the Human Potential Movement, we are a non-profit offering comfort and space for exploration, transformation, and healing within the wilds of Big Sur's majestic mountainscape and glittering coastline. Our curiosity and research explores new ideas around creativity and the brain, body work, spirituality, leadership, Gestalt, plant medicine, citizen diplomacy, superhumanism, the survival of bodily death, Extraterrestrial intelligence, and more." (Esalen.org) Liz & Noah pg. 16

Flat Feet: "a condition in which the arch of the foot is flattened so that the entire sole rests upon the ground." (Dictionary.com) Ed pg. 30

Gladys Knight: Lead singer of *Gladys Knight and the Pips*, a rhythm/blues/soul group known for their work during the 60s and 70s. You might know them from "I Heard It Through the Grapevine". Liz pg. 26

Human Awareness Institute: Provides lots of workshops on self-love and relationships. link to site: <https://www1.hai.org> Liz pg. 16

Jack Kerouac: East Coast-born Novelist and poet who didn't believe in revision. Valued honesty, and spontaneity in his work and others' work. (Britannica.com) Liz pg. 37

Joni Mitchell: Canada-based singer who experimented with many genres (folk and jazz) in a contemporary way. Most popular in the 1970s. (Britannica.com) Liz pg. 26

Leukemia: "Any of several cancers of the bone marrow that prevent the normal manufacture of red and white blood cells and platelets, resulting in anemia, increased susceptibility to infection, and impaired blood clotting." (Dictionary.com) Noah pg. 36

Mai Tai: "The Mai Tai is one of the most famous Tiki drinks in the world. Composed of rum, orange curacao, fresh lime juice and orgeat (a nuanced almond syrup), it's held sway over cocktail enthusiasts and Tiki aficionados for decades." (Liquor.com, <https://www.liquor.com/recipes/traditional-mai-tai/>) Ed pg. 27

Nest Egg: "The term nest egg is generally used to mean a sum of money saved up for retirement, an emergency or some other future use. This was a figurative meaning attached to the literal term nest egg, referring to an artificial egg placed in a hen's nest in order to encourage that hen to lay more eggs." (Grammarist.com) Noah pg. 15

Nuclear Fission Reactor: "The main job of a reactor is to house and control nuclear fission—a process where atoms split and release energy." This creates heat! (the article goes much more in depth, give it a read! (Energy.gov) Anna pg. 34

The Believer (Magazine): Generally respected literary magazine started in 2003. link to the online magazine: <https://www.thebeliever.net/>. Source (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/16/books/the-believer-mcsweeneys.html>) Jane pg. 54

The Dharma Bums: Published 1958. "The plot unfolds when Smith, who is suffering spiritual conflicts amid the emptiness of middle-class American life, meets Ryder, whom he immediately recognizes as a spiritual model. The novel describes the growth of their friendship and Smith's groping toward personal understanding." (Britannica.com) Liz & TJ pg. 37

Tarmac: "A road, airport runway, parking area, etc., paved with Tarmac, tarmacadam, or a layer of tar." (Dictionary.com) Jane pg. 7

Small Tract Act: "Public Law 97-465, commonly known as the Small Tracts Act (16 U.S.C. 521c-521i), was enacted in 1983 to help the Forest Service resolve land disputes and boundary management problems for parcels that generally were small in scale (less than ten acres) with land values that did not exceed \$150,000." (federalgovernment.gov) Noah pg. 14

Pacific Surfliner: "The Pacific Surfliner is a 350-mile (560 km) passenger train service serving the communities on the coast of Southern California between San Diego and San Luis Obispo." (Wikipedia.org) TJ pgs. 2-3

29 Palms Jackrabbit Homestead-Website & Audio Tour: <https://jackrabbithomestead.com/>

Tony Bennett: Predominantly jazz (though he resisted the label) singer, most popular in the 50s and 60s. "I Left My Heart in Fan Francisco" is often considered his iconic song. Liz pg. 26

Zombie: "The Zombie is a behemoth of a drink that features three different rums—Jamaican, Puerto Rican and 151-proof—along with fresh lime juice, falernum, grenadine, a few drops of anise-flavored liqueur and Donn's mix, which is essentially a cinnamon simple syrup mixed with fresh grapefruit juice." (Liquor.com, <https://www.liquor.com/recipes/zombie-2/>) Ed pg. 27



2014 Nissan Pathfinder

High West: Brand of alcohol (commonly whiskey)

<https://www.highwest.com/> Noah pg. 15



One Afghani Coin

Just the Bridges

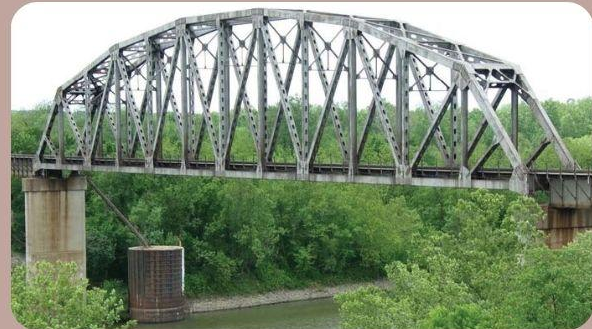
Lattice Bridge: Criss Crossed diamond pattern like the top of a pie. Noah pg. 47



Trestle Bridge: "A trestle bridge consists of a certain number of short spans which are supported by trestle frames." (History of Bridges.com) Noah pg. 47



Truss Bridge: "bridge with its load-bearing structures composed of a series of wooden or metal triangles, known as trusses. Given that a triangle cannot be distorted by stress, a truss gives a stable form capable of supporting considerable external loads over a large span." (Britannica) Noah pg. 47



Why The Red Poppy Flower Is Used For Military Remembrances
(Sourcetacticalgear.com)

TJ pg. 12

"Red poppy flowers represent consolation, remembrance and death. . . Additionally, poppies are used as a symbol around the world to remember those who died in military service."

- Post Napoleonic War and WWI
- Battleground was thought to be destroyed and uninhabitable.
- Poppies grew around the dead bodies of soldiers

Poppies
Symbolism & Hope



Military Glossary

Army=Ground Forces. On the Field

Navy=Nautical Forces, (under water, on water, etc.)

Conscientiously object: "A person who refuses on moral or religious grounds to serve in the armed forces or to bear arms in a military conflict." (Noah pg. 12)

Dictator: "a person exercising absolute power, especially a ruler who has absolute, unrestricted control in a government without hereditary succession." (TJ pg. 10)

Difference Between Army & Military: "the military is a word used to refer to the entire Armed Forces, while the word Army is only a subset and one of the many branches making up the military. More specifically, it is the land service division of the military." (Thesoldiersproject.org)

Fantastic General Resource: <https://www.defense.gov/About/our-forces/>

All Definitions/ Quotes from Dictionary.com unless otherwise specified

"High and tight" haircut (Noah pg. 9)



Lug nuts: "A large nut fitting on a heavy bolt, used especially in attaching a wheel to a motor vehicle." (TJ pg. 10)

Marine Corps Lance Corporal: "Lance Corporal is the third enlisted rank in the Marine Corps, equivalent to a Private First Class in the Army. Unlike the rank of Corporal, a Lance Corporal is not considered a non-commissioned officer. However, Marines promoted to this rank are expected to show a degree of leadership and skill in serving as role models for newly enlisted recruits."
(Militaryranks.org) TJ pg. 13

M16: Lightweight and accurate assault rifle. (TJ pg. 12)

Pipeline: "a long tubular conduit or series of pipes, often underground, with pumps and valves for flow control, used to transport crude oil, natural gas, water, etc., especially over great distances" OR "a route, channel, or process along which something passes or is provided at a steady rate; means, system, or flow of supply or supplies"

Solder/Soldering: "any of various alloys fused and applied to the joint between metal objects to unite them without heating the objects to the melting point." (TJ pg. 10)

Terrorist/Terrorism: "The unlawful use of violence or threats to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or government, with the goal of furthering political, social, or ideological objectives." (TJ pg. 10)

RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade): RPG is most common. "It has a sighting range of 500 meters and a maximum range of 900 meters, at which point it self destructs. This speed is more or less three football fields per second." (Military.com) TJ pg. 13

General Glossary

Astigmatism: An eye defect that causes vision to be blurry and unfocused. (Ed pg. 30)

Congenital: "existing at or dating from birth, constituting an essential characteristic, being such by nature." (Ed pg. 30)

Cosmos: "An orderly harmonious systematic universe." (Noah pg. 17)

Cowardice: "Lack of courage or firmness of purpose." (Ed pg. 30)

Cremation: "The process of reducing a dead body to mostly tiny bits of bone resembling ash that involves exposing the body to flame and intense heat followed by pulverization of bone fragments." (Anna pg. 34)

Deploy: "To extend (a military unit) especially in width, to place in battle formation or appropriate positions, to spread out, utilize, or arrange for a deliberate purpose." (TJ pg. 4)

Despised: "to look down on with disrespect or aversion, to regard as negligible, worthless, or distasteful." (TJ pg. 12)

Emaciated: "Very thin and feeble especially from lack of nutrition or illness." (Liz pg. 16)

Enterprise: "A unit of economic organization or activity. Especially : a business organization" (Ed pg. 31)

Haphazardly: "Marked by lack of plan, order, or direction." (in reference to Liz pg. 16)

Inalienable: "not transferable to another or not capable of being taken away or denied"

Infidel: "not accepting a particular faith, especially Christianity or Islam; heathen." (TJ pg. 10) Dictionary.com

Ingenious: "Marked by originality, resourcefulness, and cleverness in conception or execution." (Ed pg. 29)

Shuck: "To remove . . . the outer covering of a nut or of an ear of corn the shell of an oyster or clam." (Noah pg. 13)

Liberate: "to take or take over illegally or unjustly." Also, to free. (Noah pg. 10)


Mordant: "Burning, pungent, biting and caustic in thought, manner, or style." (in reference to Liz pg. 22)

Nautical: "of, relating to, or associated with seamen, navigation, or ships." (Noah pg. 23)


Opaque: "Blocking the passage of radiant energy and especially light" (Ed pg. 30)

Ornery: "Mischievous, difficult to deal with or control." (Noah pg. 14)

Ravage: "To wreak havoc on : affect destructively" (Jane pg. 8)



Luke 19:10
"For the Son of Man
came to seek and to
save the lost."



SOURCES CITED

for Photos Used

- *First Slide photo:*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/life/travel/what-its-like-to-take-a-35-hour-ride-on-the-coast-starlight-train-from-l-a-to-seattle/>

- *Slides 4 & 5 (Bunin):*

- *First Photo:* <https://mubi.com/cast/keith-bunin>

- *Second Photo:* <https://latw.org/artist-public-profile/keith-bunin>

- *The World Over Photo:* <https://www.playwrightshorizons.org/shows/plays/world-over/>

<https://www.playwrightshorizons.org/shows/players/keith-bunin/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140611004340/http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-109196125.html>

<https://latw.org/artist-public-profile/keith-bunin>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keith_Bunin

<https://www.dramatists.com/pdf/atPlayFallWinter08.pdf>

<https://mubi.com/cast/keith-bunin>

<https://latw.org/artist-public-profile/keith-bunin>

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1528071/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/15/theater/reviews/15mill.html>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/183527.The_Credeaux_Canvas

<https://www.playwrightshorizons.org/shows/plays/world-over/>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Principality_of_Sorrows.html?id=Qh_SvTOgFcsC

<https://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Lovers-collide-in-Vera-Laughed-at-Powerhouse-2408.php>

<https://playbill.com/article/la-jolla-playhouse-to-stage-sam-bendrix-at-the-bon-soir-in-unique-lounge-restaurant-space-luke-macfarlane-stars-com-196601>

- *Slide 6 & 7:*

- *Coast photo:* <https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-coast-starlight/>

- *La Jolla photo:* <https://theatre.ucsd.edu/people/la-jolla-playhouse.html>

- *Gregory Peck Picture:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_Peck_on_screen,_stage_and_radio

<https://lajollaplayhouse.org/who-we-are/artists-and-programs/dna-new-work-series/>

<https://lajollaplayhouse.org/plan-your-visit/>

<https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-coast-starlight/>

<https://lajollaplayhouse.org/who-we-are/about-the-playhouse/>

<https://www.playbill.com/job/the-coast-starlight-equity-video-submissions-deadline-10-03-22/4b1a1bb4-360a-41b9-8d5b-68734df2c408>

- *Slide 8 (Themes):*

Photo: <https://lajollaplayhouse.org/show/the-coast-starlight/>

- *Slide 9 (Real Train):*

Photo: <https://www.theordinaryadventurer.com/travel/amtrak-coast-starlight-review/>

<https://history.amtrak.com/archives/coast-starlight-led-by-e9a-locomotive-no.-418-1970s#:~:text=The%20service%20operated%20from%201971,Starlight%2C%20and%20remains%20so%20today.>

<https://www.amtrak.com/coast-starlight-train>

- *Slide 10 (Earthquakes):*

Photo of Faults: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/evidence-shared-earthquakes-between-san-andreas-and-san-jacinto-faults>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7ho6z32yyo>

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/evidence-shared-earthquakes-between-san-andreas-and-san-jacinto-faults>

<https://www.earthquakeauthority.com/California-Earthquake-Risk/California-Earthquake-History-Timeline>

- *Slide 11 (Bugs and Wile E)*

Photos: <https://www.uselessdaily.com/news/the-10-most-interesting-facts-about-bugs-bunny/>

<https://tjohnsonmediagroup.com/blog/lessons-wile-e-coyote/>

Videos: Wile E. Coyote: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jL_yeEog6Wo

Bugs Bunny: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HmmpXZH0Tk>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/28/896105935/whats-up-doc-bugs-bunnys-age-cartoon-rabbit-turns-80>

<https://www.vulture.com/2019/11/wile-e-coyote-road-runner-legacy-looney-tunes.html>

- *Slide 12 & 13 (Afghanistan War)*

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>

<https://www.cfr.org/asia/afghanistan>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghan_Civil_War_\(1992%E2%80%931996\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghan_Civil_War_(1992%E2%80%931996))

- *Slide 14 (Map Route)*

Photo: <https://www.mapyourtravels.com/products/contemporary-pastel-world-travel-map>

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1mUhfwr4dE8uHyE7Y2ntNofe8Jmi5Fkw&usp=sharing>

- *Slide 15 (Map Referenced)*

Photos: <https://www.rrengineers.com/projects/hilton-glendale>

<https://www.worldatlas.com/landmarks/space-needle-seattle.html>

<https://www.10best.com/destinations/california/san-diego/pacific-beach/nightlife/the-duck-dive/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/03/15/what-tech-campus-in-silicon-valley-look-like-from-above.html>

<https://friendlys.com/>

https://nissan-tennessee.com/en/photos/photo-560dc24751c179d9d6d8d4dbafla9efd-16_tennessee_cjpg?firstResultIndex=32&channelsConstraint=channel-4cf52be31e7ca582e4d6fff89110a590

<https://www.friendlysrestaurants.com/>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Bangalore-India>

Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1pzPsb9Bv7W-kcKltviac8rUal2V4ysc&ll=37.22454546572751%2C-86.12325515316249&z=6>

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