

Men on Boats
by Jaclyn Backhaus

A Note from the Dramaturgs

Dear Reader,

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive guide to understanding *Men on Boats* by Jaclyn Backhaus. The information we have compiled can help you pull deeper meanings from the plot, connect history and fiction, and begin to understand what is at stake for these characters. This play follows the real life expedition of John Wesley Powell and his men from May 30th – August 30th of 1869. Understanding the history behind this time and place, as well as the complex boating terminology and nuances, will help you to draw new meaning from the text. With the deep knowledge of these aspects, you can give new life to this play's characters.

Kayla Salter and Madelyn Barkocy
Co-Dramaturgs

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The Journey

Prologue

- May 24th
- Pushing off from Green River City

Scene 1.1

- May 30th
- Running the rapids of Flaming Gorge

Scenes 1.2 – 1.5

- May 31st – June 1st
- Meeting the boats
- Running the rapids from Knife's Point
- Portaging

Scene 1.6

- June 2nd
- Finding Ashley
- Portaging

Scene 1.7

- June 3rd – June 7th
- Camping at Beehive Point

Scene 1.8

- June 8th
- Naming of Dunn's Cliff
- Plan to continue through the rapids

Scene 1.9

- June 9th
- Running the rapids from Dunn's Cliff
 - Located in Lodore Canyon near Disaster Falls
- Lost Ship – *No Name*

Scene 1.10 – 2.2

- June 10th – June 12th
- Inventory of provisions

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