**Unit 1**

**Section 1 The one who Survived: Ada Blackjack**

**1. Story of Ada Blackjack**

**Setting** – In the Arctic region, where Ada was born and brought up, and

Wrangel Island where she went with the explorers.

**Main character** – Ada Blackjack

**Supporting characters** - Lorne Knight, Milton Galle, Fred Maurer, Allan Crawford,

Vilhjalnmer Stefansson, Ada’s grandmother and Ada’s son Bennet

**Crisis in the story** – Lorne Knight falls sick and they get no news of any help. Their food supply had depleted and they were almost starving as winter set in. Leaving Ada with Lorne, the three other explorers went out in search of help never to return. Lorne dies and Ada is left all alone to survive the Arctic.

**Resolution of the crisis** – Ada learns how to hunt animals using a rifle. She kills animals and birds like ducks, foxes and seals. She survives the island and comes back to her family finally.

**2. a.Why did Ada agree to join the expedition?**

Ada decided to join the expedition as an assistant because she needed money for the

treatment of her only son. Ada’s son, Bennett, was also very ill and needed constant care and attention. She lived with her grandmother; they were very poor and there was very little food left in the house. Ada had lost her husband as well and so one was there to earn money in their household. It was during such a time that Ada decided to join the expedition.

**b. How useful were Ada’s skills as a cook and a seamstress in her career and life?**

Ada’s skills as a cook and a seamstress helped her become the assistant of a team of four men who were going to explore the Arctic. When the four men first met Ada, they thought Ada was a frail woman who would find it difficult to survive the harsh conditions in Wrangel Island. However, it was Ada who survived the expedition. She took care of all the men, cooked for them and sewed clothes for them. At a certain point she had to take care of one of the men who fell ill, with almost no resources at her disposal. She learned to hunt and it was because of these skills that she finally discovered that she was a good explorer too.

**c. Why did Lorne Knight not traverse the icy sea with Maurer, Crawford and Galle?**

Lorne Knight does not traverse the icy sea with Maurer, Crawford and Galle because he had fallen seriously ill. He was too frail to even sit up properly. The three other men who went out to traverse the icy sea and look for help did not return. They perished in the cold and in hunger.

**d. Maurer, Crawford and Galle were never seen after that. What do you think happened to them?**

The three other men who went out to traverse the icy sea and looked for help did not return. They perished in the cold and of hunger.

**3. Long Answer**

**1. Would you agree that Ada’s ability to survive the expedition all by herself without much food or clothing was a ‘miracle’? Why/ Why not**

a. Ada’s ability to survive the bitter cold of Wrangel Island without much food or clothing was a miracle because she was the only one who survived. The other strong and well-trained men could not; all of them died. Though she was a skilled cook and a talented seamstress, surviving the Arctic without any help and all alone was nothing short of a miracle. She had determination and the will to return home to her son, this helped her learn to hunt and survive.

**4. Synonyms**

1. Expedition- a journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose.

2. Designated- appoint (someone) to a specified office or post.

3. Seldom- not often; rarely.

4. Seamstress- a woman who earns her living by sewing.

5. Colonize- a country that sends settlers to a place and establishes political control over it.

6. accompanying - provided

7. hardened- harder.

8. adventure- an unusual and exciting or daring experience.

9. Frail- weak and delicate.

10. Spirit- soul.

11. Attention- notice taken of someone or something

12. Pitch- the quality of a sound governed by the rate of vibrations producing it.

13. Plenty- a large or sufficient amount or quantity.

14. Protected- to keep someone safe from injury, damage

15. paucity- insufficient quantities or amounts.

16. Supplies- provide.

17. Dwindling- gradually diminishing in size, amount, or strength

18. Survive- in spite of danger or hardship.

19. Perish- die, especially in a violent or sudden way.

20. Desperate- having a great need or desire for something.

21. Traverse- travel across or through.

22. Barely- only just; almost not.

23. Scurvy-  a disease caused by a deficiency of vitamin C

24. Proficient- skilled in doing

25. Utterly- completely

26. Wilderness- an uncultivated, uninhabited, and inhospitable region.

27. Terrified- cause to feel extreme fear.

28. Responsible- have control over or care for someone

29. Figured-have a significant part or role in a situation or process.

30. Trap- catching hold of animals

31. Feat- skill or strength

32. Brave- ready to face and endure danger, courage.