

AN ANNOTATED TRANSLATION OF IDIOMS IN *THE JOURNAL OF  
JOSHUA LOPER: A BLACK COWBOY, THE CHISHOLM TRAIL, 1871* BY  
WALTER DEAN MYERS

THESIS

Submitted in the Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirement of the Degree of  
Sarjana Sastra



Alan Reynaldo Putra  
392015054

ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ART  
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN SATYA WACANA  
SALATIGA

2019



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Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Alan Retnaldo Putra  
NIM : 392015059 Email : alanret208@gmail.com  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni Program Studi : Sastra Inggris  
Judul tugas akhir : An Annotated Translation of Idioms in The Journal of  
Joshua Lopez: A Black Cowboy, The Chisholm Trail, 1871  
By Walker Dean Myers  
Pembimbing : 1. Wahyu Seno Aji, M. Hum.  
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Nama : Alan Retnaldo Putra  
NIM : 392015059 Email : alan.ren201@gmail.com  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni Program Studi : Sosstra Inggris  
Judul tugas akhir : An Annotated Translation of Iblom in The Journal of  
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THESIS

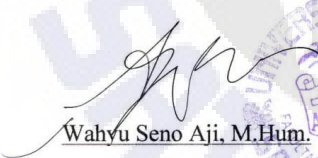
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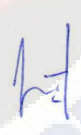
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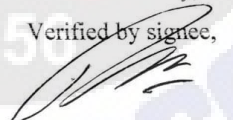
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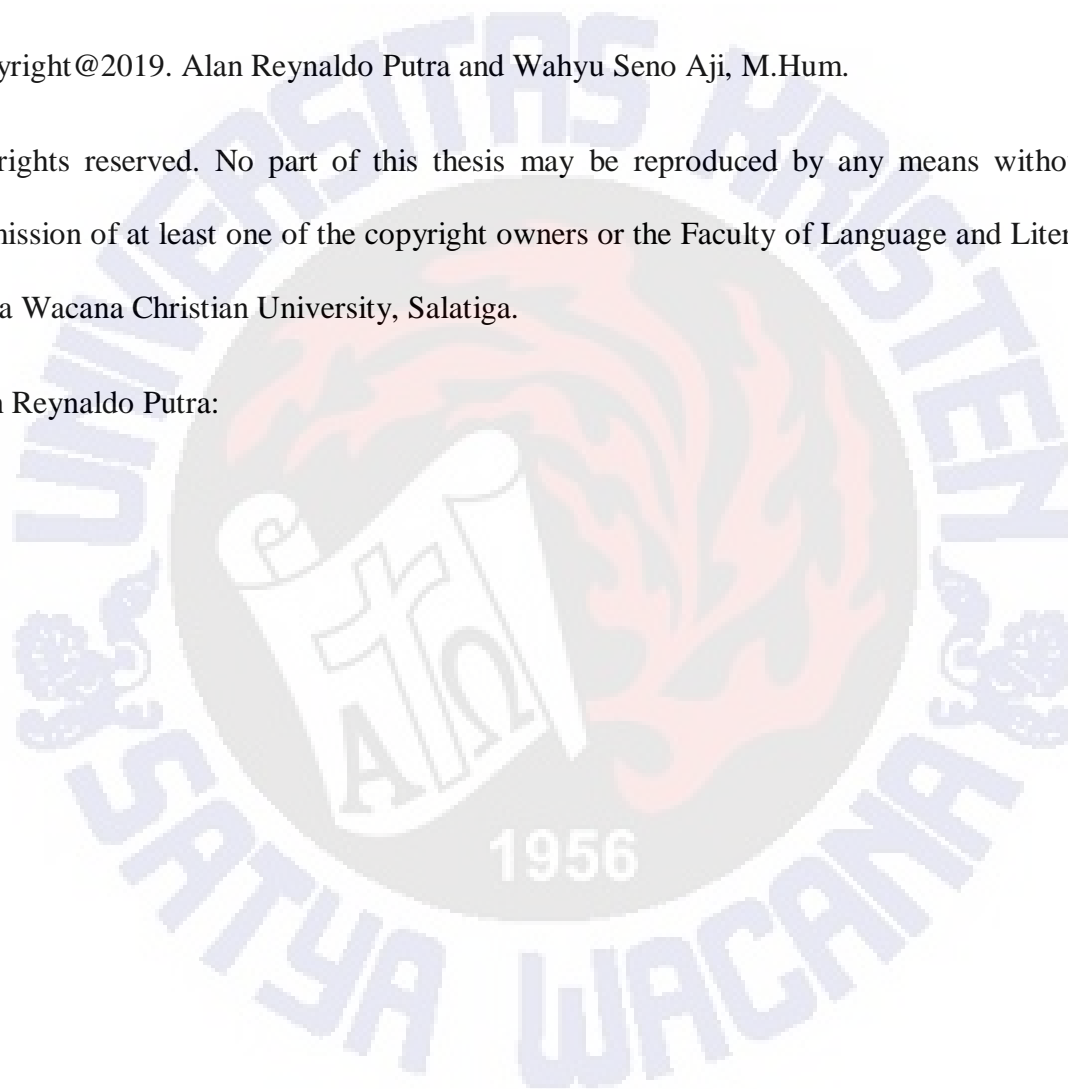
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the study

Basically, annotated translation can be understood as a process of translating text from source language to target language and while translating the text, the translator needs to make note on how to solve the problem of translating difficult phrases or words. So, after the translation is done and the difficult phrases and words are collected, the translator should give explanation why he or she uses a certain way to translate difficult phrases and words. To be more precise, Jenny Williams and Andrew Chesterman in their book *'The Map'* (7) explained that the meaning of annotated translation (translation with commentary) is a form of introspective and retrospective research where translating text and writing commentary on the translation process are done at the same time. Usually, the commentary will contain discussion of translation assignment, an analysis of aspects of the source text and a reasoned justification of the solution that you (the translator) use when facing particular kinds of translation problem.

In the process of translating text, the translators will face many types of words that will distress the translators, such as idioms. Idioms often carry meaning which cannot be deduced from their individual component. This requires the translator to understand not only word by word but the component of the idioms. Also, the difficulty that the translator will meet is being able to recognize that s/he is dealing with idioms. Mona Baker in her book *'In Other Words'* (65) mentioned the characteristics of idioms, i.e idioms usually have expression which violate truth condition, grammatically wrong and do not make sense if translated literally. The translator will give an example of idiom and annotated translation in order to give further information.

‘He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.’

If this sentence is translated to Bahasa Indonesia, it will be

‘Dia sudah kaya sejak lahir.’

This idiom can be easily recognized because this idiom has an expression which violates truth condition, there is no baby that born with spoon in mouth. Based on the Cambridge Dictionary this idiom has meaning as to have high social position and be rich from birth. Since there is no equivalent idiom in the target language, this idiom is translated by paraphrase.

There are many literary works that contain idioms, such as novel. The translator chose novel with title *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871* which was published on April 1999. This is a good novel that has many lessons to be learned and in this novel there are many idioms that can be found. However, since its launching, this book has not been translated into the Indonesian language. This is what challenges the translator to translate this novel. These idioms became obstacles for the translator when translating the book. So, to deal with the difficulty of translating idioms, the translator use strategies of translating idiom by Mona Baker. Baker (71-8) mentioned four strategies, (1) using an idiom of similar meaning and form, (2) using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, (3) translation by paraphrase and (4) translation by omission. However, in this research, the translator only used two strategies which are (1) using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form and (2) translation by paraphrase.

#### 1. Research Question

- What strategies are suitable to translate idioms in the novel *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871*?
- Why does the translator use the strategy?

## 2. The Objective of the Study

- To translate the idioms from source language to target language using strategies of translating idioms by Mona Baker.
- To give explanation why the strategy is used by the translator.

## B. Description of Selected text

Walter Dean Myers who was born on August 12, 1937, in West Virginia, United States was an American writer of children's books. He was raised by foster parents, Florence and Herbert Dean, his biological father was giving Walter over to Florence and Herbert Dean after his biological mother died while giving birth to his younger sister. In order to honor his foster parents, Walter took the name "Dean" as his middle name. Little Walter was known as a smart boy but did not do so well in school, even he was considered an annoying student. Since he had a speech impediment, he started to love reading books and started to write poetry and short stories. When he has grown up and was asked, what he valued most, he replied. "My books, They were my only real friends growing up." It shows that Walter Dean Myers already familiar with books and writing since he was a child.

In this research, the translator will be focusing on the novel entitled *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871*. Besides this novel, Walter Dean Myers already wrote more than a hundred books like *Monster* (1999), *Fallen Angels* (1988), *Sunrise Over Fallujah* (2008), etc, including picture books and nonfiction. His skill in writing a book is no doubt, it is proven by more than twenty (20) awards that he already achieved, such as *Alan Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Young Adult Literature* (1994), *University of Minnesota Kerlan Award* (2008), *Jeremiah Ludington Award (Educational Paperback Association)* (2009), etc.

*The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871* is a book by Walter Dean Myers for the *My Name is America* series and published by Scholastic in April 1999. This book was written from the point of view of a sixteen-year-old cowboy named Joshua Loper who eager to prove himself that he already become a man. The story began on April 30, 1871, on a ranch owned by Mr. Muhlen, Joshua Loper's boss. On that day, Mr. Muhlen wanted Joshua to join the cattle drive from Texas to Abilene, Kansas. Surely, when he heard about that, he wanted to join because that was his chance to prove that he already become a man. Yet, his mother was unhappy about that. The problem appeared even before Joshua started his journey because the Captain of this cattle drive did not like black people and refused to work together with Joshua and his friends who were black. Furthermore, the Captain and Mr. Muhlen had an argument because the Captain did not want to take black people but Mr. Muhlen explained that they did not have time to find another crew, so Joshua was still going to the cattle drive. The cattle drive started on May fifth 1871. In this journey, Joshua was required to work hard like a grown man, he needed to do guard duty at night and oversee the backside of the herd. Moreover, not only difficult work but also racial prejudice from his boss because he was an African-American boy. For the target reader, the translator aimed for high school student or above because this book contains a rather complicated problem such as racial issue and slavery, also this book has a history about America which will be difficult for children to understand.

### C. Significance of the Study

The significance of this research is to provide more references on difficulty in translating idioms and strategies to translate it in order to give further information for someone who looks for the same research.

## D. Theoretical Framework

### 1. Definition of Translation and Idiom

Some experts see translation differently. Newmark (5) explained translation as “rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text”. In another hand, Catford (20) explained translation as “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)”. However, basically, translation can be understood as a process of transferring text from SL into text in TL that has similar meaning or counterpart. Also, when translating text, the translator needs to have good knowledge from both SL and TL.

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, idiom is an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either grammatically or in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements. Also Mona Baker (63) explained Idioms as a frozen pattern of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meaning which cannot be deduced from their individual components.

For the translator, idioms can be an obstacle and it needs some steps to translate idioms. Baker (65) mentioned, before translating idioms, the first thing the translator needs to do is to recognize and interpret the idioms. Some types of idioms can be easily recognized. Those which easily recognizable usually contain expressions which violate truth conditions, such as *storm in tea cup* and *jump down someone's throat*. Idioms that easily recognizable also do not follow grammatical rules of the language, such as *trip the light fantastic*. Moreover, idioms will be easily recognized if translated literally, because it will not make sense.

### 2. Difficulties in Translating Idiom

After the idioms are recognized and interpreted correctly, the next step is to decide how to translate it into the target language. The difficulties in translating idioms are totally

different from interpreting it. In translating idioms, the main difficulties are not whether a given idiom is transparent, opaque, or misleading (Baker 68). The main difficulties in translating idioms will be summarized below:

- a) An idiom may have no equivalent in the target language. The way a language chooses to express, or not express, various meanings cannot be predicted and only sometimes it will match the way another language chooses to express the same meanings. One language may express a given meaning by means of a single word, another may express it by means of a transparent fixed expression, a third may express it by means of an idiom, and so on (Baker 68). Therefore, an expectation to find equivalent idioms in the target language as a matter, of course, is unrealistic. Usually, the idioms that do not have or hard to find the equivalent in target contains culture-specific items. Baker (68) mentioned idioms which contain culture-specific items are not necessarily untranslatable. Not the specific items contained in expression that make it untranslatable or difficult to translate, but rather the meaning it states and its correlation with culture-specific contexts. For example: to carry coals to Newcastle. It contains a reference to Newcastle coal and uses it as a measure of profusion. If this idiom is translated to German it will be *Eulen nach Athen tragen* (to carry owls to Athens). The culture-specific item in this idiom in the source language is Newcastle coal and this culture-specific item is translated differently in the target language because of cultural differences but the meaning still the same.
- b) An idiom may have a similar counterpart in the target language, but its context of use may be different; the two expressions may have different connotations, or they may not be pragmatically transferable (Baker 69). For example: ‘to sing a different tune’ which is has meaning as to say or to do something that signals



a change in options because it contradicts what someone has said or done before. If this idiom is translated to Chinese it will be *chang-dui-tai-xi* (to sing different tune/to sing a duet). It also refers to contradictory points of view but the usage is different. In a certain context, this idiom is interpreted as expressing complementary not contradictory points of view. This point illustrates even if an idiom has a counterpart in target language does not mean it is transferable because it has a different connotation or a different way of using. In China, if you say *chang-dui-tai-xi* (to sing different tune/to sing a duet) people will be happy because its connotation is positive, but when you say to sing a different tune in English people will feel insulted because its connotation is negative

- c) An idiom may be used in the source text in both its literal and idiomatic senses at the same time. Unless the target-language idiom corresponds to the source-language idiom both in form and in meaning, the play on idiom cannot be successfully reproduced in the target text (Baker 69). For example, Baker took from *Arab Political Humour* by Kishtainy (157-8). This book was written in English, but the writer quotes jokes and anecdotes of Arab Origin, so in this book the target language is English. The joke below is appeared after the Arab forces' defeat in 1967, which resulted in the annexation of Arab territory by Israel.

“Egypt’s Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Amin, was horrified to see President Nasser ordering a tattoo artist to print on his right arm the names of all the territories seized by Israel like Sinai, Gaza, Sharm al-Shaykh, Jerusalem, the Golan Height.

‘Why are you doing this?’

‘Lest I should forget them.’

‘But why tattooed? What will you do if we get them back?’

‘If we get them back I’ll cut off my right arm’”

(Kishtainy, *Arab Political Humour*. 1985:157-8 in Baker 1992:70)

For non-Arab speakers this humor will hard to understand. This humor totally relies on the manipulation of literal and idiomatic meaning. ‘To cut off one’s arm’ is an idiom that is similar in meaning to *pigs might fly* in English. It means that something is impossible or very unlikely to happen. The expression ‘I’ll cut off my right arm’ cannot be replaced by any English expression or idiom with similar meaning because the literal meaning of the Arabic expression is as important as its idiomatic meaning.

- d) Baker (70) mentioned the habit of using the idiom, the context in which the idiom can be used, and the frequency of using idiom in source language may be different with the target language. Some languages use idioms in many type of text. For example English, it uses idiom almost in every type of text, such as advertisements, promotional material, and tabloid press. Baker (71) said “using idioms in English is very much a matter of style. Languages such as Arabic and Chinese which make a sharp distinction between written and spoken discourse and where the written mode is associated with a high level of formality, tend, to the whole, to avoid using idioms in written texts.”. If English advertisement, which has many idioms in it, is translated to Chinese and the English idioms are still translated as Chinese idioms, the translation result will be seemed unnatural

### 3. Strategies of Translating Idioms

To deal with those difficulties, Mona Baker (71-8) mentioned these strategies of translating idioms in her book :

- a) Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

This strategy involves using an idiom or fixed expression which has almost the same meaning from both source language and target language, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items. This kind of match can only occasionally be achieved.

Example:

Source text (*Mrs. McGinty's Dead*, p. 31 in Suwardi 5):

Whether any of this irrelevant matter would be of use, he had no idea. He was looking through a haystack to find a needle. But, incidentally, he was learning something about Bessie Burch

Target text (Bahasa Indonesia, p. 80 in Suwardi 5):

Apakah semua aspek yang tidak relevan ini akan ada gunanya, ia tidak tahu. Ia sedang mencari sebuah jarum dalam tumpukan jerami. Tapi dengan tidak sengaja ia memperoleh suatu fakta tentang Bessie Burch.

The idiom *looking through a haystack to find a needle* has equivalent idiom in the target language (Bahasa Indonesia). These two idioms has similar meaning as 'something that impossible or extremely hard to find', also the lexical items from both source text and target text are completely the same word *needle* is the same with word *jarum*, word *haystack* is the same with word *jerami*.

b) Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Find an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has similar meaning with an idiom in the source language is possible, but sometimes the idiom or fixed expression consists of different lexical items.

Example:

Source text (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, p. 106 in Ardita 44):

Mom said skipping church on Easter wasn't an option, and we argued **back and forth**.

Target text (Bahasa Indonesia, p.106 in Ardita 44):

Mom bilang aku tidak bisa mangkir dari gereja pada hari Paskah, dan kami pun **beradu mulut**.

Based on the Cambridge dictionary the idiom *back and forth* has meaning as 'moving first in one direction and then in the opposite one'. However, in the context this idiom can be understood as an action of replying a talk within a conversation. In TT, there is an idiom that has similar meaning with the idiom in ST, the idiom is *adu mulut*.

c) Translation by paraphrase

According to Baker (74), this strategy is the most common way of translating idioms when a counterpart cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages.

Example:

Source text (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, p. 133 in Ardita 48-9):

If you ever wanted to know why I don't like team sports, there it is **in a nutshell**.

Target text (Bahasa Indonesia, p. 133 in Ardita 48-9):

Kalau kamu ingin tahu mengapa aku tidak suka pada jenis olahraga yang dimainkan dalam tim, kejadian di atas merupakan **penjelasan singkatnya**.

Based on the Merriam-Webster dictionary, idiom *in a nutshell* has meaning as ‘in very brief statement’. This idiom does not have a counterpart in the target language so this idiom is translated by paraphrase. Phrase *penjelasan singkatnya* is used as an explanation of *in a nutshell* since this phrase in TT has the same meaning with the idiom in ST.

d) Translation by omission

Like a single word, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. This may be because it has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons.

Example:

Source text (*Pirates of the Caribbean* in Ahsan 65):

I had some help retrieving the Pearl **by the way**.

Target text (Bahasa Indonesia in Ahsan 65):

Aku mendapatkan bantuan untuk mengambil Pearl kembali.

Idiom *by the way* is not translated to Bahasa Indonesia, as Baker said, it is probably because it has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons. Also, by omitting the idiom, the meaning or message of the sentence will not fade.

## E. Methodology

In this part, the translator will show the steps that the translator has done in translating *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871* from source language to target language.

### A. Step to Translate

1. The very first step is reading the source text which is *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871*.
2. Then, the translator translates *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871* to target language text (in Indonesian).
3. While translating, the translator marks down the phrases which assumed as idioms.
4. After the translation is done, the translator consults it with the supervisor and asks for corrections and suggestions.
5. Besides suggestions from the supervisor, the translator also asks help from target language native speakers to read the text and ask for his/her opinions and suggestions.
6. Make revision to the text.
7. The final manuscript.

### B. Step to Annotate

1. The translator literally translates the phrases which are assumed as idioms.
2. When the literal translations do not match in the whole sentence, the translator tries to understand the context.
3. After that, the translator tries to find the true meaning of the phrases which are assumed as idioms from trusted dictionaries.



4. After the translator sure that those phrases are idioms, the translator tries to translate using strategies by Mona Baker.
5. If the equivalent idioms are found, the translator will translate idioms from source language using the idioms in the target language, but when the equivalent idioms can not be found in target the translator will translate the idioms by paraphrasing it.



## CHAPTER II

### TARGET TEXT AND SOURCE TEXT

#### A. Target Text

**30 April 1871**

- [1] Saat aku pulang dari gereja Mama tidak ada di rumah dan tidak ada apapun untuk dimakan, hal ini sangat tidak biasa, karena dia biasanya membuat makanan istimewa pada hari Minggu. Rumput-rumput liar di pekarangan rumah perlu dicabut, tapi aku tak akan melakukannya tanpa cangkul. Aku telah berusaha agar tidak terlihat terlalu mencolok setelah Kapten Hunter datang ke peternakan. Tuan Muhlen merekrut si Kapten untuk menjalankan peternakan sejak Charlie Taggert, bos kami, membeli tempat di Montana untuk dirinya sendiri. Ku tebak si Kapten adalah orang yang baik jika Tuan Muhlen merekrutnya, tapi dia terlihat seperti tidak berguna bagi orang-orang berkulit hitam dan dia tidak keberatan untuk memberitahu kami. Saat pertama kali dia melihatku, aku sedang memotong papan untuk memperbaiki teras rumah Tuan Muhlen. Dia bertanya siapa aku dan berapa umurku. Ku jawab, namaku Joshua Loper dan umurku 16 tahun. Dia lalu membalikkan badannya dan berjalan pergi tanpa kata.
- [2] Aku masih berpikir tentang si Kapten saat Mama pulang. Dia baru saja pulang dari rumah Tuan Muhlen. Mama telah bekerja pada Tuan Muhlen sepanjang hidupnya. Sebelum masa perang Tuan Muhlen telah menjadi tuan bagi Mama, tapi karena dia menyukai Mama, dia membiarkan Ayahku, Nehemiah, membeli kebebasannya dan menikahinya.
- [3] ‘Tuan Muhlen ingin kau pergi ke utara, untuk menggembalakan ternak,’ kata Mama. ‘Sebaiknya kau segera menemuinya.’

- [4] Aku tidak terlalu tertarik, karena Mama juga terlihat tidak tertarik dengan rencanaku pergi ke rute penggembalaan. Aku pergi menemui Tuan Muhlen dan dia mengiyakan kata-kata Mama tadi. Dia benar-benar butuh bantuan dan dia harus mengumpulkan orang-orang untuk pergi ke Abilene, Kansas.
- [5] ‘Kapan Kita berangkat?’ tanyaku.
- [6] ‘Pertengahan Juli nanti,’ kata Tuan Muhlen. ‘lebih cepat lebih baik.’
- [7] Kataku, aku akan melakukan yang terbaik. Tidak ada seorangpun yang bekerja di rute penggembalaan berbicara seperti anak-anak. Jika kamu bekerja di sana kamu adalah laki-laki.

### **1 Mei**

- [8] Tuan Muhlen berdebat dengan Kapten hari ini. Kapten berkata dia tidak mau mengambil tiga pekerja yang berkulit hitam dalam perjalanan. Tuan Muhlen berkata dia tidak punya waktu untuk mencari tukang masak yang lain, jadi dia harus mengambil Isaiiah dan kemungkinan Doom dan aku juga.
- [9] ‘Joshua anak yang baik,’ ku dengar Tuan Muhlen berkata itu. ‘Dia sudah pernah berburu burung puyuh untukku dan mamanya sangat baik, wanita religius yang baik.’
- [10] Kapten tidak berkata apapun kepadaku, tapi Jake Custis lalu memberitahuku kalau aku akan tetap ikut dalam perjalanan. Aku memberitahu Timmy O’Hara dan dia berkata kalau aku sebaiknya berlatih berlari karena wanita di Abilene sangatlah cepat.
- [11] Timmy adalah teman dekatku di peternakan Slash M dan aku tahu dia akan membantuku di perjalanan. Saat dia bertanya apakah aku senang saat aku mengambil pekerjaan ini, aku jawab biasa saja.
- [12] ‘Jika biasa saja,’ katanya ‘kenapa kau tersenyum terlalu lebar?’
- [13] Timmy berumur 17 tahun, setahun lebih tua dari aku, dan dia pertama kali bekerja di rute penggembalaan saat umur 16, sama sepertiku. Dia bukan orang yang kalian sebut

sebagai orang yang enak dilihat, tapi dia mempunyai sesuatu yang membuatmu tersenyum. Matanya berwarna keabu-abuan jika kau menatapnya dari depan dan kehijau-hijauan jika kau menatapnya dari samping. Dia pernah berkata kalau dia berasal dari Irlandia. Sudah tidak dipertanyakan lagi kalau dia menjadi pekerja yang handal di usianya yang masih muda. Dia bisa menyelesaikan pekerjaannya dan tidak peduli apapun yang dia kunyah dia tidak pernah berkata kotor tentang siapapun. Aku tidak memberitahunya jika Kapten tidak ingin membawa orang berkulit hitam ke perjalanan.

[14] Tuan Muhlen memanggil kami semua saat siang hari. Dia berkata kalau ini adalah hal penting baginya jika perjalanan ini berhasil.

[15] ‘Seperti yang kalian lihat, Nyonya Muhlen sedang dalam keadaan yang kurang baik jadi aku harus tetap bersamanya. Ini adalah tahun pertamaku tidak memimpin perjalanan ini, tapi aku tetap percaya kepada Kapten kalau dia akan melakukannya dengan baik. Jika kalian menyelesaikan pekerjaan di sana tepat waktu, aku akan memberi masing-masing dari kalian bonus sepuluh dolar,’ katanya.

[16] Aku tidak pernah memiliki uang sepuluh dollar tunai selama hidupku. Rata-rata kami hanya mendapat uang receh atau uang untuk melunasi apa yang kami hutang di buku akuntan. Ketika ayahku pergi ke utara untuk mencari pekerjaan dia meninggalkan empat dollar dan itu uang terbanyak yang aku dan Mama punya waktu itu. Timmy telah bekerja di rute penggembalaan dari tahun lalu dan dia dibayar tujuh puluh dollar uang tunai dan katanya dia juga mendapat dua puluh dollar koin emas. Ketika aku pergi tidur, aku bermimpi aku mempunyai dua puluh dollar koin emas dan lainnya untuk diberikan kepada Mama.

**2 Mei**

- [17] Kapten menyuruh kami bekerja mengecap hari ini. Dia menyuruhku bekerja seperti anjing berkaki tiga yang berburu tikus dan mengawasiku dengan matanya yang seperti ular derik.
- [18] Yesaya adalah orang yang besar dengan muka bulat dan telinga terkecil yang Tuhan pernah letakkan pada manusia. Dia sudah berada di sekitar sini dan tahu banyak tentang hampir segala hal. Dia lahir pada masa perbudakan dan telah bekerja untuk Tuan Muhlen sebelum perang dimulai. Dia tinggal di Slash M, sebutan untuk peternakan itu, selama masa perang. Yesaya telah menjadi teman ayahku dan saat ayah harus pergi dia memberitahunya bahwa dia tidak akan membiarkanku jatuh ke dalam masalah.
- [19] Aku sangat mencintai ayahku walaupun aku tidak tahu banyak tentangnya. Dia terlahir sebagai orang merdeka dan bekerja untuk orang Meksiko sebelum perang antar negara bagian. Mama bukanlah orang merdeka, tapi saat ayah bertanya kepada Tuan Muhlen apakah dia bisa menikahnya, mereka membuat persetujuan untuk membeli kebebasan mama. Saat perang dimulai pada tahun 1860, ayah pergi ke utara dan bergabung dengan pasukan Union. Dia berkata kepada Mama bahwa ini adalah hal yang harus Ia lakukan. Waktu itu aku baru berumur lima tahun dan tidak tahu banyak tentang apa yang sedang terjadi.
- [20] Setelah perang, Ia kembali, tapi tidak ada orang berkulit putih di dekat tempat kami tinggal yang menginginkannya, karena dia berperang untuk pasukan Union. Setelah beberapa lama, setelah Ia ditembak oleh kaum Ku Klux, dia memutuskan untuk pergi ke Ohio, mencari pekerjaan. Dia mempunyai kaki yang sakit karena luka yang Ia dapat di Petersburg, Virginia, tapi Mama berkata bahwa dia akan baik-baik saja dan saat dia mendapat pekerjaan tetap, Ia akan mengabari kami. Aku juga tahu dia akan mengabari.
- [21] Yesaya besar dan agak gemuk, sementara Doom kurus dan hanya berisi gas. Mamaku berkata kamu bisa memberi tugas kepada Doom untuk makan pai raspberi dan minum

kopi yang dibeli di toko dan dia akan menemukan kesalahan dalam hal itu. Dia berumur 21 tahun dan kulitnya berwarna coklat tua, hampir sama dengan kulitku. Matanya sipit, yang membuatnya terlihat seperti orang licik. Aku tidak tahu darimana dia berasal, tapi dia tidak terlalu sering berada di atas pelana dan merasa tidak nyaman sehingga dia tidak bekerja.

- [22] Perburuan sapi telah usai. Kami telah mengumpulkan seribu dua ratus sapi dan Tuan Muhlen membeli seribu lagi dari beberapa orang Meksiko. Rio Grande berada kurang lebih seratus mil ke arah selatan dan dibutuhkan waktu tujuh hari untuk sampai di sana. Lebar Slash M sekitar lima mil dengan rumput hijau dan sungai yang airnya manis. Perburuan sapi berakhir dua minggu lalu dan anggota tetap sudah mempersiapkan mereka untuk pergi ke utara sejak saat itu.

#### **4 Mei**

- [23] Aku semakin senang tetapi Mama semakin dingin hatinya karena aku akan mengikuti perjalanan itu. Tahun lalu saat aku melihat para laki-laki berangkat ke Kansas, aku berkeinginan untuk pergi bersama mereka, kuturunkan topiku ke bawah mataku dan kain penyekaku kuikat di leherku. Mama berbicara tentang pertanian dan betapa bagusnya itu. Aku setuju betapa bagusnya itu, tapi yang aku inginkan adalah menjadi koboi.

#### **Sore hari di hari yang sama**

- [24] Kami menghabiskan sepanjang hari memotong hewan yang belum dicap, ini sesulit pekerjaan yang pernah aku selesaikan dalam hidupku. Kami mengecap nama Slash M di pinggul sebelah kiri dan menandai telinga kanan hewan-hewan ini dengan tanda kotak. Aku mengendarai Pawnee, kuda Tuan Muhlen. Dia menyuruhku untuk membawa Thunder, kuda berwarna merah gelap, dan Slash, kuda gagah dengan tanda



putih seperti api di dahinya, jadi aku mempunyai kuda-kuda bagus untuk kunaiki di perjalanan.

[25] Aku sudah mempunyai kudaku sendiri selama setahun. Aku sendiri yang menangkap dan menjinakkannya dan menamainya Pretty. Beberapa orang yang sudah banyak makan asam garam berkata bahwa Pretty masih terlalu muda untuk menjadi kuda peternakan yang bagus, tapi dia bagus-bagus saja saat bersamaku. Tuan Muhlen telah mengajarku cara melatih kuda agar kuda bisa menjadi lebih sabar dan tidak panik saat kakinya terjebak di kabel atau pagar. Agar tidak mematahkan semangatnya, aku memperlakukannya dengan lembut tapi tegas sampai dia paham bahwa kami akan bekerja bersama. Alat yang digunakan dalam pelatihan ini mengajarkannya bahwa aku bisa mengendalikannya tapi dia tidak bisa mengendalikanku, dia harus menggunakan alat itu, sehingga saat aku melepas alat itu dia akan mengerti.

[26] Aku mengecapi hewan ternak dengan baik walaupun aku pernah jatuh dari Pawnee sekali. Pawnee lebih tahu tentang mengatur kawan sapi daripada aku. Dulu, aku pernah mencoba mengatur ternak longhorn berumur dua tahun dan hewan ini berusaha untuk kembali ke kawanannya. Pawnee mengaturnya dan aku melihat kapten memperhatikanku. Banteng muda itu bergerak mundur dan maju dan Pawnee mengikuti gerakan banteng itu. Lalu, banteng itu membuat gerakan yang menipu dan Pawnee juga melakukan gerakan yang menipu untuk menggiringnya ke jalan buntu dan aku mendapati diriku duduk memegang tanduknya. Aku terpental ke tanah dan aku pingsan dengan rasa sakit di bagian belakang.

[27] Miguel datang dan berkata jika aku ingin menggali parit, aku seharusnya menggunakan sekop daripada melakukannya dengan sekedarnya. Aku tidak terlalu menghargai itu.

[28] Kami menyelesaikan beberapa pekerjaan tepat sebelum matahari terbenam dan Kapten berkata kami akan mulai lagi pada senin pagi segera setelah matahari terbit.

- [29] Mama sedikit sedih seperti yang sudah kupikirkan
- [30] ‘Ayahmu terpaksa pergi,’ katanya. ‘Kamu tidak harus pergi jika kamu tidak ingin pergi.’
- [31] Aku benci melihat dia sedih, tapi berada di rute penggembalaan dan menjadi pekerja tetap membuatku mengeluarkan sesuatu yang dahsyat dari dalam diriku. Aku tahu aku akan melakukan hal yang benar karena Mama dan aku berharap dia akan bangga dengan jalan yang aku pilih sendiri.
- [32] Di peternakan Slash M hanya ada tiga rumah. Rumah Tuan Muhlen, *bunkhouse* untuk para pekerja dan rumah kami dibelakang rumah Tuan Muhlen yang dulunya disebut *Quarters*. Tuan Muhlen datang menemuiku dan berkata bahwa dia berpikir aku akan melakukan pekerjaan di rute penggembalaan dengan baik.
- [33] ‘Perjalanan pertamamu akan menjadi berat, tapi kamu akan menjadi orang yang lebih kuat,’ katanya.
- [34] Mama berdoa bersamaku dan membuatku berjanji untuk paling tidak tetap ada Tuhan di pikiranku, dan aku berjanji.

## 5 Mei

- [35] Kapten menyiapkan kawanan saat fajar. Aku menyiapkan Thunder, karena Tuan Muhlen, Nyonya Muhlen dan Mama ada di sana, dan aku ingin terlihat mengesankan. Thunder sangatlah besar dan aku merasa gagah saat duduk di atasnya.
- [36] ‘Kita pergi dengan dua orang di bagian belakang,’ kata Kapten. ‘Jika kalian bocah memperlambat kami, aku akan memecatmu lebih cepat daripada saat kau meludah.’
- [37] Aku dan Doom adalah dua orang itu, yang berarti kami harus berada di belakang kawanan. Kapten sudah menjelaskan apa yang harus kami lakukan
- [38] ‘Jangan biarkan mereka berhenti, jangan biarkan mereka keluar barisan dan jangan biarkan mereka bergerak terlalu cepat.’

- [39] Kapten adalah orang yang tinggi dan sangat kurus, tubuhnya terlihat seperti busur yang siap menembakkan anak panah ke arahmu. Dia berambut gelap dan kulitnya kecoklatan karena terlalu sering terkena matahari. Matanya berwarna biru muda dan dia punya cara untuk membuatmu berharap untuk berada di tempat lain.
- [40] Aku memikirkan tentang perlengkapanku. Aku punya tali, pistol navy dari peternakan, tempat pistol dengan peluru, sepasang kaus kaki tambahan, celana dalam tambahan, baju bersih, jas hujan dan terpalku, kantong kulit yang diberi ayahku, buku catatan ini dan dua pensil.
- [41] Melihat kawananku itu bergerak untuk pertama kalinya membuatku senang. Segera saat mereka bergerak, para penunggang kuda juga bergerak mendekat ke arah mereka dan mendorong mereka untuk berada di baris yang tidak melebar dan membuat mereka dalam baris memanjang. Saat aku melihat Doom, aku menyikut Thunder dengan lututku. Dia tidak bergerak.
- [42] ‘Jangan lukai dia dengan jarum di sepatumu,’ kata Tuan Muhlen, ‘biarkan dia memahamimu.’
- [43] Aku menyikut Thunder dengan jarum di sepatuku, di area lambungnyanya. Dia memutar kepalanya dan menatapku seperti dia bertanya-tanya kenapa aku melakukannya, lalu aku tersenyum. Lalu dia mulai berjalan dengan sendirinya di belakang para kawananku. Aku harus mulai saling mengerti dengan Thunder.
- [44] Ini adalah daftar setiap orang yang berada di jalur bersama kami
- [45] ~ Kapten adalah boss di jalur
- [46] ~ Yesaya adalah tukang masak
- [47] ~Tim O’Hara dan Little Jake berada di depan. Mereka memimpin kawananku dan memastikan bahwa semuanya baik-baik saja di bagian depan.

- [48] ~ Miguel dan Bert, si orang Meksiko, mereka yang berpatroli. Mereka berkuda dari depan ke belakang dan mereka banyak berbelok dan memastikan tidak ada hewan liar yang masuk ke kawanan, juga mereka membantu bagian depan.
- [49] ~ Wade Mason dan Bill Steeke, yang sedikit lebih tua dari aku, mereka berada di samping. Mereka mengawasi bagian samping kawanan di belakang tukang patroli.
- [50] ~ Lalu aku dan Doom berada di belakang. Doom berumur dua puluh satu tahun. Nama aslinya adalah Joe, dan aku tak tahu kenapa semua orang memanggilnya Doom.
- [51] ~ Chubb McLauren adalah orang yang mengurus kuda. Totalnya ada empat puluh satu kuda di *remuda*, sebutan untuk kawanan kuda.
- [52] Aku tidak mau menoleh untuk melihat apakah ada yang memperhatikanku, tapi aku tidak tahan dan aku melihat Mama melambaikan tangannya padaku dan itu membuatku merasa utuh untuk satu menit.
- [53] Bagian belakang pelanaku sedikit lebih tinggi dan pelana ini sedikit terlalu besar untukku, tapi ini cukup nyaman saat Thunder mulai bergerak. Saat langit cerah, terlihat gumpalan awan putih di kejauhan. Kawanan longhorn bergerak pelan diantara para penunggang kuda. Suara kuku mereka terdengar sampai bagian kanan kawanan dimana aku berada. Kami berkuda berpasang-pasangan, ada satu orang di setiap sisi kawanan. Doom berkuda di seberangku.
- [54] Pada saat matahari mulai terik, debu dari kawanan mulai terbang kemana-mana. Aku melihat Doom menarik syalnya sampai menutupi hidungnya dan aku melakukan hal yang sama dengan kain percaku. Kami mendorong sapi-sapi jantan ini dengan baik sampai matahari sudah tinggi dan aku melihat *chuck wagon* berjalan di depan, para bagal yang menariknya mengayunkan kepala mereka dari sisi ke sisi.
- [55] Kami mengumpulkan kawanan untuk beristirahat untuk pertama kalinya dan melihat mereka istirahat dengan tenang. Yesaya membuat daging sapi rebus dengan nasi dan

roti jagung. Itu sangat enak. Aku sangat kecapekan dan sangat kotor. Timmy menghampiriku dan berkata semua yang dapat ia lihat sepanjang hari ini hanyalah topi di kepalaku.

[56] ‘Saat matahari mulai tinggi aku tidak bisa melihat dimana topimu berakhir dan kepalamu dimulai.’

[57] Aku merasa gugup pagi ini, tapi saat kami mendapati mereka ada di rute lagi, aku merasa baik-baik saja. Aku meninggalkan Thunder dengan *remuda* dan mempersiapkan Blade. Blade tidak suka perlengkapannya dipakaikan terlalu ketat, tapi aku tidak ingin terjatuh. Aku melihat ke punggung Blade dengan seksama sebelum aku memakaikannya pelana dan aku tidak melihat adanya luka.

[58] Sebenarnya kami akan berangkat setelah istirahat makan siang tapi beberapa ternak mulai berbelok ke kanan. Aku bergegas dan mulai menggiring mereka kembali ke barisan. Tetapi sebelum aku menangani yang terakhir, Blade menggigitnya. Dia kembali ke barisan dengan cepat, tapi saat aku melihat ke atas, aku melihat Kapten sedang duduk di sisi rute memperhatikanku. Dia tidak bergerak, hanya duduk di atas pelana dan menungguku untuk mendatangnya. Saat aku berkuda ke arahnya, dia masih tetap diam, hanya berkuda mengelilingi kawanan. Aku pikir aku bisa merasakan cara dia tidak menyukaiku.

[59] Siang itu cukup mudah tapi itu adalah hari yang panjang. Kami berkendara mulai dari siang sampai saat matahari terbenam di pegunungan di sebelah kiri kami. Aku sangat capek dan punggungku sakit, tapi aku senang karena *cantle*, bagian belakang pelanaku, cukup tinggi, ini bisa dijadikan sandaran.

[60] Kami memberi minum dan mengistirahatkan kawanan saat malam.

[61] ‘Hari ini sudah selesai,’ kata Jake.

- [62] ‘Hari ini tidak ada apa-apanya,’ kata Miguel. Miguel adalah orang Meksiko tapi dia tidak terdengar seperti orang Meksiko. ‘Malam pertama ini, sapi-sapi itu akan terbangun saat mendengar kutu kentut.’
- [63] Aku pikir sapi-sapi tidak akan menjadi masalah, karena mereka terlihat cukup tenang.
- [64] Untuk makan malam kami makan sisa daging rebus, kacang, dan kopi serta roti jagung. Itu sangat enak.
- [65] Setelah makan, Kapten mengumpulkan kami dan mendudukkan kami dalam lingkaran untuk mendengar peraturan-peraturan yang harus kami patuhi. Ini adalah peraturan-peraturannya:
- [66] Peraturan nomor 1 ~ tidak boleh minum alkohol. Siapapun yang kedatangan minum alkohol saat sedang bertugas akan dipecat. Saat sudah sampai di Albine, bebas untuk minum alkohol sampai mabuk.
- [67] Peraturan nomor 2 ~ tidak boleh berjudi. Kobi yang kedatangan berjudi akan mendapat hukuman saat itu juga.
- [68] Peraturan nomor 3 ~ jangan melakukan hal bodoh.
- [69] Peraturan nomor 4 ~ tidak boleh tidur saat jaga malam.
- [70] ‘Kamu sebaiknya menulis semua itu di buku coretanmu, nak.’ Itu yang Ia katakan kepadaku.
- [71] Aku tidak minum alkohol dan aku tidak berjudi, jadi aku tidak khawatir dengan hal itu. Aku akan sangat berusaha dengan keras agar tidak melakukan hal bodoh dan tertidur saat jaga malam. Malam pertama di rute adalah malam paling menyedihkan sepanjang hidupku. Ada empat jam jaga, dimulai dari jam sembilan. Orang yang berjaga di depan mulai pertama sampai jam sebelas. Lalu orang yang berpatroli berjaga sampai jam satu, orang yang berjaga di samping sampai jam tiga, lalu Aku dan Doom sampai jam lima. Lalu semua orang harus bangun.



[72] Malam ini langit sangat cerah dengan banyak bintang yang bisa membuat pusing hanya dengan melihat kearahnya. Sebenarnya Aku akan menulis di jurnalku tapi aku membuat kesalahan dengan berbaring untuk melakukannya. Aku sudah pasti ketiduran. Saat Aku merasa seseorang menggoyang-nggoyangkan badanku, Aku tidak tahu apa yang sedang terjadi. ‘Bangunlah! Ayo!’

[73] Untuk semenit aku berpikir kalau ku ketiduran selama jaga malam tetapi aku mendengar langkah kuda dan aku tahu bahwa sesuatu telah membangunkan kawananku dan mereka mulai berlarian. Pretty adalah kuda malamku dan aku sudah mengikatnya di sebuah pohon. Aku menuju ke arahnya dengan segera dan mulai menuju ke sebelah kanan kawananku dimana aku melihat seorang penunggang sudah bangun. Aku bisa melihat karena cahaya bulan dan aku tahu Pretty mempunyai kaki yang cukup lincah, jadi aku memaksanya sampai aku bisa mengejar Timmy, yang sudah sampai di bagian depan kawananku. Dia berteriak dan mengepakkan topinya dan aku melakukan hal yang sama di belakangnya saat kami membelokkan kawananku ke arah kiri. Mereka mulai berbelok dan aku membiarkan Timmy sedikit di depanku. Kami tetap menggiring mereka ke kiri. Dari arah belakang, aku mendengar seseorang berteriak yip-yip-yip! Ke arah kawananku dan aku melakukan hal yang sama. Kami menggiring mereka ke kiri dan ke kiri lagi. Saat kawananku berbelok untuk yang kedua mereka mulai berputar-putar. Aku bisa melihat percikan biru dari tuduk mereka yang saling bertabrakan. Lalu aku melihat dua orang penunggang bangun. Aku menyadari Kapten datang ke arahku.

[74] ‘Menyingkir dari kawananku!’ Dia berteriak ke arahku. ‘Mundur!’

[75] Aku menarik Pretty dan mundur dari kawananku. Aku merasa sedih karena Kapten berteriak kepadaku seperti itu, sampai aku melihat dia memanggil semua orang untuk kembali. Yang lain berada jauh dari kawananku, tapi mereka masih cukup dekat untuk menjaga kawananku tetap berputar-putar. Aku bawa Pretty mendekat. Butuh setengah jam

penuh sampai kawanannya benar-benar berhenti. Para kawanannya melenguh dan sesekali diam tapi mereka tidak punya tempat untuk pergi karena mereka mengarah ke arah yang berbeda. Semua anggota menyebar dan duduk, tidak ada yang bergerak saat sapi-sapi ini sedang ditenangkan.

[76] Butuh waktu lama sebelum mereka berhenti berkeliaran dan bahkan lebih lama sampai mereka benar-benar tidur.

[77] Wade datang kepadaku dan memberitahuku kalau ini adalah waktuku berjaga.

[78] ‘Kamu punya lima menit,’ katanya. ‘Mungkin kamu harus memakai celanamu.’

[79] Dalam semua kehebohan itu aku telah memakai sepatuku tapi tidak dengan celanaku.

[80] Lalu, saat Yesaya menghidangkan sarapan, dia berbicara denganku tentang hal itu. ‘Hey, Joshua, apakah benar kamu membangunkan kawanannya dengan cara berlari telanjang ke arah mereka?’ Tanyanya.

[81] Semua orang tertawa karena itu, tapi saat kami harus melanjutkan perjalanan setelah sarapan aku merasa seperti kuda yang sudah berlari semalaman dan aku merasa sangat capek.

## **7 Mei**

[82] Dua hari pertama sangatlah berat. Kapten berkata jika dia ingin kawanannya menjauh dari tempat mereka dulunya berada dan membiasakan untuk tetap berada di jalur. Dia tidak berkata apapun tentang membiasakan diri kami di jalur. Jika kami memaksa sekeras itu setiap hari – kami seharusnya telah menggiring sapi-sapi itu sejauh tiga puluh mil di hari pertama dan dua puluh lima mil di hari kedua – aku berpikir seseorang akan berkendara di belakangku dan mendorongku seperti aku mendorong bagian belakang.

[83] Di penghujung hari kedua aku sangat capek tapi juga senang, aku berada di jalur seharian. Saat kami istirahat, kami berada sekitar satu mil di sebelah selatan dari sungai. Aku bertanya-tanya betapa jauhnya aku dari rumah. Hari yang panjang di atas pelana

sangat tidak mudah lalu kamu harus berjaga malam selama dua jam. Saat aku berjaga aku bernyanyi, “*O Mary Don’t You Weep*”, dan aku berpikir kalau para kawanannya menyukainya. Suara orang bernyanyi seperti menenangkan mereka, dan hampir sepanjang malam kamu bisa mendengar orang bernyanyi. Hampir, walaupun aku bernyanyi untuk diriku sendiri dan Pretty. Aku tidak terbiasa berkuda dalam gelap dan begitu juga Pretty, tapi aku dan dia adalah teman, seperti koboi dan kudanya, bahkan lebih.

- [84] Sudah setahun lalu saat aku dan Tuan Muhlen pergi ke Meksiko untuk mencari kuda liar dan dia memberitahuku kalau aku bisa menangkap untuk diriku sendiri. Aku merasa takut karena aku belum pernah mencoba menangkap kuda sebelumnya. Kami menemukan kawanannya kuda dan Timmy serta Jake membantuku mengikat satu kuda yang aku sukai setelah kami harus menggiring mereka ke ngarai Little Box. Dia mendengus dan bergerak maju mundur dan dia terlihat seperti punya banyak nyawa dalam dirinya. Kami mengajari kuda-kuda yang kami ingin jinakkan dan aku sudah mengawasi kuda yang akan aku pilih.
- [85] ‘Mereka hanya akan menjadi setengah jinak,’ kata Jake. ‘Kamu harus mengendarai kuda –setiap hari untuk sementara agar dia benar-benar jinak.’
- [86] Kami kembali ke peternakan Slash M dan mulai menjinakkan kuda-kuda itu. Saat tiba giliranmu untuk menjinakkan kudaku jantungku berdetak kencang aku pikir aku akan terjatuh. Jake membantuku memasang tali dan aku memakaikan pelana di atas punggungnya. Tetapi saat Aku menaikinya dia melemparku sebelum aku bisa duduk di atasnya.
- [87] Tuan Muhlen memanggil pria bernama Charley Pitts untuk menaiki kuda itu. Dia menaikinya lagi di hari kedua dan di hari ketiga aku yang menaikinya.

[88] Kudaku berwarna hitam dan terlihat gagah, karena itulah aku menamainya Pretty. Tuan Muhlen berkata dia masih terlalu muda untuk pekerjaan berat tapi mungkin bagus untuk beternak sapi suatu hari nanti.

[89] ‘Jika kamu memperlakukannya dengan baik, dia akan memperlakukanmu dengan baik,’ kata Tuan Muhlen.

[90] Pretty adalah kuda yang kamu bisa ajak bicara. Aku tidak tahu seberapa banyak dia mengerti, tapi bertingkah seolah-olah dia memahami semua yang aku katakan kepadanya.

### **8 Mei**

[91] Saat itu sedang hujan ketika kami bangun dan Kapten menyuruh kami untuk menyebrangi sungai yang jaraknya dua mil dari tempat kami berada. Kami menuntun kuda-kuda dan menyeberangkan mereka melewati sungai dengan dasar kerikil. Isaiah berkata saat kamu menyebrangi sungai Guadalupe, nama sungai yang akan kami seberangi, kamu sudah resmi berada di jalur penggembalaan. Pantatku sudah terasa sakit karena berkuda di hari pertama dan kedua dan aku tidak perlu ada orang yang memberitahuku kalo aku sudah secara resmi bergabung. Yesaya memasak ayam, kacang, dan roti jagung untuk makan siang dan itu sangatlah enak.

[92] Begitu kami menyebrangi sungai, kami meregangkan kuda-kuda itu dan Kapten berkata dia ingin kami berjalan dua belas mil setiap harinya.

[93] Aku menunggangi Thunder dan dia adalah kuda yang bagus, tapi dia tidak menyukaiku. Aku tahu dari caranya memandanku yang seolah-olah dia telah melakukan kebaikan karena membiarkanku menungganginya.

### **9 Mei**

[94] Hari ini adalah Selasa dan ku benar-benar melewatkan ibadah minggu! Aku tahu Mama akan kecewa karena aku bahkan tidak menyempatkan waktu untuk berdoa, tapi aku

akan menebusnya. Hari ini hujan gerimis berhenti dan debu dari kawan-an mulai berterbangan. Dari tempat aku berada, di bagian belakang kawan-an, aku bisa melihat kawan-an ini memanjang lebih dari setengah mil. Debu berterbangan seperti awan coklat yang terbang ke arah dimana aku dan Doom sedang berusaha agar kawan-an yang tertinggal bisa tetap berada di dalam kawan-an. Aku menutupi hidungku dengan kain kepala, tapi ini tidak terlalu membantu. Aku menghirup lebih banyak menghirup debu dan tanah daripada saat aku berhenti. Kupikir Doom berjalan terlalu cepat karena sapi di bagian belakang mulai masuk ke bagian tengah kawan-an. Billy Steele memberi kami tanda untuk berjalan lebih pelan. Kawan-an mulai memanjang dan mereka berjalan beriringan berdua atau bertiga. Aku tahu Kapten tidak ingin bagian belakang kawan-an berjalan berenam sampai berdelapan, hal itulah yang dilakukan kawan-an di bagian belakang. Tapi saat kamu tahu bagian belakang terlalu diperpanjang itu akan memperlambat dan kamu harus mendorong mereka lagi. Beberapa orang di bagian belakang adalah orang lemah dan beberapa tidaklah tertarik untuk berada di jalur, itulah mengapa mereka ada di bagian belakang.

[95] ‘Apa yang kalian lakukan?’ Kapten datang dan bertanya kepadaku dan Doom saat kami istirahat makan siang. Dia menanyakan beberapa pertanyaan lain, hanya saja dia menggunakan kata-kata yang tidak ada di perjanjian baru maupun lama.

[96] ‘Apa maksudmu?’ Doom bertanya kepada Kapten. ‘Kami melakukan yang terbaik.’

[97] ‘Jika kamu mendorong bagian belakang masuk ke bagian tengah lagi, aku akan langsung memecatmu,’ katanya. ‘Dan mungkin aku akan menembakmu agar tetap permanen.’

[98] Yesaya memasak sup dan roti jagung untuk makan siang dan itu enak.

**10 Mei**

- [99] Saat siang kami menjaga bagian belakang sebagaimana mestinya. Hal itu membuatku dua kali merasa capek karena aku juga khawatir tentang apa yang dilakukan Doom.
- [100] Kami melewati beberapa kota yang cantik, sebagian besar terbuka, dengan pepohonan di sisi kiri kami. Hari itu berakhir lebih awal karena kami tidak bekerja terlalu keras, tapi Kapten tidak membuat kami lupa dengan apa yang terjadi tadi pagi. Dia menyuruh aku dan Doom menyingkir dari api unggun karena dia tidak tahan melihat kami. Doom menyingkir dengan sendirinya dan aku juga. Timmy datang dan duduk bersamaku.
- [101] ‘Menurutku Kapten tidak akan benar-benar memecatmu,’ katanya.
- [102] ‘Itu bukan salahku karena mendorong bagian belakang terlalu cepat,’ kataku.
- [103] ‘Sama saja,’ Timmy berkata, ‘Jika dia memecatmu, dapatkah aku memiliki kantong kulitmu?’
- [104] ‘Sebelum aku memberikannya kepadamu aku akan menaruhnya diantara dua batu dan memakannya sendiri,’ kataku.
- [105] Timmy O’Hara adalah orang yang paling sering menyeringai yang aku kenal dan separuhnya dia menyeringai kepadaku. Aku tahu kami adalah teman, tapi aku tidak suka berbicara tentang aku dipecat.
- [106] Kami menidurkan kawanan di tempat yang tinggi dan dengan banyak rumput untuk menyenangkan mereka.
- [107] ‘Aku mendengarmu bernyanyi dan kamu bisa menyanyi dengan merdu’ kata Chubb. ‘Ijinkan kami mendengarmu bernyanyi.’
- [108] Aku beberapa kali bernyanyi di Gereja dan aku sangat suka bernyanyi, tapi aku bukan penyanyi profesional. Chubb memintaku lagi untuk bernyanyi juga Timmy jadi aku mengiyakan, lalu aku menyanyikan lagu berjudul “*Just Before the Battle, Mother*” ini adalah lagu yang sedih tapi bagus.



[109] ‘suara mu merdu,’ kata Jake. ‘Jika saja kamu tidak jelek seperti kodok yang terangsang dengan gigi palsu, aku akan mengajakmu berdansa.’

## 11 Mei

[110] Aku berjaga malam dan aku pasti sudah setengah tidur karena tiba-tiba saat sadar aku mendapati diriku sudah menunggang Pretty dan berjalan di sepanjang tepi kawanan. Malam itu begitu cerah dan langit dijejali bintang-bintang. Kupikir tidak ada lagi bintang yang akan muat. aku menemukan *Big Dipper*, tepat di cakrawala, dan kucoba untuk mengingatnya sehingga aku tahu itu adalah waktu untuk merasa lega.

[111] Aku tidak tidur nyenyak sejak aku meninggalkan rumah dan saat aku berbaring dan tertidur satu-satunya hal yang aku mimpikan hanyalah menjaga bagian belakang kawanan, murung sepanjang jalan sesuka hati mereka hanya untuk membuat masalah untukku dan Doom.

[112] Seandainya kuda-kudaku barbaris, aku akan bergantian menunggangi Thunder, Pawnee dan Blade saat siang hari dan menyimpan Pretty hanya untuk malam dan kadang-kadang menungganginya saat aku sedang banyak pikiran. Empat kuda sudah cukup untuk membawa kami ke Albine jika kami merawat mereka dan tidak terlalu memaksa mereka.

## 12 Mei

[113] Aku mencuci pakaianku dan menjemurnya di *chuck wagon* agar kering. Kami melihat kawanan kecil dengan empat koboi yang mengawasi dan Billy Steele berpikir kalau mereka bisa jadi adalah pencuri hewan ternak.

[114] Kami pergi ke muara sungai dan mengistirahatkan kawanan, memberi minum beberapa sapi sekaligus. Itu adalah pekerjaan yang berat karena kami harus membawa mereka ke muara sungai, membiarkan minum, lalu membawa mereka menjauhi air agar kelompok selanjutnya bisa minum. Kapten ingin kami memberi minum kawanan dan segera

menyeberangi muara sungai sebelum ada kawanan lain yang datang. Kamu bisa melihat kawanan lain yang membuat debu-debu yang berterbangan sekitar tiga mil di belakang kami, yang menurut Kapten itu terlalu dekat. Boss mereka datang dan Kapten memberitahunya untuk membuat kawanannya tetap di belakang sampai kami menyeberang dan sampai semua beres agar kawanannya tidak bercampur dengan kawanan kami. Itulah yang dilakukan boss dalam perjalanan, menjaga kawanan dan pergi duluan untuk mencari air dan jalan terbaik.

- [115] Kami menghabiskan siang untuk memberi minum kawanan, yang berarti kami harus tetap melanjutkan perjalanan sampai senja.
- [116] Kapten sudah pergi lebih dulu dan saat kami sampai di sungai kecil, matahari berada di tepi pegunungan di kejauhan. Jake, Billy, Bert, dan Miguel memeriksa sungai itu dan berkata jika bagian sungai itu pasti melewati lubang iblis.
- [117] ‘Lubang iblis bisa mencapai satu mil dalamnya,’ kata Miguel. ‘Bisakah semua orang di sini berenang?’
- [118] Ya, aku bukan perenang handal dan aku pasti akan kesulitan tapi aku sadar jika yang lain menyebrang aku juga harus melakukannya. Wade melihat sungainya dan dia berkata jika dia tidak bisa berenang sama sekali.
- [119] ‘Jangan khawatir,’ kata Jake. ‘kami akan membuatkanmu ayunan tali dan kamu tidak akan tenggelam ke dalam lubang iblis itu.’
- [120] Yang mereka lakukan adalah meletakkan *harness* di sapi yang besar dan membuat dua pegangan di bagian belakang agar Wade bisa berpegangan.
- [121] ‘Pegangan dengan kuat dan kamu akan baik-baik saja,’ kata Miguel.
- [122] Wade berpegangan dan mereka memukul sapi itu dengan keras dan sapi itu menyeberangi sungai dengan Wade yang terseret. Saat dia menyeberang semua orang

tertawa, kami semua menyeberang dengan mudah karena sungai itu tak lebih dari tiga kaki dalamnya.

[123] Di seberang, Jake bertanya pada Wade apakah dia sudah menyebrangi lubang iblis dan Wade menjawab dia yakin jika sudah menyebrang.

### **13 Mei**

[124] Aku tahu Kapten tidak menyukaiku dan aku tidak membuat segala hal menjadi lebih baik. Siang ini seekor sapi keluar dari barisan dan mulai berlari ke arah bukit berumput yang berada di samping kawan. Doom menyeberang dan mendorong kembali barisan agar tidak terjadi kepanikan di kawan. Aku menunggangi Thunder dan aku mengejar sapi itu. Seharusnya ini akan mudah, tapi aku teringat jika aku belum pernah melakukan penialian saat menunggangi Thunder sebelumnya.

[125] Kuda besar ini menutup jalur pelarian dengan cepat. Aku tidak takut akan kecepatannya, tapi aku sedikit tersentak. Aku mengambil taliku dan membuat lingkaran dan melemparnya saat aku berada di belakangnya. Thunder tidak berhenti seperti kuda lainnya, jadi aku harus menghentikannya menggunakan tali kekang. Tali ini mengikat tanduk sapi itu dan aku membalutkannya di tanduk pelana agar terikat erat. Satu hal lagi, aku mendapati ibu jariku terikat di antara tali dan tanduk dan aku tidak tahu, apakah aku yang menangkap sapi itu atau dia yang menagkapku. Aku merasakan tubuhku miring dan aku tidak ingin tergantung oleh ibu jariku dengan Thunder yang menarikku ke satu sisi dan sapi itu menarikku ke sisi yang lain. Sapi itu tersentak dan sebelum aku menyadarinya, aku sudah terduduk di samping Thunder yang sedang berusaha melepaskan diri. Aku melihat ke atas dan aku melihat Kapten duduk di atas kudanya memandangi seperti yang biasa dia lakukan saat dia bersama kawan. Ibu jariku terlepas saat sapi itu berdiri. Aku melompat kembali ke atas Thunder mencoba untuk mengacuhkan ibu jariku yang berdenyut kesakitan.

- [126] Setelah aku melepaskan tali dari sapi itu, aku menggiringnya kembali ke barisan.
- [127] Kapten berkendara di sebelahku dan tidak mengatakan apapun. Dia tidak harus melakukannya. Aku menurunkan topiku ke bawah mataku dan kembali ke tempatku di belakang kawanan saat Kapten mulai pergi. Aku melihat ibu jariku, lecet dan kulitnya terkikis. Timmy menghampiriku dan bertanya kepadaku, siapa yang mengajarku menggunakan tali dan aku memberitahunya jika aku pernah melihat temanku dari Meksiko, bernama Angel, menggunakan tali di sekitar Slash M.
- [128] ‘Pertama-tama kamu harus mengikat talimu seperti yang kami lakukan di Texas,’ katanya. ‘Kamu mungkin mau belajar melakukannya sebelum kamu kehilangan ibu jari itu.’
- [129] Saat makan siang ibu jariku sudah membengkak menjadi lebih besar daripada dua ibu jari disatukan”
- [130] Aku merasa lapar dan kacang-kacangan, daging babi dan kopi yang kami punya terasa nikmat. Aku penasaran tentang apa yang Mama pikirkan tentang aku yang duduk di sini dan memikirkan kacang-kacangan yang sangat nikmat. Aku akan membacakannya semua yang telah aku tulis saat aku pulang nanti.
- [131] ‘Apa yang kamu lakukan selama perang?’ Jake bertanya pada Billy.
- [132] Itu adalah apa yang mereka sering bicarakan sepanjang waktu, apa yang mereka lakukan selama perang.
- [133] Kebanyakan koboi terlibat perang bersama para pemberontak. Beberapa dari mereka masih memiliki mantel abu-abu, yang mereka kenakan selama berperang. Mantel mantel itu sudah tua dan sedikit robek – perang berakhir pada tahun 1865 – tapi mereka tetap mengenakan mantel mantel itu.

- [134] ‘Tidak banyak,’ jawab Billy. ‘Aku berada di Tennessee, di gunung Lookout. Yang kami lakukan disana adalah menembaki para Yankee sampai kami kehabisan peluru. Kami menembaki besi tua menjelang akhir.’
- [135] Chubb, yang makan lebih banyak daripada dua orang, menjilati piringnya seolah-olah dia adalah hewan. Dia bertanya kepada Yesaya apa yang dia lakukan sebelum masa perang.
- [136] ‘Bekerja sementara untuk Tuan Muhlen, dan sebelum itu aku sibuk bekerja di De Ridder, Louisiana. Memotong kayu.’ Aku tahu maksud Yesaya dia bekerja sebagai budak, karena dia sudah pernah memberitahuku.
- [137] ‘Bekerja memotong kayu terlihat tidak terlalu buruk,’ kata Chubb. ‘Aku akan bekerja memotong kayu jika dilakukan di atas kuda.’
- [138] ‘Itu tidaklah buruk,’ lanjut Yesaya, “paling tidak itu tidaklah seburuk jika Bos tidak mempunyai hari yang buruk, atau jika dia tidak kalah dalam permainan kartu, atau jika dia punya banyak uang bergemerincing di saku-sakunya.’
- [139] ‘Aku juga bekerja untuk orang seperti itu,’ kata Billy. ‘Jika dia punya hari yang bagus dia akan tersenyum lebar kepadamu dan menepuk punggungmu. Jika dia punya hari yang buruk dia punya cara untuk berbicara melalui giginya dan mudah tersinggung seperti ular derik yang meluncur ke bawah kaktus.’
- [140] ‘Benarkah?’ tanya Isaiah. Dia mulai melepas bajunya. ‘Berapa kali dia mencambukmu?’
- [141] Yesaya memperlihatkan punggungnya dan kamu bisa melihat bekas-bekas cambuk. Itu membuat perutku terasa berat dan perasaan dingin yang menyebar ke seluruh tubuhku.
- [142] Itu juga membuatku takut. Mama pernah bercerita tentang perbudakan, tentang bagaimana orang-orang dipukuli dan diburu oleh anjing pemburu saat mereka mencoba

untuk kabur. Itu membuatku marah karena orang-orang bisa melakukan itu kepadamu hanya karena kamu hitam.

[143] ‘Kenakan lagi bajumu.’ Suara Kapten datar dan kering. Dia menatap Yesaya tajam dan Yesaya juga menatapnya tajam. Lalu dia mengambil bajunya dan memakainya. Saat tiba waktunya untuk kembali bekerja, aku merasa senang.

#### **14 Mei**

[144] Aku menghabiskan pagi ini dengan memikirkan Mama. Saat aku pergi, dia memberitahuku untuk selalu jaga diri.

[145] ‘Aku akan menjaga tempat tidur dan barang-barangmu dengan baik,’ katanya.

[146] Tempat tidurku hanyalah beberapa papan yang dijadikan satu dengan penyangga di setiap ujungnya agar tidak menempel di lantai. Saat aku muda, aku ingin tidur di kamar para pekerja bersama dengan pekerja peternakan, tapi saat aku mulai dewasa, aku cukup senang untuk mempunyai tempat sendiri bersama Mama. Kami telah memperbaiki banyak retakan dengan cukup baik sehingga tidak banyak makhluk kecil yang bisa masuk.

[147] Tidur di luar dalam perjalanan lumayan nyaman selama tidak hujan. Cuaca Texas cukup bagus dan hangat. Jake, yang menjadi bos selama Kapten tidak ada, memberitahu kami tentang perjalanannya saat di Wyoming.

[148] ‘Kami berada di dekat sungai Powder dan udaranya sangat dingin semua ular membeku dan orang-orang menggunakan mereka sebagai tongkat berjalan,’ katanya. ‘Saat malam pertama aku berjaga dan turun salju yang cukup lebat dan aku mendengar suara lolongan yang terdengar seperti antara burung hantu atau anjing hutan. Itu sangatlah seram dan aku menyimpan senjatakku di sarung pistol, yang aku gantungkan di pelanaku sehingga tetap berada di dekatku sepanjang waktu.’



- [149] ‘Beberapa saat kemudian aku melihat sesuatu datang ke arahku menembus salju. Mulanya aku tidak tahu jika itu adalah orang atau kuda. Lalu aku melihat itu adalah seseorang berkuda ke arahku. Ya, kuda itu dan pengendaranya berhenti tak bergerak saat aku mendekat dan aku juga berhenti tak bergerak. Kami hanya duduk disana dengan aku yang mencoba mengenali siapa itu. Kupikir itu bisa jadi adalah orang Indian dan saat ini aku sedang tidak ingin rambutku terbelah dari bagian bawah.
- [150] ‘Kami duduk disana untuk beberapa saat dengan jantungku berdetak seakan-akan semuanya keluar. Lalu pengendara itu tiba-tiba menghilang. Poof! Aku melihat sekeliling dan aku tidak melihatnya dimanapun lalu aku mengambil pistolku, bersiap untuk apapun, tapi tidak terjadi apa-apa. Pagi harinya aku memberitahu yang lain apa yang telah aku lihat dan mereka memberitahuku itu pasti Little Tom.
- [151] ‘Little Tom adalah seorang Negro yang berkuda dengan peternakan Goodnight. Pada satu malam yang dingin temannya sedang sakit, memuntahkan darah dari paru-paru, dan Little Tom memutuskan untuk tidak membangunkannya dan melakukan dua kali giliran jaga. Malam itu adalah malam paling dingin yang semua orang bisa ingat.
- [152] ‘Besoknya mereka melihat Little Tom duduk di atas kudanya, tapi saat mereka ingin berbicara dengannya, mereka sadar dia telah mati, membeku di atas pelana. Saat mereka ingin memberitahu temannya, dia juga sudah mati.
- [153] ‘Mereka membungkus keduanya dengan kain ponco, si kulit putih dan si Negro, dan mengubur mereka segera setelah mereka menemukan tempat yang tanahnya tidak beku terlalu keras untuk digali.
- [154] ‘Tapi sesekali di dekat sungai Powder, kamu mendengar suara keras di sekitar perkemahan – itu adalah teman Tom. Tapi jika kamu melihat sosok di atas pelana, kamu tahu itu adalah Little Tom yang masih berjaga di sisi yang lain.’

- [155] Aku merasa senang karena kami tidak akan pergi lebih jauh ke utara melebihi Abilene, Kansas. Aku berpikir tentang bagaimana keadaan di utara sana, merasakan dingin dan sebagainya. Pasti terasa aneh bagi para Yankee untuk datang ke selatan untuk berperang.
- [156] Aku ingat Tuan Muhlen berkata bahwa para Yankee yang dia temui tidak terlalu berbeda dengan para sekutu kecuali mereka berbicara seolah-olah mereka takut gigi mereka akan patah.
- [157] Saat aku berbaring untuk tidur, aku berpikir tentang apa yang Jake katakan tentang Little Tom membeku sampai mati di atas pelana. Itu adalah cerita seram dan aku akan merasa lebih baik jika dia tidak menceritakannya. Aku juga berpikir tentang ayahku. Aku penasaran apakah dingin di tempatnya berada sekarang.

#### **15 Mei**

- [158] Ini adalah hari Senin dan aku melewatkan hari minggu tanpa berdoa atau bahkan berdoa. Bapa kami, yang sudah kujanjikan kepada Mama akan aku lakukan. Aku hanya menggunakan Pretty untuk berkendara saat malam atau saat kami tidak berada di jalur, tapi hari ini aku menungganginya dan kupikir dia merasa senang. Tidak terjadi apa-apa pagi ini. Pretty sedikit batuk, yang mungkin karena debu yang cukup buruk seperti biasa. Aku meraba ke dalam lengan baju dan menggaruk rasa gatal dengan keras.
- [159] Satu sapi di bagian belakang yang memiliki luka di kaki terus-terusan berhenti dan Doom memukulnya dengan talinya. Sapi itu lalu berdiri dan berlari menuju kawanannya dan aku pikir pasti akan ada kepanikan di kawanannya, tapi sapi yang lain hanya terbentur dan melenguh sedikit dan situasi menjadi tenang.
- [160] Untuk makan siang, Yesaya membuat sup dengan wortel di dalamnya, yang kami makan dengan bubur jagung dan roti jagung. Roti jagung yang dicelupkan ke dalam lemak babi panas adalah rasa paling enak yang bisa kamu rasakan.

[161] ‘Suatu waktu aku membawa dua ribu kepala ke Inggris,’ kata Miguel saat makan siang.

[162] Miguel berkata dia berumur 24 tahun, tapi mungkin dia sudah berumur 924 tahun karena dia punya banyak sekali keriput.

[163] ‘Bagaimana kamu menyeberangkannya melewati lautan?’ Kapten bertanya.

[164] ‘Kami tidak melewatinya,’ kata Miguel, ‘kami pergi melalui wilayah Indian, lalu menyeberangkannya melalui sungai Ohio.’

[165] Kapten hanya tersenyum dan aku tahu dia pasti punya cara yang lebih bagus untuk membawa kawanan ke Inggris.

### **16 Mei**

[166] Kami kehilangan satu hari penuh saat terjadi kepanikan di kawanan pagi tadi. Mereka hampir tidak pernah merasa gelisah setelah tidur malam yang nyenyak, tapi mereka sudah siap melakukan sesuatu sesaat setelah kami mencoba membangunkan mereka.

[167] ‘Mereka terlihat lucu,’ kata Doom.

[168] Bagiku mereka tidak terlihat lucu. Aku sedang mempersiapkan Blade dan Doom sedang mempersiapkan kuda merah kecil yang dia suka saat tiba-tiba sekumpulan burung terbang dari semak-semak dan membuat kepanikan di kawanan. Timmy dan Miguel yang bangun pertama kali dan mencoba untuk menggiring mereka dan aku, Wade, dan yang lain terbangun cukup lama. Kawanan utama berada dua mil dari perkemahan, dan kawanan yang lain kabur dan Kapten membawa Doom dan Billy Steele untuk mengejar mereka. Dia menyuruh kami untuk menunggunya kembali dan saat dia kembali, sudah terlambat untuk membuat jarak yang dia inginkan, sehingga dia mendudukkan kami semua sepanjang hari.

[169] Masalahnya adalah Kapten ingin untuk membuat jarak yang sama setiap hari. Sehingga kami bisa sampai di Abilene tepat waktu dan itu sebenarnya cukup lambat agar kami tidak membuat sapi-sapi itu menggerakkan semua otot-ototnya dan membuat mereka

kehilangan berat badan. Tapi jarak mereka harus dibuat dua belas atau lima belas mil agar mereka bisa mendapatkan air yang mereka butuhkan,

[170] ‘Seekor sapi lebih membutuhkan air daripada makanan,’ kata Yesaya. ‘Begitu juga manusia.’

[171] Aku tidak setuju kalau aku lebih membutuhkan air daripada makanan dan aku memutuskan untuk tidak minum sepanjang hari. Aku baik-baik saja sampai matahari bersinar terik. Lalu aku minum, bahkan aku tidak sadar jika aku melakukannya.

[172] Sejak kami istirahat pada hari itu, Jake menyuruh kami mencari kayu untuk wagon. Masing-masing mencari dan membawa kayunya kepada Yesaya. Doom juga menangkap babi. Katanya itu adalah babi liar, tapi satu-satunya hal yang liar adalah pemiliknya, yang datang dan menembakkan pistol ke udara. Doom lari dengan babi yang memekik dan terpentak dan kami merunduk mencari perlindungan.

#### **17 Mei**

[173] Kapten memberitahu Tim dan Jake jika dia ingin kami melakukan perjalanan sejauh dua puluh atau dua dua puluh mil untuk menutupi waktu kami yang hilang kemarin. Kami memulainya dengan awal yang baik. Cuaca cukup panas dan pada saat kawanan mulai berbaris dan berjalan, kamu bisa bilang hari ini akan menjadi berat. Rencananya adalah melakukan perjalanan sampai siang, tanpa memberi minum kawanan, dan sudah melakukan perjalanan sejauh lima belas mil. Lalu kami akan istirahat makan siang dan melanjutkan perjalanan sejauh tujuh mil lagi sebelum memberi mereka minum dan mengistirahatkan mereka.

[174] ‘Aku dulu pernah menggiring kawanan untuk berjalan seratus mil dalam sehari,’ kata Billy Steele.

[175] ‘Itu pasti karena kamu bodoh,’ kata Kapten. Itu bukan jawaban yang Billy harapkan, tapi dia hanya menggigit bibirnya dan tidak membicarakan hal itu lagi.

- [176] ‘Kamu menggiring kawanan untuk melakukan perjalanan sejauh seratus mil dalam sehari, pasti itu adalah *stampede*, bukan sebuah perjalanan,’ kata Timmy. Menurutku itu benar dan aku berpikir jika beberapa koboi dalam perjalanan tidak langsung percaya dengan ucapan orang lain. Menurutku jika kamu tidak mengetahui banyak hal kamu harus membuat-buat tentang sesuatu.
- [177] Para sapi itu sudah bekerja ditempatnya, paling tidak mendekati. Aku sudah tahu tempatku di belakang kawanan yang akan menyusahkan kami dan aku yang pertama kali mendorong sehingga mereka tidak terlalu tertinggal di belakang.
- [178] Sudah sekitar satu jam sejak kami melewati ladang kapas. Ada sekelompok Negro di ladang itu. Mereka terlihat seperti keluarga, karena ada anak-anak dan orang dewasa. Di sana juga ada satu orang kulit putih yang bersama dengan mereka dan dia duduk di atas kuda. Itu bukanlah kuda pekerja, hanya kuda tua yang dia gunakan untuk mengawasi orang-orang memetik kapas.
- [179] ‘Aku tidak sanggup memetik kapas,’ dulu Mama pernah berkata. ‘Tuhan tidak suka kejahatan dan Dia tidak suka memetik kapas.’
- [180] Dia sudah banyak memetik kapas di Mississippi. Bahkan setelah ayah membeli kebebasannya, dia tetap bersama Tuan Muhlen dan memetik kapas dan sesekali mengurus anak-anak kecil.
- [181] ‘Saat aku melihat putri Tuan Muhlen duduk di beranda membaca buku – seolah-olah dia sudah dewasa – aku sangat bangga padanya. Tidak banyak orang, bahkan orang kulit putih sekalipun bisa membaca dan menulis.’

B. Source Text

**April 30 1871**

- [1] When I got home from church Mama wasn't home and there wasn't anything to eat, which was strange because Mama always made something special on Sunday. The weeds in our little acre needed pulling, but I knew I didn't want to get out in the sun with no hoe. I had been laying low since Captain Hunter came to the ranch. Mr. Muhlen had hired the Captain to run things since Charlie Taggart, our boss, bought himself a place up in Montana. I guess the Captain was a good man if Mr. Muhlen hired him, but he didn't seem to have any use for colored folks and he didn't mind letting us know. When he first saw me I was sawing down boards to fix the porch on Mr. Muhlen's house. He asked me who I was and how old I was. I told him I was Joshua loper and I was sixteen. He didn't say nothing, he just turned on his heel and walked away without another word.
- [2] I was still running the Captain through my mind when Mama got home. She had been over to Mr. Muhlen's house. Mama had worked for him all her life. Before the war he had been her master, but 'cause he liked her he let my father, Nehemiah, buy her freedom and marry up with her.
- [3] 'Mr. Muhlen wants you to go up north on the trail,' Mama said. 'Guess you better go see him.'
- [4] I did not look too excited, because I could see Mama was not too keen on the idea of me going on the trail. I went over to see Mr. Muhlen and he said it was true what Mama said. He was real short of hands and he had to get together a crew to make the drive to Abilene, Kansas.
- [5] 'When we going?' I asked.



[6] 'Got to get the herd up by mid July,' Mr. Muhlen said. 'Sooner the Captain gets them going the better.'

[7] I said I would do my best. Ain't nobody who went up the trail was talked about like they was a boy. You went up the trail you were a man.

### **May 1**

[8] Mr. Muhlen had an argument with Captain today. Captain said he did not want to take there Colored on the drive. Mr. Muhlen said he didn't have time to find another cook so he had to take Isaiah and he might as well take Doom and me, too.

[9] 'Joshua is a good boy,' I heard Mr. Muhlen say. 'He's done some quail hunting for me and his mama is a good religious woman.'

[10] Captain didn't say nothing to me, but Jake Custis told me later I was still going. I told Timmy O'Hara and he said that I had better practice my running because the girls in Abilene was so fast they would run circles around me.

[11] Timmy was my bestfriend on the Slash M Ranch and I knew he would help me out on the drive. When he asked me. If I was glad I was going, I said it was okay.

[12] 'If it's just okay,' he said, 'how come you grinning so much?'

[13] Timmy was seventeen, a year older than me, and he had made his first trail drive at sixteen, the same age I was. He wasn't what you would call a good-looking fellow, but he had a look about him that made you think that any minute he was going to bust out into a smile. His eyes were kind of gray if you looked at them straight on and kind of green if you looked at them from the side. He said that was from his being irish. There wasn't any question about him being one of the top hands even though he was young. He could get the job done and no matter what he had to chew on he never spit out a bad word about anybody. I didn't say anything to him about the Captain not wanting to take the coloreds on the drive.

[14] Mr. Muhlen called us all together in the afternoon. He said that it was important to him that he drive be successful.

[15] ‘As you all know, Mrs. Muhlen is doing poorly so I must stay by her side. This is the first year I won’t be leading the drive, but I have full confidence in the Captain to get things done right. If you boys get the herd to the railroad on time I’ll give each man a ten-dollar bonus,’ he said.

[16] I have never had ten dollar cash money in my whole life. Mostly we got either scrip money or just had what we was owed put down in the account book. When my father went up north looking for work he left us four dollars and that was the most me and Mama had at one time. Timmy had been on the trail last year and got paid seventy dollars cash money and said once he had a twenty dollar gold piece. When I went to bed I dreamed I had a twenty-dollar gold piece and another one to give Mama.

## **May 2**

[17] The Captain had us branding today. He had me working like a three-legged dog at a rat hunt and was watching me with them dark rattlesnake eyes of his.

[18] Isaiah was a big, broad man with a round face and the smallest ears that God ever put on a human being. He had been around and knew a lot about almost everything. He was born in slavery times and had worked for Mr. Muhlan before the war broke out. He stayed on the Slash M, which was what the ranch was called, the whole time the war was going on. Isaiah had been a friend of my father’s and when Daddy had to leave he told him he would not let me get into trouble.

[19] I truly loved my daddy even though I didn’t know a lot about him. He had been born free and worked for a Mexican before the War Between the States. Mama wasn’t free, but when he asked Mr. Muhlen if he could marry her they made arrangements for him to buy her freedom. When the war broke out back in 1860 he left and went up north and

joined the Union Army. He told Mama it was something he just had to do. I was only five at the time and didn't know much about what was going on.

[20] After the war he came back, but none of the white folks near where we lived wanted him around 'cause he had fought with the Union Army. After a while, after he had been shot by some Ku Kluxers, he decided to go up to Ohio, looking for work. He had a game leg from a wound he had got in Petersburg, Virginia, but Mama said he would be all right and when he found a steady job he would send for us. I knew he would, too.

[21] Where Isaiah was big and kind of fat, Doom was on the skinny side and was all belch and bellow. My mama said you could give Doom a job eating raspberry pie and drinking store-bought coffee and he would find fault with it. He was twenty-one, and his skin was deep brown, about my color. His eyes were close set, which made him look a little shifty. I didn't know where he had come from, but he wasn't much in the saddle and didn't exactly cozy up to no work.

[22] The cow hunt was already done. We had rounded up almost twelve hundred head and Mr. Muhlen had brought another thousand from some Mexicans. The Rio Grande was a little over a hundred miles south of us and it took them seven days to get them up to the range he was using. The Slash M range was about five miles wide with good grass and a stream that was truly sweet to drink from. The cow hunt ended two weeks and the regular crew has been getting them ready to go north ever since.

#### **May 4**

[23] I am getting more and more excited and Mama is getting more and more down in the mouth about me going on the drive. Last year when I saw the guys leaving for Kansas I dreamed I was going with them, my hat pulled down low over my eyes and my wipe tied loose around my neck. Mama talked about farming and how good it was. I allowed how it was good, but what I dreamed about was being a cowboy.

### Same day, evening

- [24] We spent all day cutting out animals that had not been branded, which was as hard a job as I have ever done in my life. We put the Slash M on their left hip and tagged their right ears with a square in the front. I was riding Pawnee, Mr. Muhlen's cutting horse. He told me to take Thunder, a dark red horse, and Slash, a real stout animal with a blaze on his forehead, with me, too, so I had some good horses to ride on the trail.
- [25] I have had my own horse for a year. I was the one that caught him and broke him in and named him Pretty. Some of the old hands said he was too young to be a good cow pony, but he was all right with me. Mr. Muhlen had taught me how to hobble break a horse. Instead of trying to break his spirit, I treated him real gentle but firm until he understood that we were going to be working together. The hobbles let him know I could control him and he could not control me. He got used to them, so when I took them off he understood.
- [26] I did okay in the branding even though I fell off Pawnee one time. Pawnee knew more about cutting out than I did. One time I was trying to cut out a two-year-old longhorn and that animal was just determined to get back into the herd. Pawnee was cutting him and I saw the Captain watching me. That young bull moved back and forth and Pawnee was moving with him. Then the bull made a real tricky move and Pawnee was just as tricky cutting him to a dead stop and I found myself sitting on a handful of air and grabbing for the horn. I bounced off the ground and got the wind knocked out of me and a sore backside.
- [27] Miguel came over and said that if I wanted to dig a ditch I would do better with a shovel instead of using the seat of my pants. I didn't appreciate that too much.
- [28] We finished the last few strays just before sunset and the Captain said we were going to start out on Monday morning soon as it made daylight.

[29] Mama was little upset as I thought she would be.

[30] ‘Your daddy had to leave,’ she said. ‘You don’t have to go if you don’t want to.’

[31] I hated to see her sad, but being on the trail and being a regular hand was pulling on me something fierce. I knew I would do right by Mama and hoped she would be proud of the way I went on with myself.

[32] On the Slash M Ranch there are only three regular houses. There’s Mr. Muhlen’s house, the bunkhouse for the crew, and our place in the back of Mr. Muhlen’s house in what they used to call the Quarters. Mr. Muhlen came over to see me and told me he thought I would do just about all right on the trail.

[33] ‘Your first trail is always a hard one, but you will come back a stronger man for it,’ he said.

[34] Mama got me to praying with and made me promise I would at least keep the Lord on my mind, which I said I would.

### **May 5**

[35] The captain got the herd started at daybreak. I saddled Thunder, mostly because Mr. Muhlen and Mrs. Muhlen and Mama were there, and I wanted to look good. Thunder is big and I felt big sitting up on him, too.

[36] ‘We’re going to go with just two drags,’ the Captain said. ‘You boys slow us down and I’ll drop you faster than you can spit.’

[37] Me and Doom were the drags, which meant we had to ride behind the herd. The captain made it clear what we were supposed to do.

[38] ‘Don’t let them stop. Don’t let them get out of the line. And don’t get them moving too fast.’

[39] The Captain was tall and so thin his body looked like a bow ready to shoot off an arrow in your direction. He was dark haired and his skin was tanned almost brown from being

out in the sun so much. His eyes were a light blue and he had a way of fixing them on you that made you wish you could be someplace else.

[40] In my mind I went over my gear. I had my rope, the Navy Cold which belonged to the ranch, a holster with cartridges, an extra pair of socks, an extra pair of drawers, a clean shirt, my slicker and tarp, a leather pouch that my daddy had given me, this notebook, and two pencils.

[41] It was good seeing the herd moving out for the first time. As they started off, the riders moved closer to them and pushed them into a thin line, which made them naturally string out. When I saw Doom start I nudged Thunder with my knees. He didn't move.

[42] 'Don't go tearing him up with your spurs,' Mr. Muhlen has said, "just let him learn you.'

[43] I touched Thunder with the spurs, just laid them against his flank. He turned back and looked at me like he was wondering why I had done that, and I had to smile. Then he started off on his own after the herd. I was going to have to come to an understanding with Thunder.

[44] This is a list of everybody who is on the trail with us.

[45] ~ The Captain is the trail boss

[46] ~ Isaiah is the cook

[47] ~ Tim O'Hara and Little Jake are at the points. They lead the herd and make sure that everything up ahead is all right

[48] ~ Miguel and Bert, the two Mexicans, are the swings. They ride back from the points and do a lot of the turnings and making sure that no strays wander into the herd and they back up the points.

[49] ~ Wade Mason and Bill Steele, who is just a little older than me, are the flanks. They watch the sides of the herd behind the swings.



- [50] ~ Then me and Doom are the drags. Doom's twenty one. His real name is Joe, and I don't know why everybody calls him Doom.
- [51] ~ Chubb McLauren is the wrangler. He takes care of the horses. All in all there are forty-one horses in the remuda, which is what they call the horse herd.
- [52] I didn't want to turn to see if anybody was looking at me, but I couldn't help it and I saw Mama waving and it just kind of filled me up for a minute.
- [53] The back on my saddle was a little high and the whole thing was a little big for me, but I was comfortable as I settled into Thunder's rolling gait. As the sky lightened there were puffs of white fluffy clouds in the distance. The longhorns moved easily between the riders. The sounds of their hoofs drifted back to where I rode on the right side. We rode in pairs, one on either side of the herd. Doom was riding across from me.
- [54] By the time the sun had cleared the line of the earth, the dust from the herd had lifted. I saw Doom pull his neckerchief up over his nose and I did the same with my own wipe. We pushed the steers pretty good until the sun was high and I saw the chuck wagon go on up ahead, the mules pulling it swinging their heads from side to side.
- [55] We bunched the herd for their first break and watched them settle down peacefully. Isaiah made beef stew, which we had with rice and corn pone. It was delicious. I was tired and full of dust. Timmy came over and said all he could see of me in the morning was my hat sticking up on my head.
- [56] 'By the time the sun got high I couldn't see where your hat stopped and your head begun.'
- [57] I had been nervous in the morning, but when we got them on trail again I was feeling okay. I left Thunder with the remuda and saddled Blade. Blade didn't like his cinch too tight, but I didn't want to fall off. I looked at Blade's back carefully before I saddled him and I didn't see any sores.

- [58] We just about got going after the lunch break when some of the stragglers started drifting to the right. I went over and herded them back in line. But before I got the last one Blade bit at him. He went to the herd pretty quick then, but when I looked up I saw the Captain was sitting by the side of the trail watching me. He didn't move, just sat tall in the saddle and waited for me to come to him. When I rode up on him he still didn't say nothing, just rode around the end of the herd and up the other side. I thought I could feel the way that man didn't like me.
- [59] The afternoon was pretty easy, but it was a long day. We rode from when the sun was high to when it was sitting just over the mountain on our left. I was tired and my back was aching and I was getting glad that the cantle, the back of my saddle, was high, because it was something to lean on.
- [60] We watered the herd and bedded them down for the night.
- [61] 'Well, that's one day done,' Jake said.
- [62] 'The day ain't nothing,' Miguel said. Miguel was Mexican but he didn't sound like one. 'The first night out those beeves will spook if they hear a flea fart.'
- [63] I didn't think they were going to be any trouble, because they looked really calm and peaceful.
- [64] For supper we had the rest of the stew, beans, and coffee and corn pone. It was delicious.
- [65] After dinner the Captain got us all together and made us sit in a circle to hear the rules we had to go by. These are his rules:
- [66] Rule No. 1 ~ No drinking. Anybody caught drinking while with the herd will be fired. When you get to Abilene you can drink yourself silly.
- [67] Rule No. 2 ~ No gambling. Any cowboy caught gambling will get his time at once.
- [68] Rule No. 3 ~ No being stupid.
- [69] Rule No. 4 ~ No falling asleep on night watch.

- [70] 'You better get all that down in your scribble book, boy.' That's what he said to me.
- [71] I didn't drink and I didn't gamble, so I was not worried about none of that. I was going to try very hard not to be stupid or fall asleep on watch. The first night on the trail was the most miserable night of my whole life. There were four watches, starting at nine o'clock. The points had the first, until eleven. The swings had it until one, the flanks until three, and me and Doom until five in the morning. Then everybody had to get up.
- [72] It was a clear night with enough stars overhead to make you dizzy just looking at them. I was going to write in my journal but made the mistake of lying down to do it. I must have fallen asleep right away. When i felt somebody shaking me, I didn't know what was going on. 'Get a move on! Let's go!'
- [73] For a minute I thought I had fallen asleep on watch, but then I heard the hoofbeats and I knew that something had spooked the herd and they were starting to stampade. Pretty was my night horse and I had tied him to a tree. I was on him quick and started toward the right side of the herd where I had seen a rider already up. I could see by the moonlight and I knew Pretty was surefooted, so I pushed him hard until I caught up with Timmy, who had reached the front of the herd. He was yelling and flapping his hat and I did the same behind him as we turned the herd left. They started turning and I let Timmy get a little bit ahead of me. We kept pushing them to the left. Behind me I heard somebody yipping. They went yip-yip-yip! at the cattle and I sarterd doung the same. We pushed them left and left again. When the cattle turned the second time they started to mill. I could see blue sparks from their horns hitting against each other. Then I saw that two more riders were up. I recgnized the Captain coming toward me.
- [74] 'Get away from the herd!' He shouted at me. 'Back off!'
- [75] I pulled Pretty out and backed off the herd. I felt bad about the Captain yelling at me like that, until I saw that he was waving everybody back. The others were away from

the herd, ut they were still close enough to keep them turning into each other. I took Pretty a little closer. It took a full hald hour of turning them into each other before the whole herd cam to a stop. They were lowing and some broke once in a while but they didn't have no place to go because they were headed in different directions. The crew all spread out and just sat, nobody moving, while the beeed settled down.

[76] It took a long time before they stopped moving arund and even longer before they bedded down completely.

[77] Wade came over and told me it was my turn to go on watch.

[78] 'You got five minutes,' he said. 'Maybe you ought to put your pants on.'

[79] In all the excitement I had got my boots on but not my pants.

[80] Later, when Isaiah dished out the breakfast, he got on me about that. 'Hey, Joshua, is it true you spooked the herd by running through them buck naked?' He asked.

[81] Everybody laughed at that, but when we got back on the trail after breakfast I was feeling like a horse that had been run all night and put away wet.

## **May 7**

[82] The first two days were really hard. The Captain said he wanted to get the herd away from the range they were used to and accustomed to being on the trail. He didn't say anything about getting us used to the trail. If we hae to pust that hard every day – we must have walked them beeves thirty miles the first day and twenty-five the second – I think somebody will have to ride behind me and push me the way I push the drags.

[83] At the end of the second day I was tired but kind of happy I had done a whole day on the trail. By the time we bedded down about a mile south of the river, I was wondering how far it was back home. A long day like that in guard every night. When I was on guard I sang, "O Mary, Don't You Weep," and I think the cattle liked it. The sound of somebody singing seems to settle them down, and most of the night you could hear

somebody singing. Mostly, though, I was singing to me and Pretty. I wasn't used to riding in the dark and neither was Pretty, but me and him were friends, as much as a cowboy and a horse could be, maybe even more.

[84] It was a year ago when I went with Mr. Muhlen down to Mexico looking for wild horses and he told me I could catch one for myself. I was pretty scared 'cause I had never tried to catch a horse before. We found a herd and Timmy and Jake helped me to rope the one I liked after we had run them into a Little Box canyon. He was snorting and darting back and forth and looking like he had a lot of life in him. We hobbled the horses we wanted to break and I kept a good eye on the one I had picked.

[85] 'They're only going to be half broke,' Jake said. 'You got to ride a horse every day for a while to get him really tamed down.'

[86] We got them back to the Slash M range and started breaking them. When it was my turn to break my horse my heart was beating so fast I thought I was going to fall out stone dead. Jake helped me to hobbe him and I got a sadde on his back. But when got up on him he threw me off before I even got close to settling in.

[87] Mr. Muhlen put a man named Charley Pitts up on the horse and he rode him. He rode him again the next day and then the third day I rode him.

[88] My horse was black and had a perky look to him, which is why I called him Pretty. Mr. Muhlen said he was too young for hard ridig but might be a good cow horse one day.

[89] 'You treat him good and he will treat you good,' Mr. Muhlen said.

[90] Pretty is a horse you can talk to, too. I don't know how much he understands, but he sure acts as if he understands everything I say to him.

## **May 8**

[91] It was raining when we got uo and the Captain wanted us to cross the river about two miles down from where we were. We got the horses moving and waded them over a

stretch with a gravel bottom. Isaiah said when you crossed the Guadalupe River, which was the name of the river we waded through, you were officially on the trail. My butt was already sore from all the riding we did the first couple of days and I didn't need anybody telling me I was official. Isaiah made chicken, beans, and corn pone for lunch and it was very good.

[92] Once we got across the river, we stretched them out and the Captain said he was aiming for us to make about twelve miles every day.

[93] I was up on Thunder and he was a good horse, but he did not like me. I could tell the way he looked at me that he thought he was doing me a favor by letting me ride him.

### **May 9**

[94] It is a Tuesday and I have completely missed Sunday! I know Mama would be disappointed that I did not even take time out to say a prayer, but I will make it up. Today the light rain stopped and the dust from the herd came up strong. From where I was, riding in the back of the herd, I could see them stretched out for over a half mile. The dust lifted up like great brown clouds and drifted back toward where me and Doom were trying to keep the stragglers up with the herd. I kept my kerchief high, just under my eyes, but it didn't help much. I was breathing in more dust and dirt than I was stopping. I thought Doom was pushing too fast because he had some of the drags pushing into the herd. Billy Steele signaled us to lay back. The herd was stretched out and the cattle were walking along by twos or threes. I knew the Captain didn't want the drags going six or eight wide, which was what they were doing. But soon as you got some of the drags strung out they would slow down and then you had to push them again. Some of the drags were just weak and some were just plain not interested in being on the trail, which was why they were drags in the first place.



[95] ‘What are you doing?’ The Captain came and asked me and Doom when he had stopped for lunch. He asked us some other questions only he used some words that are not in the New or the Old Testament.

[96] ‘What do you mean?’ Doom asked the Captain. ‘We are doing the best we can.’

[97] ‘You run the drags up on the herd again and I will fire you on the spot,’ he said. ‘And maybe I’ll shoot you to make it permanent.’

[98] Isaiah made stew and corn bread for lunch and it was good.

### **May 10**

[99] In the afternoon we kept the drags where they were supposed to be. It made me twice as tired worrying about what Doom was doing.

[100] We went through some real pretty country, open mostly, with trees off to our left. The day ended earlier since we weren’t pushing so hard, but the Captain didn’t let us forget what had happened in the morning. He told me and Doom to get away from the fire because he couldn’t stand the sight of us. Doom moved off by himself and I did the same. Timmy came and sat with me.

[101] ‘I don’t think the Captain will really fire you,’ he said.

[102] ‘It wasn’t me that was pushing the drags too hard,’ I said.

[103] ‘All the same,’ Timmy said. ‘If he does fire you, can I have your leather pouch?’

[104] ‘Before I give it to you I’ll put it between two rocks and eat it myself,’ I said.

[105] Timmy O’Hara was the grinningest man I ever knew and half the time he was grinning at me. I knew we were friends, but I did not like to talk my being fired away from a job.

[106] We bedded down on a high spot and it was grassy enough to please the cattle.

[107] ‘I heard you singing last night and you can carry a tune pretty good,’ Chubb said. ‘Let’s hear you singing something.’

[108] I had sung some in church and I like to sing, but I was not no professional songbird. Chubb went after me again to sing and Timmy as well and so I said okay, and then I sang a song called “Just Before the Battle, Mother,” which was a sad song but nice.

[109] ‘You have got a sweet voice on you,’ Jake said. ‘If you weren’t as ugly as a horny toad with false teeth I’d ask you for a dance.’

### **May 11**

[110] I got on guard and I must have been half asleep when I got up because all of a sudden I found myself on Pretty and going along the edge of the herd. The night was clear and the sky was cram packed with stars. I didn’t think another star would fit. I found the Big Dipper, saw where it was on the horizon, and tried to remember it so I would know when it was time to be relieved.

[111] I hadn’t had a real good sleep since I’d left home and when I did lay down and doze off the only thing I dreamed about were the drags, moping along any way they pleased just to devil me and Doom.

[112] The way I had my horses lined up I would take turns riding Thunder, Pawnee and Blade during the days and keep Pretty just for my night horse and sometimes ride him when I was feeling low. Four horses was enough to get us to Abilene if we took care of them and didn’t ride them too hard.

### **May 12**

[113] I washed my shirt and laid it out on the chuck wagon so it would dry. We saw a small herd with four cowboys trailing them and Billy Steele thought they could be rustlers.

[114] We got to a creek and we set down the herd, watering a few at a time. That was hard work because we had to get them to the creek, let them drink, and then get them away from the water so the next bunch could get to drink. The Captain wanted us to water the her and then move across the creek before another herd came up on us. You could see

the other herd's just rising up about three miles behind us, which was too close for the Captain. Their trail boss had come up and the Captain told him to keep his cattle back until we were through and we'd clear out for him so the herds wouldn't mingle. That's what the trail boss does, look out for the herd and go ahead to find water and the best route.

[115] It took us most of the afternoon to get the herd watered, which meant we had to trail the herd until just before nightfall.

[116] The Captain had gone ahead and by the time we reached a small river the sun was just on the edge of the mountains in the distance. Jake, Billy, Bert, and Miguel checked the river and said that part of the creek must have passed over a devil's hole.

[117] 'A devil's hole can be a mile deep, Miguel said. 'Can everybody here swim?'

[118] Well, I am not a strong swimmer and I got to swallowing a little hard but I figured if everybody else was going to go across I was going to do it, too. Wade looked out over the water and said he could not swim at all.

[119] 'Don't worry,' Jake said. 'We will make you an Indian swing and you won't sink down into that devil's hole.'

[120] What they did was put a harness on a big steer and made two handholds behind it for Wade to hang on to.

[121] 'Hold on tight and you will be fine,' Miguel said.

[122] Wade took a hold and they gave the steer a whack and it too off across the creek with Wade dragging behind. When he got across, with everybody laughing at him, the rest of us waded across easy because the river wasn't any more than three feet at the deepest part.

[123] On the other side, Jake asked Wade if he had went over the devil's hole and Wade said he was sure he had.

## May 13

[124] I know the Captain don't particularly like me and I don't make things any better. This afternoon a steer broke out of the lie and started running toward a grassy hill to my side of the herd. Doom crossed over and pused the line back so there wouldn't be a stampede with the other beeves following the runaway. I was up on Thunder and I went after the steer. It should have been easy, but then I remembered I hadn't done any roping from Thunder before.

[125] The big horse covered the ground between us and the runaway real quick. I wasn't scared of his speed, but I was taken back a little. I got my rope and opened the loop and threw it as we came up behind him. Thunder didn't stop like a cutting horse would have and so I pulled up on the reins. The rope cleared the runaway's horns and I was wrapping it around the saddle horn when it went tight. Only thing was I got my thumb caught between the rope and the horn and I didn't know if I had that seer or it had me. I felt myself going over the side and I sure didn't want to be hanging by my thumb with Thunder pulling on one side and that steer on the other. The steer was jerked down and before I knew it, I was sitting on the ground next to Thunder trying to free myself. I looked up and saw the Captain sitting on his horse watching me like he always does when he's with the herd. I got my thumb out just as the steer stood up. I jumped back back up on Thunder trying to ignore the way my thumb was throbbing with pain.

[126] After I got my rope free from the steer, I herded him back to the trail line.

[127] The Captain rode up next to me and didn't say nothing. He didn't have to. I pulled my hat down over my eyes and took my place on drag as the Captain rode away. I looked at my thumb and it was raw and the skin was scrapped away. Timmy came over and asked me who had taught me how to use a rope and I told him I had watched a Mexican friend of mine, named Angel, roping around the Slash M.

- [128] ‘You got to tie your rope first like we do in Texas,’ he said. ‘You might want to practice doing that before you lose that thumb.’
- [129] By lunchtime my thumb was swolled up bigger than two thumbs put together.
- [130] I was hungry and the beans, fatback, and coffee we had went down easy. I wondered what Mama would think about me sitting there and thinking them beans was so good. I’ll read her everything I have written when I get home.
- [131] ‘What did you do during the war?’ Jake asked Billy.
- [132] That was what they talked about a lot of the time, what they did during the war.
- [133] Most of the cowboys had been in the war fighting with the Rebels. Some of them still had their gray coats, which they wore during the fighting. The coats were old and pretty torn up – the war ended in 1865 – but they held on to them anyway.
- [134] ‘Not much,’ Billy said. ‘I was up in Tennessee, on Lookout Mountain. What we did there is to shoot at Yankees till we ran out of stuff to shoot. Boys was shooting scrap iron near the end.’
- [135] Chubb, who ate more than any to men had ought to, was licking his plate like he was an animal. He asked Isaiah meant working as a slave, because he had told me before.
- [136] ‘Worked for Mr. Muhlen for a spell, and before that I was busy working up in De Ridder, Lousiana. Worked lumber mostly.’ I knew Isaiah meant working as a slave, because he had told me before.”
- [137] ‘Working lumber don’t seem that bad,’ Chubb said. ‘I’d work lumber if they did it on horses.’
- [138] ‘It wasn’t so bad,’ Isaiah went on, ‘at least it wasn’t so bad if th boss didn’t have a bad day, or if he didn’t lose at cards, or if he had plenty of money jingling in his pockets.’

[139] 'I worked for a man like that,' Billy said. 'If he had a good day he was all for shining his teeth at you and patting you on the back. If he had a bad day he had a way of talking through his teeth and was touchy as a rattlesnake sliding down a cactus plant.'

[140] 'That right?' Isaiah asked. He started taking off his shirt. 'How many times he take the whip to you?'

[141] Isaiah turned his back and you could see the marks the whip had left. It made my stomach feel heavy and a cold feeling went all the way through me.

[142] In a way it made me scared, too. Mama had told me stories about slavery, how people had been beat or tracked down by hounds when they tried to run off. It made me mad that people could do that just because you was black.

[143] 'Put your shirt back on.' The Captain's voice was flat and dry. He looked hard at Isaiah and Isaiah looked hard back at him. Then he reached for his shirt and put it back on. When it was time to go back to work, I was glad.

#### **May 14**

[144] I spent most of the morning thinking about Mama. When I left, she had told me to take care of myself.

[145] 'I'll keep your bed and stuff real nice,' she said.

[146] My bed was just some boards put together and some legs at either end to keep it off the floor. When I was younger, I wanted to sleep in the bunkhouse with the ranch hands, but when I got older, I was glad to have my own place with Mama. We had it fixed up pretty good with all the cracks stopped up so not many critters could get in.

[147] Sleeping outdoors on was pretty good when it wasn't raining. Texas weather was good and warm. Jake, who was the boss when the Captain wasn't around, told us about a trail he had been on up in Wyoming.



- [148] ‘We got up near the Powder River and it was so cold the snakes all froze and folks was using them for walking sticks,’ he said. ‘The first night I was on guard it was snowing something fierce and I heard a howling sound and it sounded a little between an owl and coyote, it was eerie and I kept my pistol in the holster, which I had hooked into my saddle so it would be right near my hands all the time.
- [149] ‘After a while I saw something coming toward me through the snow. At first I couldn’t tell if it was a man or a horse. Then I saw it was somebody riding right at me. Well, that horse and that rider stopped dead still when I got near and I stopped dead still. We just sat there with me trying to make out who it was. I thought it could have been an Indian and I wasn’t in the mood to have my hair parted from the underside.
- [150] ‘We sat there for a while with my heart pounding like all get out. Then the rider just disappeared. Poof! I looked around and didn’t see him nowhere and I took my pistol out, ready for anything, but nothing happened. The next morning I told the boys what I had seen and they told me it must have been Little Tom.
- [151] ‘Little Tom was a Negro riding with the Goodnight Ranch. One cold night his buddy was sick, spitting up blood from consumption, and Little Tom decided not to wake him but to do two turns on guard. That night was the coldest night anybody had ever remembered.
- [152] ‘The next day they seen Little Tom sitting up on his horse, but when they went to talk to him, they seen he was dead, frozen in the saddle. When they went to tell his buddy, he was dead, too.
- [153] ‘They wrapped them both in ponchos, the white man and the Negro, and burried them as soon as they found a place where the ground wasn’t frozen too hard to dig in.

[154] 'But every once in a while up near the Powder River, you hear a sharp noise coming from around the camp – that's Tom's buddy. But if you see a figure in the saddle, you know that's Little Tom, still pulling guard duty on other side.'

[155] I was glad that we were not going farther north than Abilene, Kansas. I got thinking about what it was like up north, being cold like that and everything. It must have been strange for the Yankees to come down to the South to fight in the war.

[156] I remember Mr. Muhlen saying that the Yankees he met weren't much different from the confederates except they talked like they were afraid their teeth was fixing to break.

[157] When I laid myself down to go to sleep, I thought about what Jake had said about Little Tom freezing to death in the saddle. It was kind of a scary story and it would have been just fine with me if he hadn't wold it. I also thought about my father. I wondered if it was cold where he was.

[158] It was Monday and I had let Sunday go by without praying or even saying the Lord's Prayer, Which I promised Mama I would say. I had been saving Pretty to ride at night or when we weren't trailing, but today I got up o him and I think he was glad. Nothing happened in the morning. Pretty had a little cough, which was probably from the dust which was as bad as it has been. It got up under my sleeves and itched something terrible.

### **May 15**

[159] One drag, which had a sore leg, kept stopping and Doom hit it with his rope. It got uo and into the herd and I thought sure we were going to have a stampede, but the other steers just bumped and bellowed a little and things calmed down.

[160] For lunch Isaiah made stew with carrots in it, which we had with grits and corn bread. That corn bread dipped in some hot lard drippings is about as good a taste as you can get.

[161] 'One time I took two thousands head all the way to England.' Miguel said at lunch.

[162] Miguel Said he was 24, but he could have been 924 he had so many wrinkles.

[163] 'How you get them across the ocean?' the Captain asked.

[164] 'We didn't go that way,' Miguel said, 'we went by way of Indian Territory, then crossed them over the Ohio River.'

[165] The Captain smiled and I figured he must have had a better way of getting a herd to England.

[166] We lost a whole day when the herd satmpeded in the morning. They almost never get jumpy after a good night's rest, but they were ready to do something as soon as we tried to get them up.

#### **May 16**

[167] 'They look funny,' Doom said.

[168] They didn't look funny to me. I was saddling Blade and Doom was saddling this little red horse he liked when all of a sudden a bunch of birds took off from the bushes and the whole herd got to stampeding. Timmy and Miguel were up first and trying to turn them and me, Wade, and the other were up in a hot minute. We got the main bunch milling about two miles from the camp, but another bunch ran off and the Captain took Doom and Billy Steele to get them back. He told us to wait for him and by the time he got back, it was too late to make the distance he wanted, so he sat us all down for the day.

[169] The thing was that the Captain was determined to make a fair distance every day. That way we would get to Abilene on time and it was slow enough so we wouldn't run all the muscle off the beeves and lose their weight. But that twelve or fifteen miles had to be spaced so they could get water when they needed it.

[170] 'A steer needs more water than it does food,' Isaiah said. 'So do people.'

[171] I didn't think I needed water more than I needed food and decided to go the whole day without taking a drink. I was doing just fine until the sun came up good. Then I took a drink before I realized I was even doing it.

[172] Since we were sat down for the day, Jake had us getting wood for the wagon. Each of us went out and roped some wood and dragged it back to Isaiah. Doom also roped a pig. He said it was a wild pig, but the only thing wild about it was the owner, who came out and fired a shot in the air. Doom ran off with that pig squealing and bouncing along and the rest of us ducking for cover.

### **May 17**

[173] The Captain told Tim and Jake that he wanted to go twenty or twenty-two miles to make up for the time we lost yesterday. We got off a good start. The weather was hot and by the time the herd was lined up and moving, you could tell it was going to be a hard day. The plan was to push until noon, without watering the herd, and to do fifteen miles. Then we were going to cut down the lunchtime and push for seven more miles before watering them and settling down.

[174] 'I once pushed a herd a hundred miles in one day,' Billy Steele said.

[175] 'That's because you're fool,' the Captain said. That didn't set too well with Billy, but he bit his lip and kept his trap shut.

[176] 'You pushed a herd a hundred miles in a day, you got a stampede, not a trail drive,' Timmy said. That sounded just about right to me and I was thinking that some of the cowboys on this drive were chewing more cud than they had. I guess if you didn't know a lot you had to make up stuff.

[177] The beeves had worked themselves out where they all knew their places, or close to it. I was getting to where I knew which of the drags were going to give us trouble and pushed them first so they knew they wouldn't be allowed to stay too far behind.

[178] We had been out about an hour when we passed a cotton field. there was a group of Negroes in the field. they looked like a family, because there were children as well as grown-ups. There was one white man with them and he was sitting on a horse. It wasn't a working horse, just an old horse he used to sit up on while he watched the people pick cotton.

[179] 'I can't stand picking no cotton,' Mama used to say. 'God don't like evil and He don't like picking no cotton.'

[180] She had picked plenty of cotton in Mississippi. Even after Daddy bought her freedom, she stayed on with Mr. Muhlen and picked cotton and sometimes took care of the little children.

[181] 'When I seen Mr. Muhlen's daughter sitting on the porch reading a book – just like she was grown – I was real proud of her. Ain't many peoples, even white, can read and write.'

## CHAPTER III

### ANNOTATION

In this part, the translator will analyze the idioms that difficult to translate from source language to target language in the novel *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871*. The idioms analysis will be divided according to the theory that the translator use.

#### A. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Table 3.1

##### Idiom 1

“Down in the mouth” – par. 23

Source language	Target language
I am getting more and more excited and Mama is getting more and more <u>down in the mouth</u> about me going on the drive.	Aku semakin senang tetapi Mama semakin <u>dingin hatinya</u> dengan perihal aku akan mengikuti perjalanan itu.

This part is talking about the feeling that the character “I” and “Mama” had after the character “I” was offered to join a cattle drive by his bos. The phrase *down in the mouth* was used by the character “I” to describe his mother’s feelings. This phrase has a literal meaning in the target language (TL) as *Turun ke dalam mulut*. However, when the translator tried to put the literal meaning in TL, it did not fit because this phrase was used to describe feelings and the literal meaning is not describing it. So, the translator tried to understand the context, from the



context the translator concluded that ‘Mama’ felt the opposite of what her son felt. The son felt excited and “Mama” felt the opposite, so ‘Mama’ felt sad. Also, the translator tried to find the meaning of this phrase in the Cambridge Dictionary and found that this phrase is an idiom and has the meaning of feeling sad and unhappy.

Before translating this idiom by paraphrasing, the translator tried to find an equivalent idiom in the target language. The translator only found idiom with the same meaning but the form is different. The idiom is *dingin hati*. According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), *dingin hati* has the meaning as *tidak bersemangat, tidak menaruh perhatian* and *tidak gembira*. The idiom from TL completely has different lexical item with idiom from SL (source language). Word *down* in SL does not have same meaning with word *dingin* in TL and word *mouth* in SL does not have the same meaning with word *hati* in TL. From here the translator decided to use the strategy of translating using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form which was suitable in this case.

Table 3.2

Idiom 2

“Old hands” – par. 25

Source language	Target language
I have had my own horse for a year. I was the one that caught him and broke him in and named him Pretty.	Aku sudah mempunyai kudaku sendiri selama setahun. Aku sendiri yang menangkap dan menjinakkanya dan

<p>Some of the <u>old hands</u> said he was too young to be a good cow pony, but he was all right with me.</p>	<p>menamainya Pretty. Beberapa orang yang sudah banyak <u>makan asam garam</u> berkata bahwa Pretty masih terlalu muda untuk menjadi kuda peternakan yang bagus, tapi dia bagus-bagus saja saat bersamaku.</p>
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This part is talking about character “I” that had a young horse and there were some people who were commenting his horse. In this part, there is a phrase *old hands* which the translator assumed as an idiom. This phrase was used by the character “I” as a term for people who were commenting on his horse. This phrase has a literal meaning in TL as *tangan-tangan tua*. However, when the translator tried to put it in TL, the meaning was unacceptable. Therefore, the translator tried to understand the context, and from the context, the translator assumed that *old hands* has the meaning as experienced people because they were commenting on sixteen years old boy’s horse. Afterward, to strengthen the assumption, the translator tried to look for another source to find the true meaning of *old hands*. Based on Cambridge Dictionary *old hands* is an idiom and has the meaning as someone who is very experienced and skilled in a particular area of activity.

From here, the translator already understood that this phrase is an idiom and it is about people who have many experiences and knowledge about horses. After knowing that *old hands* is an idiom, the translator tried to find its counterpart in TL. The idiom that has been found in TL have a different form with the idiom in SL, but the meaning is almost the same. The idiom is *makan asam garam*. Based on KBBI, this idiom has the meaning as *sudah berpengalaman dalam hidup*. The

lexical items of these idioms from TL and SL are completely different. Word *old* is not the same with *asam* and word *hands* is not the same with *garam* also the idioms in TL had three words but the idiom in SL only had two words. The translator decided to use the strategy of translating using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form rather than translating by paraphrase because the idiom in TL had the same meaning with the idiom from SL



B. Translation by Paraphrase

Table 3.3

Idiom 3

”Running the Captain through my mind” – par. 2

Source language	Target language
<p>I was still <u>running the Captain through my mind</u> when Mama got home. She had been over to Mr. Muhlen’s house. Mama had worked for him all her life. Before the war he had been her master, but ‘cause he liked her he let my father, Nehemiah, buy her freedom and marry up with her.</p>	<p>Aku masih <u>berpikir tentang si Kapten</u> saat Mama pulang. Dia baru saja pulang dari rumah Tuan Muhlen. Mama telah bekerja pada Tuan Muhlen sepanjang hidupnya. Sebelum masa perang Tuan Muhlen telah menjadi tuan bagi Mama, tapi karena dia menyukai Mama, dia membiarkan Ayahku, Nehemiah, membeli kebebasannya dan menikahnya.</p>

This part is talking about character “I” who just met the new Captain of the ranch and got few questions from him. This part contains phrase *running through my mind* which the translator assumed as an Idiom. This phrase has a literal meaning in the target language as *berlari melalui pikiranku*. This phrase sounds improbable because there is no way someone can run through another’s mind. This is the characteristic of an idiom. Violate truth condition.

From here, the translator assumed that this phrase was an idiom and tried to find the true meaning of this idiom. The true meaning was found in Cambridge Dictionary and based on Cambridge Dictionary this phrase was an idiom that had meaning as ‘to cannot stop thinking or continually thinking about’.

At first, the translator tried to find any idiom in TL that had similar meaning and form, but there was no idiom in TL which had the same meaning and form with the idiom from SL. The translator decided to use the strategy of translating idiom by paraphrasing because no equivalent idiom could be found in TL. The translation of this idiom was based on the meaning in the Cambridge Dictionary, so the translator had translated it as *berpikir tentang*.

Table 3.4

Idiom 4

“Short of hands” – par. 4

Source language	Target language
<p>I did not look too excited, because I could see Mama was not too keen on the idea of me going on the trail. I went over to see Mr. Muhlen and he said it was true what Mama said. He was real <u>short of hands</u> and he had to get together a crew to make the drive to Abilene, Kansas.</p>	<p>Aku tidak terlalu tertarik, karena Mama juga terlihat tidak tertarik dengan rencanaku pergi ke rute penggembalaan. Aku pergi menemui Tuan Muhlen dan dia mengiyakan kata-kata Mama tadi. Dia benar-benar <u>butuh bantuan</u> dan dia harus mengumpulkan orang-orang untuk pergi ke Abilene, Kansas.</p>

Next is the phrase *short of hands*. This phrase had a literal meaning in the target language as *kekurangan tangan*. The translator did not sure this literal meaning will fit with the context. Furthermore, the translator tried to understand the context and from the context the translator knew that this part was talking about Mr. Muhlen recruited workers to make cattle drive to Abilene, Kansas and phrase *short of hands* was used to describe the situation, so the literal meaning was unacceptable because the context did not literally talk about hand.

From here the translator assumed that this phrase was an idiom and to strengthen the assumption, the translator tried to find the meaning from another source. Based on the Cambridge dictionary this phrase had the meaning as ‘does not have a necessary number of worker’. At first, the translator tried to find equivalent idiom in TL but there was no counterpart idiom in the target language. Since there was no counterpart in TL the translator decided to translate the idiom by paraphrasing it as *butuh bantuan*.

Table 3.5

Idiom 5

1956  
"A game leg" – par. 20

Source language	Target language
After a while, after he had been shot by some Ku Kluxers, he decided to go up to Ohio, looking for work. He had <u>a game leg</u> from a wound he had got in Petersburg, Virginia, but Mama	Setelah beberapa lama, setelah Ia ditembak oleh kaum Ku Klux, dia memutuskan untuk pergi ke Ohio, mencari pekerjaan. Dia mempunyai <u>kaki yang sakit</u> karena luka yang Ia



<p>said he would be all right and when he found a steady job he would send for us. I knew he would, too.</p>	<p>dapat di Petersburg, Virginia, tapi Mama berkata bahwa dia akan baik-baik saja dan saat dia mendapat pekerjaan tetap, Ia akan mengabari kami. Aku juga tahu dia akan mengabari.</p>
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In his part, the character “I” was talking about his father. His father joined the civil war and after the war, he got shot by Ku Klux Klan and tried to find a job. This part contains phrase *a game leg* which the translator assumed as an idiom. This phrase has a literal meaning in the target language as *permainan kaki*. However, when the translator put it on the whole sentence, the meaning was out of context and unacceptable. So, the translator tried to understand the context. After understanding the context, the translator knew that this part was talking about the character’s father who had a wound and phrase *a game leg* was used to describe it. The translator assumed that this phrase was an idiom because it had idiom characteristic that Baker (65) already mentioned if an expression is hard to understand and it less makes sense in a given context, it is probably as an idiom.

Furthermore, the translator tried to find the meaning from another source. Based on the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, this phrase has the meaning as an injured or painful leg. Also, from the sentence, the translator knew the meaning of this phrase because this sentence already mentioned a wound that the character had. At first, the translator tried to translate this idiom using an equivalent idiom in TL, but there was no idiom in TL which had similar meaning

or form with the idiom in SL. After all, the translator decided to translate it by paraphrase as *kaki yang sakit*.

Table 3.6

Idiom 6

“Seat of my pants” – par. 27

Source language	Target language
Miguel came over and said that if I wanted to dig a ditch I would do better with a shovel instead of using the <u>seat of my pants</u> . I didn't appreciate that too much.	Miguel datang dan berkata jika aku ingin menggali parit, aku seharusnya menggunakan sekop daripada <u>melakukannya dengan sekedarnya..</u>  Aku tidak terlalu menghargai itu.

In this part, the character “I” fell because he was hit by bull when he was watching the bull arranged by a horse. Then, his friend named “Miguel” came and said the sentence above. The sentence contains phrase *seat of my pants* which the translator assumed as an idiom. From the first time the translator found this phrase, the translator was confused by its meaning and when the translator tried to translate this phrase literally as *kursi celana saya* the meaning was unacceptable because it was totally out of context. Furthermore, the translator tried to understand the context and after understanding the context the translator knew that this part was a satire that ‘Miguel’ used to quip character ‘I’ because he did something he had not mastered yet.

Moreover, the translator tried to find its meaning in the Cambridge Dictionary. Fortunately, the meaning was found and from the Cambridge

Dictionary, the translator knew that this phrase is an idiom. The meaning of this idiom based on the Cambridge Dictionary is ‘do something using only your own experience and trusting your own judgement’. The translator tried to find any idioms in TL that had similar meaning or form but the translator could not find any equivalent idioms. In this kind of case, the translator decided to translate the idiom by paraphrasing it as *melakukannya dengan sekedarnya*.

Table 3.7

Idiom 7

“Drink yourself silly” – par. 66

Source language	Target language
Rule No. 1 ~ No drinking. Anybody caught drinking while with the herd will be fired. When you get to Abiline you can <u>drink yourself silly</u> .	Peraturan nomor 1 ~ tidak boleh minum alkohol. Siapapun yang kedapatan minum alkohol saat sedang bertugas akan dipecat. Saat sudah sampai di Albine, bebas untuk <u>minum alkohol sampai mabuk</u> .

This part is the one of many rules that the crew of the cattle drive must obey. There is phrase *drink yourself silly* in this part which had a literal meaning in TL as *minum dirimu sendiri konyol*. This literal translation sounded weird and when the translator tried to put the literal meaning into the sentence it did not match, although the previous sentence already mentioned about drinking, specifically drinking alcohol. Furthermore, the translator tried to understand the context and

from the context, the translator knew that this phrase was used to describe something that allowed to do after the job had done.

Moreover, the translator tried to find the true meaning of this phrase from other sources. Fortunately, the translator found the true meaning in Cambridge Dictionary and based on Cambridge Dictionary, this phrase was an idiom and had the meaning as ‘to drink so much that you are unable to think clearly or behave with good judgement’. After knowing that this phrase was an idiom, the translator tried to find any equivalent idioms in TL that had similar meaning or form with this idiom. However, the equivalent idiom was not found and the translator decided to translate this idiom by paraphrasing it as *minum alkohol sampai mabuk*.

Table 3.8

Idiom 8

“Carry a tune” – par. 107

Source language	Target language
<p>“I heard you singing last night and you can <u>carry a tune</u> pretty good,” Chubb said. “Let’s hear you singing something.”</p>	<p>“Aku mendengarmu bernyanyi tadi malam dan kamu <u>bisa menyanyi dengan merdu</u>” kata Chubb. “Ijinkan kami mendengarmu menyanyikan sesuatu”</p>

In this part, there is the phrase *Carry a tune* which used by the character named “Chubb” after he heard his friend singing. When the translator read this

phrase, it sounded weird and when the translator tried to translate this phrase literally, the literal meaning was unacceptable. This phrase had a literal meaning in TL as *membawa nada*. In the first place, the translator assumed that this phrase was an idiom because it had one idiom characteristic that Baker (65) already mentioned. It violated truth condition. This phrase violated truth condition because a tune was not a thing that could be carried.

Furthermore, to strengthen his assumption the translator tried to find from other sources and found in Cambridge Dictionary that this phrase was an idiom and had the meaning as ‘to be able to sing the correct musical sounds of a tune’. Before translating this idiom by paraphrase, the translator tried to find any idioms in TL that have similar meaning or form with the idiom in SL. However, the translator could not find any idiom in the target language that has equivalent meaning. Since there was no counterpart in TL, the translator decided to translate the idiom by paraphrasing it as *bisa menyanyi dengan merdu*.

Table 3.9

Idiom 9

“kept his trap shut” – par. 175

Source language	Target language
<p>“That’s because you’re fool,” the Captain said. That didn’t set too well with Billy, but he bit his lip and <u>kept his trap shut</u>.</p>	<p>“Itu pasti karena kamu bodoh,” kata Kapten. Itu bukan jawaban yang Billy harapkan, tapi dia hanya menggigit bibirnya dan <u>tidak membicarakan hal itu lagi</u>.</p>

Next, is the phrase *kept his trap shut*. This phrase was used by the character to describe what his friend was doing after being scolded by his boss because he was telling his story that he ever pushed herd to walk one hundred miles in one day. In TL, this phrase had a literal meaning as *menjaga perangkapnya tetap tertutup*. This meaning still could be used in the TL because it did not match in the context. However, the translator still had an assumption that this phrase had another meaning. For relieving the curiosity, the translator tried to find the meaning of this phrase and found in Merriam-Webster Dictionary that this phrase was an idiom and had the meaning as ‘to not talk about something that someone doesn’t want known’.

From here, the translator tried to find its equivalent in TL and found idiom *tutup mulut*. Based on KBBI, this idiom had the meaning as *diam, tidak berkatakata*. At this point, the translator realized that both idioms from SL and TL had a similar meaning but dissimilar form. Those two idioms had the meaning that referred to the act of not speaking, but the lexical items from those two idioms were different. The word *trap* in SL had dissimilar meaning with word *mulut* in TL.

In order to avoid misleading from TL reader, the translator chose to paraphrase this idiom rather than using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Since the idiom in TL had both literal meaning and idiomatic meaning. The translator was afraid that the TL reader will not notice the idiomatic sense and assume that idiom *tutup mulut* is literal. So, the translator decided to translate the idiom is SL as *tidak membicarakan hal itu lagi*



Table 3.10

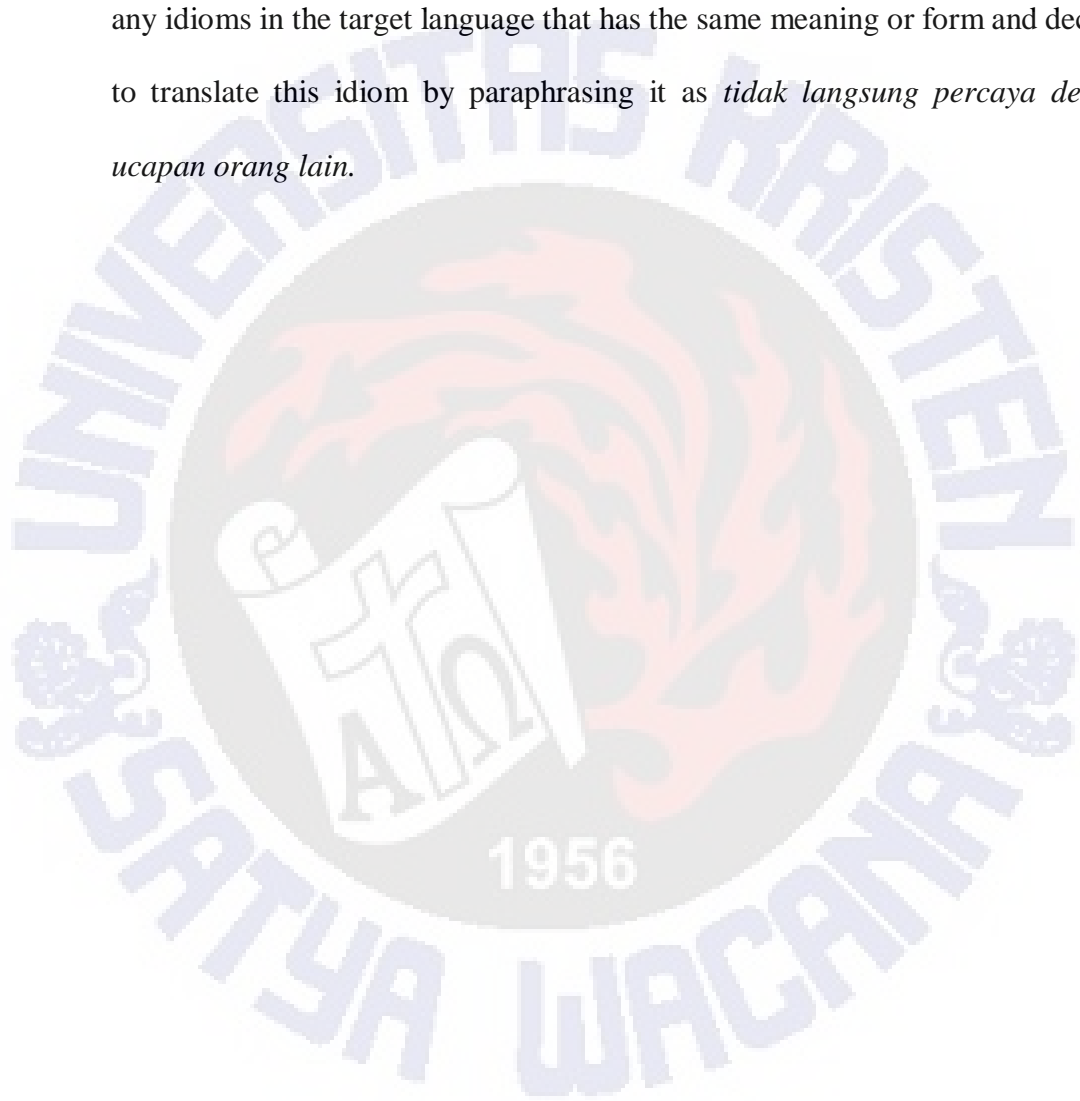
## Idiom 10

“Chewing more cud than they had” – par. 176

Source language	Target language
<p>“You pushed a herd a hundred miles in a day, you got a stampede, not a trail drive,” Timmy said. That sounded just about right to me and I was thinking that some of the cowboys on this drive were <u>chewing more cud than they had</u>. I guess if you didn’t know a lot you had to make up stuff.</p>	<p>“Kamu menggiring kawanan untuk melakukan perjalanan sejauh seratus mil dalam sehari, pasti itu adalah <i>stampede</i>, bukan sebuah perjalanan,” kata Timmy. Menurutku itu benar dan aku berpikir jika beberapa koboi dalam perjalanan <u>tidak langsung percaya dengan ucapan orang lain</u>. menurutku jika kamu tidak mengetahui banyak hal kamu harus membuat-buat tentang sesuatu..</p>

The last phrase is *Chewing more cud*. If this phrase is translated literally in TL its meaning will be *mengunyah lebih banyak*. When the translator tried to put this meaning in the whole sentence, it was unacceptable and totally out of context. Furthermore, the translator tried to understand the context and from the context, the translator knew that this part was not talking about chewing or eating something but it was about the character named ‘Timmy’ who did not trust his friend’s story about push a herd one hundred miles in one day and this phrase was used to describe Timmy’s scepticism.

Since the literal meaning was unacceptable, the translator tried to find the true meaning of this phrase and found in Cambridge Dictionary that this phrase was an idiom and had the meaning as ‘to think slowly and carefully about something’. After finding that this phrase was an idiom, the translator tried to translate this idiom using an idiom in TL. However, the translator could not find any idioms in the target language that has the same meaning or form and decided to translate this idiom by paraphrasing it as *tidak langsung percaya dengan ucapan orang lain*.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

In this research, the translator found ten idioms in the novel entitled *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871* and translated those idioms into target language using two suitable strategies of translating idiom by Mona Baker. Two idioms were translated using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form and eight idioms were translated by paraphrase. The idioms that have been translated using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form are: down in the mouth which is translated into dingin hati, and old hands which is translated into makan asam garam. The idioms that have been translated by paraphrase are: running the Captain through my mind which is translated into berpikir tentang si Kapten, short of hand which is translated into butuh bantuan, a game leg which is translated into kaki yang sakit, seat of my pants which is translated into melakukannya dengan sekedarnya, drink yourself silly which is translated into minum alkohol sampai mabuk, carry a tune which is translated into bisa menyanyi dengan merdu, kept his trap shut which is translated into tidak membicarakannya lagi and last is chewing more cud than they had which is translated into tidak langsung percaya dengan ucapan orang lain.

Before translating idioms using those strategies, the translator needed to know that those phrases were idioms, after the translator sure that those phrases were idiom, the translator tried the strategies one by one to find the suitable strategy for translating each idiom. At first, the translator tried to translate idiom using similar meaning and form, but when the counterpart idiom was not found the translator tried to find idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form and if this strategy could not find the right idiom, the translator translated the idioms by paraphrasing. From those strategies that the translator used to

translate idioms, the translator concluded that the most suitable strategy to translate idioms in the novel *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisholm Trail, 1871* is translating by paraphrase because after considering aspects that have been mentioned above, this strategy is least risky than the other strategies.

Translating idioms can be a difficult obstacle for a translator, but that is a duty for every translator. Without idioms, literary works like novel will not be interesting to read because idioms make literary works more dramatic. Based on the research, the translator concluded that translating idioms was not a simple and easy thing because there were steps to do, even before translating idioms the translator has to struggle to recognize the idioms. Moreover, a lot of aspects that must be considered, such as cultural differences and the context in which the idiom can be used in the source language may be different with the target language. However, if a translator knows the right strategy to translate the idiom and supported with good knowledge from both SL and TL, translating idiom is no longer a difficult thing.

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## GLOSSARY

Big dipper: (n) the seven principal stars in the constellation of Ursa Major.

Bunkhouse: (n) a rough simple building providing sleeping quarters.

Cantle: (n) the upward projecting rear part of a saddle.

Chuck wagon: (n) a wagon carrying supplies and provisions for cooking (as on a ranch).

Counterpart: (n) one of two corresponding copies of a legal instrument.

Cud: (n) food brought up into the mouth by a ruminating animal from its rumen to be

Equivalent: (adj) having the same amount, value, purpose, qualities, etc.

Harness: (n) a piece of equipment with straps and belts, used to control or hold in place a person, animal, or object.

Introspective: (adj) characterized by examination of one's own thoughts and feelings.

Longhorn: (n) a cow from a breed with long horns.

Marshal: (n) a high official in the household of a medieval king, prince, or noble originally having charge of the cavalry but later usually in command of the military forces.

New testament: (n) the second of the two main parts of the Christian Bible containing the books written after the birth of Jesus Christ.

Old testament: (n) the first of the two main parts of the Christian Bible, which records the history of the Jewish people before the birth of Jesus.

Remuda: (n) the herd of horses from which those to be used for the day are chosen.

chewed again.

Spur: (n) a pointed device secured to a rider's heel and used to urge on the horse.

Stampede: (n) a wild headlong rush or flight of frightened animals.

Trail: (n) a path through a countryside, mountain, or forest area, often made or used for a particular purpose.

