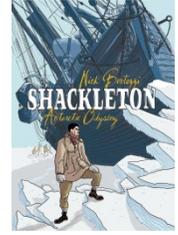


SHACKLETON – READING GROUP GUIDE



About the Book:

Ernest Shackleton was one of the last great Antarctic explorers, and he led one of the most ambitious Antarctic expeditions ever undertaken. In this graphic biography, Nick Bertozzi tells his story and the story of the dozens of men who threw in their lot with him—many of whom nearly died in the unimaginably harsh conditions of the journey. It's an astonishing feat—and was unprecedented at the time—that all the men in the expedition survived.

For Discussion:

Shackleton is a graphic novel, a story told in words and pictures. How do you think this story would be told differently if it was a novel, with only words? How would it be different if it was a movie, with just pictures?

Despite the certain dangers that accompany any trip to the Antarctic continent, Shackleton insists on returning and leading an expedition of his own. Why is it so important to him to go back? Is it to prove something to himself, or are there bigger ideals at stake during this age of exploration?

Against all odds, the entire crew makes it through the perils alive, undeniably in part because of Shackleton's leadership. What makes a good leader? Have you ever had to take the lead in a difficult situation? Was it easy or challenging, and what led you to making the decisions you made?

The author often uses humor as a way to offset the tension during a particularly dangerous part of the graphic novel. Have you ever used humor as a tool in an uncomfortable situation? Why do you think humor is effective in those circumstances?

Shackleton and his crew endure unimaginable hardships throughout their journey, yet they maintain an optimistic attitude and bolster each other with teamwork. Have you noticed in your own experiences that positivity and teamwork usually produce the most successful results? Why is that?

Despite some of his crew questioning his crazier ideas, Shackleton continues to take risks to ensure the crew's survival. How do you balance risk and reward, and would you factor in other people's opinions?

The survival of the crew of the *Endurance* is an incredible miracle, and makes for a thrilling tale. Why is this particular story so adaptable to a graphic novel? How does the visual aspect help convey what actually occurred?