

## 1: Granite & Susan Butcher – Hero & Heroine – Iditarod

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Posted by Sanka W. Dog in Reading and Writing , Sanka W. October 19, 7: Without Susan, Granite might have become a house pet. Without Granite, Susan might have been just an ordinary musher. Together they accomplished remarkable feats. It only seems fitting that our Hero Granite and our Heroine Susan be featured in the same story. As a puppy, Granite was the smallest of the litter and sickly. Folks advised Susan to give him away. However, right from the beginning Susan believed in the little pup and wanted him to succeed. Susan says he was afraid of his own shadow but he worked hard and loved to race. During that race Granite got the chance to show her what a great athlete and leader he could be. In the fall of , Granite collapsed on a run. Realizing that Granite was seriously ill, Susan rushed him to a vet where he was diagnosed with a kidney infection that caused a heat stroke. As a result, Granite would have to live with permanent heart, liver, kidney and brain damage – IF he lived at all. Susan stayed with him for every minute of two long scary weeks. Granite showed some improvement but the vet, sure that Granite would not live long, said his racing days were over. After returning home, he was NOT happy staying behind while the other dogs went out on training runs. With permission from the vet, Susan began taking Granite for short walks then she let Granite run loose with the puppies. Then he began pulling the sled, leading for two-mile puppy runs. But no, Granite lead for the entire distance! Later that winter, Susan decided to run Granite in the Portage , a short race out of Unalakleet. Nearing the finish, Susan, Granite and their team of two-year-old dogs were in the lead until Rick Swenson passed them. He literally turned on the burners and towed his young teammates down the trail. Worried that Granite was working too hard, Susan stopped the team and waited until Rick was out of sight before continuing on. Still determined to catch and pass Swenson, Granite charged down the trail leaving the young dogs no choice but to keep up. Before long, Granite and team passed Swenson and won the race. At that point Susan knew Granite was back and ready to run in Iditarod where they claimed a third consecutive win. With his remarkable comeback in , Granite was awarded the Lolly Medley Golden Harness Award for being the lead dog making the greatest contribution to the race. Our Heroine, Susan Butcher is the only woman to win Iditarod multiple times. Setting new time records, she won three consecutive races between and and then claimed a fourth victory in Susan completed her rookie Iditarod in and then ran every year through In seventeen races, she finished in the top 10 fifteen times. Susan, along with Iditarod founder, Joe Redington, Sr. But after she won multiple Iditarods, people changed their tune. Now they said she wins because she takes the best care of her dogs and they take care of her. An angry moose charged the team. Granite was in the lead and fought the animal to defend his teammates. The moose kicked Granite into a tree and injured several other dogs. Although in the lead, Susan had to withdraw from the race to care for her disabled dogs. They went home and Susan tended to their injuries and nursed the dogs back to health. In , Susan received the shocking news that she had leukemia. She fought the disease with all of the strength and spunk she was known for. Sadly, Susan lost the fight against cancer in August of I see heroes everyday who are living proof. Here are a couple of questions for you to research. Besides Susan and Granite, what other mushers and lead dogs have three consecutive Iditarod victories? Can you name the other mushers who have achieved four Iditarod Championships? When you encounter a barrier, do what Susan and Granite would do, turn it into a hurdle.

## 2: Susan Butcher - Wikipedia

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### 5: Susan Butcher: Determination - Fritz Knapp - Google Books

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### 7: Notice of Interruption - Anchorage Daily News

*This picture book introduces us to Granite, one of the dogs used by Iditarod Trail racer Susan Butcher in her races in the 's. Granite was the runt of his litter, and but Susan felt a bond to him.*

### 8: Granite by Susan Butcher

*As part of the acclaimed Sports Virtues series, "Susan Butcher: Determination" discusses the struggles and triumphs of Susan Butcher's life. As with each story in the Sports Virtues series, this book assigns a virtue to a celebrated athlete or coach, and uses that person's story to help the reader achieve that virtue for him or herself.*

### 9: Wright Literacy, Susan Butcher: Racing in the North (Early Fluency) 6-pack

*I read Susan Butcher and the Iditarod Trial.I thought this book was good but it took a few chapters to get into the [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) book was about a lady called Susan Butcher,she was a [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) was the first woman to become a dogsledder.*

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