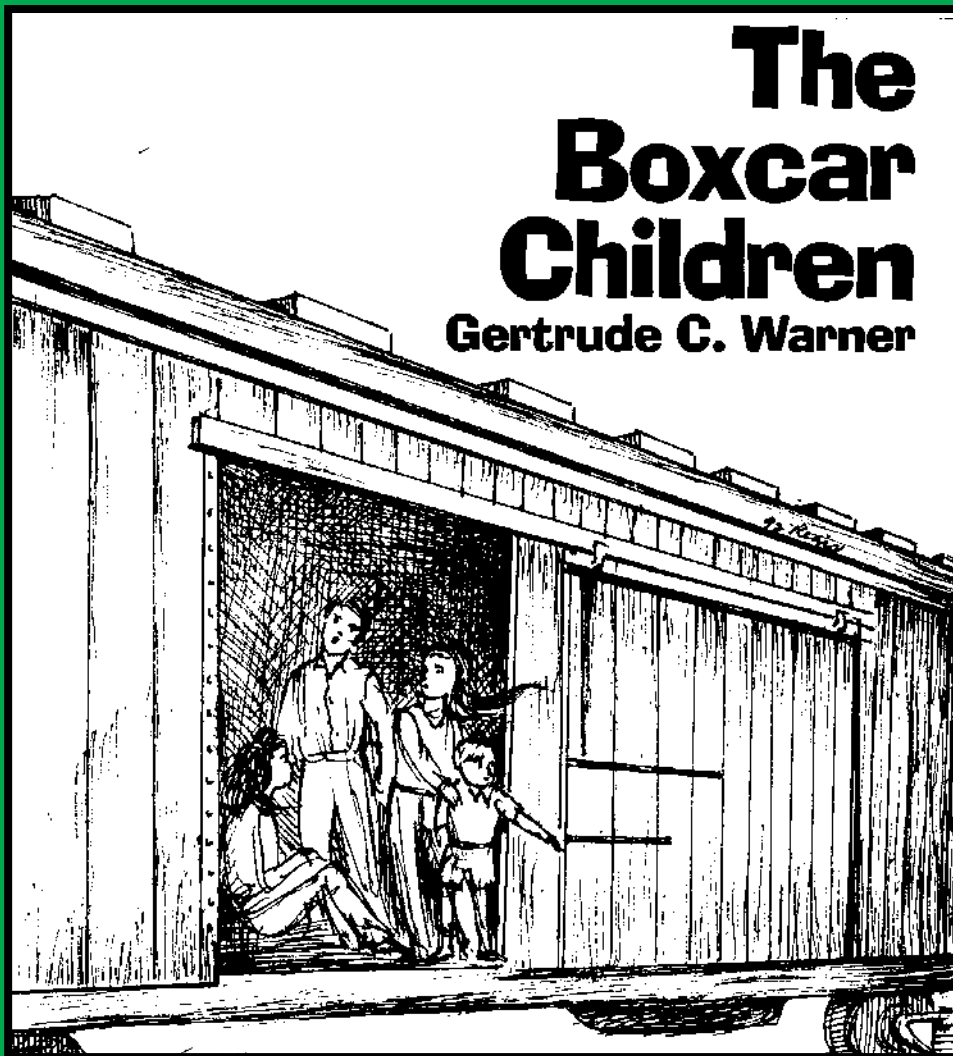


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with a specific novel consists of lessons for guided reading. 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.

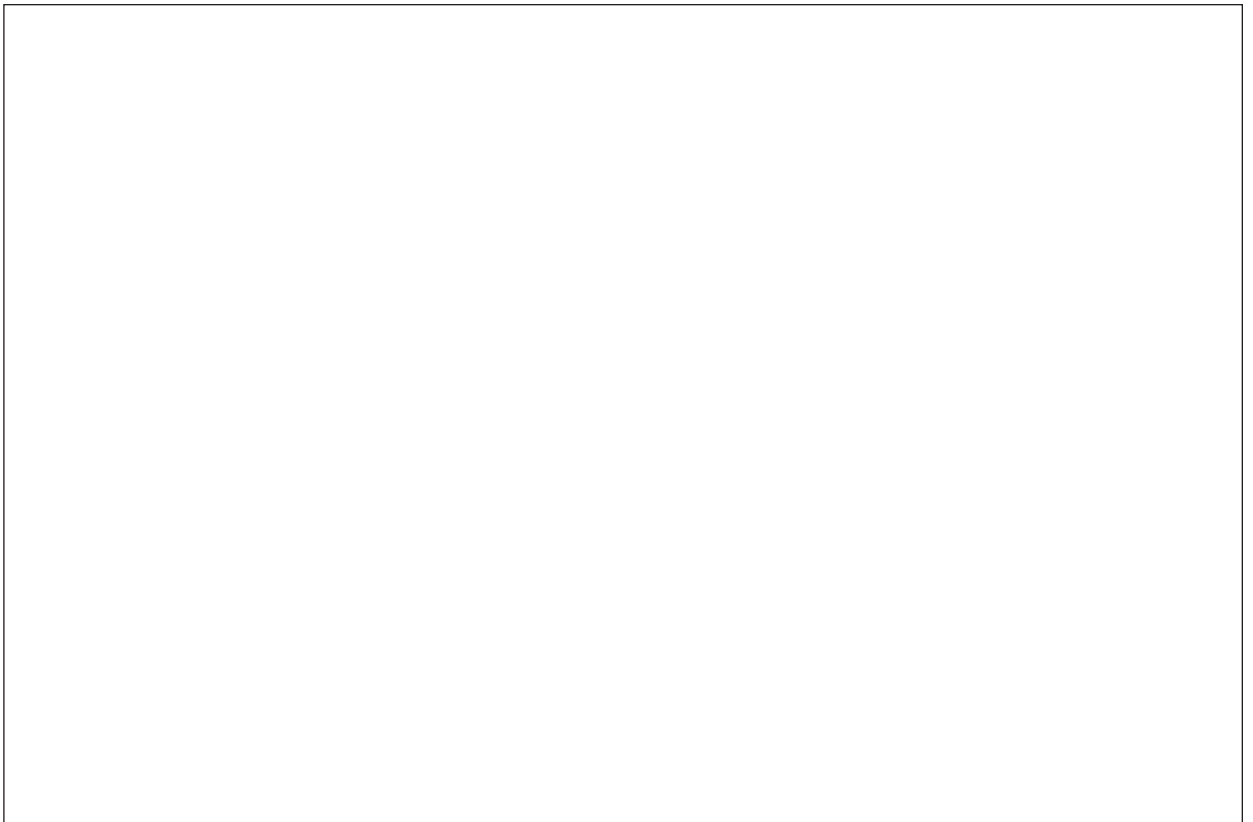
In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel on its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide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

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development 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; 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, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think the book will be about? Where and when does it take place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. *The Boxcar Children* is the first in a series of books written about the Alden children. Have you read any other book in the *Boxcar Children* series? Have you ever read another book that is part of a series? What was the book? Can you think of any advantages of reading a book in a series? Can you think of any disadvantages?
3. The four children in this story live in an unusual place—a boxcar, also known as a railroad freight car. Have you ever thought about living in an unusual spot? Write a paragraph describing this place and tell what you would need to do to turn it into a home. List several advantages and disadvantages of making this place a home. Draw a picture of this unusual home in the space below.



CHAPTERS I, II

Vocabulary: A compound word is made up of two shorter words.
For example:

raincoat = rain + coat sunset = sun + set

Sometimes you can use the meaning of these shorter words to help you figure out the meaning of the compound word. For example, a raincoat is a coat that you wear in the rain. Read each compound word below and write the two words that make up the compound. Then use these words to help you write a meaning for the compound.

1. workbag = _____ + _____
meaning: _____
2. farmhouse = _____ + _____
meaning: _____
3. haystack = _____ + _____
meaning: _____
4. moonlight = _____ + _____
meaning: _____
5. boxcar = _____ + _____
meaning: _____

Use the compound words to fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

1. Food was stacked in the _____ while the train was at the station.
2. Violet carried the _____, which was full of tools, while Jessie carried the laundry bag.
3. Because of the _____, the children were not afraid to walk outdoors at night.