Little Island
Golden MacDonald and Leonard Weisgard
A Study Guide
Written by Garrett Christopher
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For the Teacher

This reproducible Little Novel-Ties study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book The Little Island. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your whole language reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author and illustrator; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary; visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that link the story to other curriculum areas.

Suggestions For Using Activities

Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read

These activities are designed to activate children’s prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group or with the entire class.

Word Study – Word Pictures

This page presents examples and brief instructional material on adjectives, which are called “describing words.” After children discuss several adjectives presented in sentences taken from the story, they are directed to supply adjectives to complete additional sentences.

Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions

The Story Questions include a number of literal, inferential and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. Depending upon the level of the group, you may wish to have children respond orally or in writing. The Picture Questions help children draw inferences from the illustrations.
BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the book title.  
Then look at the picture on the cover.  
What is an island?

2. Could a person walk to an island?  
Could a person swim or sail around an island?  
Name some ways a person could reach an island.

3. Pretend you could visit a little island.  
Make a list of things you would do.  
Then list some things you might see.  
Be ready to talk about your lists with a partner.

4. Draw a picture of an island.  
Show some things that might grow on the island.  
Show some animals that might live on the island.
STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did the tides and fog do to the little Island?

2. What did spring look like on the Island?

3. Why did lobsters come to the Island?

4. Why did the seals come to the Island?

5. When did people come to the Island? Why did they come?

6. Tell some ways the kitten is like a real cat. Tell some ways that it is like a make-believe cat.

7. What does the cat learn about the Island? How does the cat learn this?

8. Why does the cat let the fish go?

9. What things change on the Island during a storm?

10. The Island changes with each season. During which season would you like to visit the Island? Tell what you might see and do during your visit.