

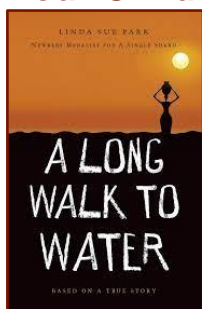
# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND

- **Parlor Talk:** August 4, Cape Lookout Lighthouse History and Restoration Status
- **Parlor Talk:** August 11, Cabin Culture of the Southern Banks

### Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



#### A Long Walk to Water

By Linda Sue Park

In 1985 southern Sudan is ravaged by war. Rebels and government forces battle for control, with ordinary people, caught in the middle. When Salva's village is attacked, he must embark on a harrowing journey that will propel him through horror and heartbreak, across a harsh desert, and into a strange new life. Years later, in modern South Sudan, Nya must walk eight hours a day to fetch her water. The walk is grueling, but there is unexpected hope.

Grade Level: 5-7

Pages: 128

### Did You Know?

Educators, are you aware that the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center offers programs for students of all ages throughout the year? Teachers are invited to help us design programs that enhance and expand student-learning to the outdoors. These programs provide students with the opportunities to learn about the natural environment and to spend time with community tradition-bearers as they share their heritage with young people from across the state!

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) exhibits offer a variety of ways for your students to explore coastal ecosystems, local flora and fauna, and Down East culture. A few possible program topics are: Cape Lookout Excursion, Waterfowl World, Water Explorations, and Maritime Forest Ecology. This opportunity is offered to NC school groups and chaperones free-of-charge! Programs are tailored to your classes' grade level and cover NC Core Curriculum STEM standards. Contact us with your ideas and needs! For more information visit [www.coresound.com](http://www.coresound.com).



### Learning Together

This past week several student groups visited the Museum. They explored Archimedes' Principle and construction of towers with us. Students participated in an interactive demonstration and lesson before they worked on their STEM challenges.

Some groups designed a ballast that would allow a cup to submerge at a particular level without getting the plastic animal inside the cup wet or seasick from being too high in the water. Other groups focused on the importance of firm foundations and basic mechanics of tower-construction by working together to build the tallest tower that could successfully hold a marshmallow. The students worked hard, and we applaud their ideas and efforts. Come explore and learn with us!

## The Dog Days of Summer

The 2022 dog days of summer last from July 3 to August 11. If you are like me, the term “dog days” is synonymous with miserably hot summer days that cause even the dogs to become lazy and seek shelter in the shade with their tongues hanging out. Interestingly, though, that is not at all from where the phrase originates!

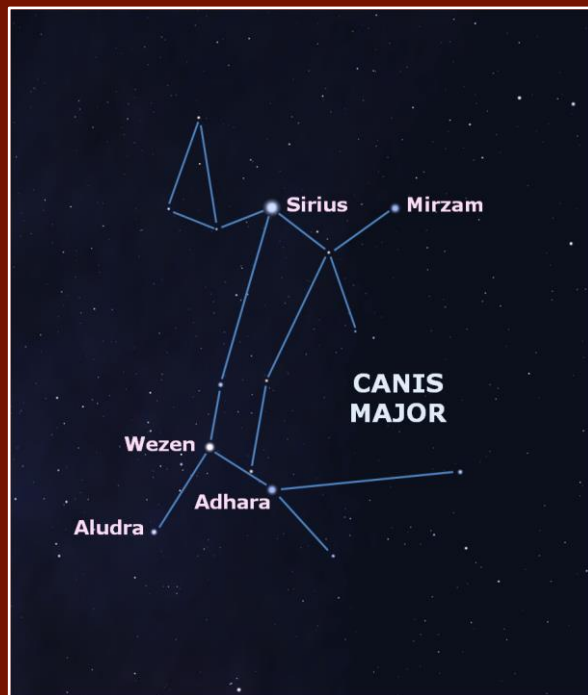
Instead, the phrase “dog days” refers to Sirius which is part of the constellation Canis Majoris known as the “Greater Dog.” This is where Sirius gets its canine nickname, “the Dog Star.” Besides the Sun, Sirius is the brightest star in the sky. Under the right conditions, it can even be seen with the naked eye during the day.

In ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, the dawn rising of Sirius in mid to late summer was thought to contribute to the severe weather of the season. Folks believed that the combined heat of Sirius and the Sun caused summer’s sweltering temperatures. (“Sirius” stems from the Ancient Greek word *seírios*, meaning “scorching.”) Of course, we now realize that this belief is inaccurate.

For the ancient Egyptians, however, the dawn rising of Sirius also corresponded with the Nile River’s flood season. Sirius was used as a “watchdog” for that welcomed event. The floodwaters brought rich soil needed to grow crops in their desert terrain.

Although summer’s dog days are usually brutally hot, they do not have anything to do with dogs or Sirius! You see, the Earth’s tilt causes these days to be the hottest of the summer. During July through August in the Northern Hemisphere, the slant of the Earth causes light from the Sun to hit the Northern Hemisphere at a more direct angle. This angle coupled with extended days create longer, hotter days during our summer.

Scientists now know that Earth’s rotation wobbles a bit due to the gravity of the Moon. This means Sirius does not appear in the sky at the same time of year as it once did. *The Farmer’s Almanac* lists the modern dog days as lasting 40 days from July 3 through August 11. Since Earth’s rotation will continue to wobble, that means that hundreds of years from now, Sirius will rise with the sun during the dog days of all our seasons. *Hmmmm ... the dog days of spring?* This is yet another sign that the only constant in life is change!



*images from stardate.org*

