

# HACKMATAACK

## 2006

### ***The Adventures of Tommy Smith***

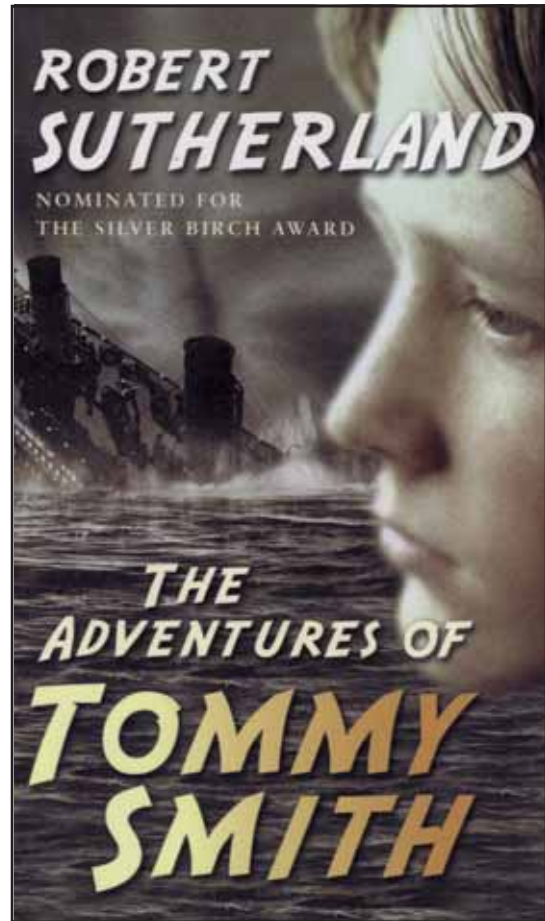
by Robert Sutherland

In 1882 the S.S. Asia, a dangerously overloaded passenger ship, went down in gale force winds in Georgian Bay, Ontario. More than 100 passengers died in the wreck.

Tommy Smith, a young orphan, barely survives the sinking. He should feel lucky. But months after being nursed back to health by some kindly natives, Tommy discovers that he's been framed for murder.

A heated argument that he witnessed before he got on the boat resulted in a man's death, and now Tommy is accused of killing the victim. It's a good thing everyone believes Tommy drowned in the sinking, allowing him to take on a brand-new identity in Toronto- and a wonderful new job with the circus. But when his past suddenly catches up with him, Tommy must run for his life in a race against time.

Based on the events surrounding the actual sinking of the S.S. Asia, *The Adventures of Tommy Smith* is exciting and gripping historical fiction at its best.



#### **Thematic Links:**

Great Lakes

Shipping

Famous ship wrecks, S.S. Asia

Solving mysteries, crime, evidence

Circuses

Human relations with animals and particularly horses

#### **Activity Ideas:**

- Find out about other shipping disasters on the Great Lakes. How was the wreck of the S.S. Asia different? Did that wreck actually happen the way the author described it in this book?
- Build a model of the S.S. Asia. How many different kinds of materials can your class think of to use?
- Make a large map of where Tommy Smith traveled, beginning with when he got on the ship to when he was saved at the end.