

STUDY GUIDE

NORTH COUNTRY



Director: Niki Caro, USA 2005

Setting: Northern Minnesota

1. Complete the Synopsis with words below:

North Country is a story of a _____ mother who rallies her coworkers to rise above the unfair treatment they face at a local mining company. In the wake of a _____ marriage, Josey Aimes returns to her hometown in Northern Minnesota hoping to build a better life for herself and her two children. _____ by her friend Glory, one of the few female miners in town, Josey takes a job at the mine. She's prepared for the back-breaking and often _____ work, but coping with the harassment she and the other female miners encounter from their male coworkers proves far more _____. Josey's attempts to carve out a better future for her family put her at _____ with her children, her disapproving parents and her community. It is through this _____ that Josey finds the courage to stand up for what she believes in - even if that means standing alone. Ultimately, her _____ takes her farther than she could have ever imagined and inspires countless others to follow.

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|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|
| odds | challenging | failed | dangerous | encouraged | struggle | journey |
| single | | | | | | |

2. Identify the main characters:
3. Why does Josey need work?
4. How are the women treated in the workplace? Describe some of the treatment they receive.
5. How do the various women react and respond to the treatment? Compare Josey's attitude and reactions to some of the longer serving women employee's reactions.
6. Do you consider this harassment? Explain why/ why not.

7. Josey took legal action. What were the key claims she was making? Did other women join her? How did the other miners react? What was the reaction of management?
8. What suggestions could you make for management to handle this differently?