

Novel·Ties

The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo Judy Blume



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel on its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for guided reading by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter or group of chapters; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

2. Being in the middle can be good or bad. For example, the middle of a jelly doughnut is good, but being in the middle of an argument is bad. List five things that are in the middle and tell whether they are good or bad.

	Good or Bad
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

3. Become a kangaroo expert. Get some library books about kangaroos and learn the following:
- How do kangaroos look?
 - Where do they live?
 - What do they eat?
 - How do kangaroos move?
 - How do kangaroos care for their young?
4. Use your imagination to think of what you could wear as a costume in a school play if you were anyone of the following:
- rabbit
 - lion
 - kangaroo
 - tree
 - telephone

Chapter 1 (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Freddy's parents are fair to him?
2. Do you think hand-me-downs are a good idea? Have you ever received any?
3. What do you think Freddy means when he says that he will always be "a great big middle nothing"?

Writing Activity:

Pretend you are Freddy. Your baby sister Ellen has just been born. Your parents tell you that you must give up your own room so that the baby can move in. From now on, you will have to share a room with your older brother Mike.

Write a letter to your parents telling them how you feel.

<hr/> <i>(date)</i>
Dear Mom and Dad,
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
Love, Freddy