**Iditarod Dream**  
By Ted Wood  
Genre: Nonfiction

**Focus Skill:** Draw Conclusions  
**Focus Strategy:** Read Ahead

**Directions:** After reading the story “Iditarod Dream” by Ted Wood, answer the questions with information from the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.) What does this selection retell?</th>
<th>This selection describes the experiences of Dusty Whittemore as he competes in the Jr. Iditarod. (p. 186)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>One at a time the fifteen racers pick numbers from a hat to set their starting positions in tomorrow’s race. (p. 188)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is no number 1 position competing in the race; instead the slot is reserved to honor a dedicated supporter of that year’s Jr. Iditarod race. (p. 188)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4.) Why is Dusty glad the temperature is zero degrees?

It’s zero degrees, which is perfect for the dogs. Any warmer, and they would overheat.
(p. 189)

5.) Why does the starting place of this race concern Dusty?

The lake is barely covered with snow and is so hard that if he loses control at the start, he could get dragged across the lake. His safety hook, used to stop and hold the sled, won’t be able to grab the ice.
(p. 189)

6.) According to the selection, how much dog food must each racer carry on the sled?

Every racer must carry two pounds of food per dog in case of emergency, and must finish with the same amount.
(p. 189)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.) Why is a tangle a musher’s second-worst nightmare?</td>
<td>A tangle is a musher’s second-worst nightmare. The dogs can injure their feet in the lines, or strangle when they wrap around each other. (p. 192)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.) Why did Dusty lose the previous year’s race?</td>
<td>Trails cross in every direction at the lake, and it’s here that Dusty got lost last year. (p. 193)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.) Why does Dusty replace Annie as lead dog?</td>
<td>He decides to take Annie off the lead. She’s been looking back while running and seems nervous. She must not have recovered from the encounter with the snowmobile, Dusty thinks. (p. 193)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.) Why does Dusty leave Yentna at three-thirty in the morning?</td>
<td>Everyone is required to stay at Yentna ten hours. Dusty arrived so early that his departure time is three-thirty the next morning. (p. 195)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
11.) Why does Dusty help build a fire at Yentna?

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He decides not to sleep and helps the other racers build a big fire in the snow. They all help each other; that’s the rule of the wilderness.

(p. 195)

12.) What rumor is started about Dusty?

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Because he ran so fast, rumors are flying that Dusty has mistreated his dogs, pushing them too hard.

(p. 196)
13.) Why does Dusty have to lift a dog’s front legs off the ground when he walks it from the truck?

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14.) How does everyone know that Dusty has not hurt his dogs?

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