

Boiler

"Some planks I tore from the cabin floor, and I lit the boiler fire; / Some coal I found that was lying around, and I heaped the fuel higher;"

A large container in which water is heated to produce steam in an engine.

Brawn

"It was lashed to the sleigh, and it seemed to say: "You may tax your brawn and brains, / But you promised true, and it's up to you to cremate those last remains."

Firm, strong muscles.

Chum

"And I looked at it, and I thought a bit, and I looked at my frozen chum; / Then "Here," said I, with a sudden cry, "is my cre-ma-tor-eum."

A very close friend.

Cremation

"Yet 'tain't being dead—it's my awful dread of the icy grave that pains; / So I want you to swear that, foul or fair, you'll cremate my last remains."

To burn (as a dead body) to ashes.

Derelict

"Till I came to the marge of Lake Lebarge, and a derelict there lay; / It was jammed in the ice, but I saw in a trice it was called the "Alice May."

Abandoned especially by the owner or occupant.

Ghastly

"A pal's last need is a thing to heed, so I swore I would not fail; / And we started on at the streak of dawn; but God! he looked ghastly pale."

Very shocking or horrible.

Heed

"A pal's last need is a thing to heed, so I swore I would not fail; / And we started on at the streak of dawn; but God! he looked ghastly pale."

To pay careful attention; take notice.

Loathe

"In the long, long night, by the lone firelight, while the huskies, round in a ring, / Howled out their woes to the homeless snows— O God! how I loathed the thing."

To dislike greatly and often with disgust or intolerance.

Marge

"Till I came to the marge of Lake Lebarge, and a derelict there lay; / It was jammed in the ice, but I saw in a trice it was called the "Alice May."

Margin.

Moil

"There are strange things done in the midnight sun / By the men who moil for gold;"

To work hard.

Parka

"On a Christmas Day we were mushing our way over the Dawson trail. / Talk of your cold! through the parka's fold it stabbed like a driven nail."

A very warm jacket with a hood.

Queer

"The Northern Lights have seen queer sights, / But the queerest they ever did see / Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge / I cremated Sam McGee."

Strange or odd from a conventional viewpoint.

Rave

"He crouched on the sleigh, and he raved all day of his home in Tennessee; / And before nightfall a corpse was all that was left of Sam McGee."

To talk wildly or senselessly as from rage, delirium or insanity.

Scowl

"Then I made a hike, for I didn't like to hear him sizzle so; / And the heavens scowled, and the huskies howled, and the wind began to blow."

A facial expression of displeasure: frown.

Tale

"The Arctic trails have their secret tales / That would make your blood run cold;"

A narrative that relates the details of some real or imaginary event, incident, or case; story.

Trice

"Till I came to the marge of Lake Lebarge, and a derelict there lay; / It was jammed in the ice, but I saw in a trice it was called the "Alice May."

A very short time; an instant.