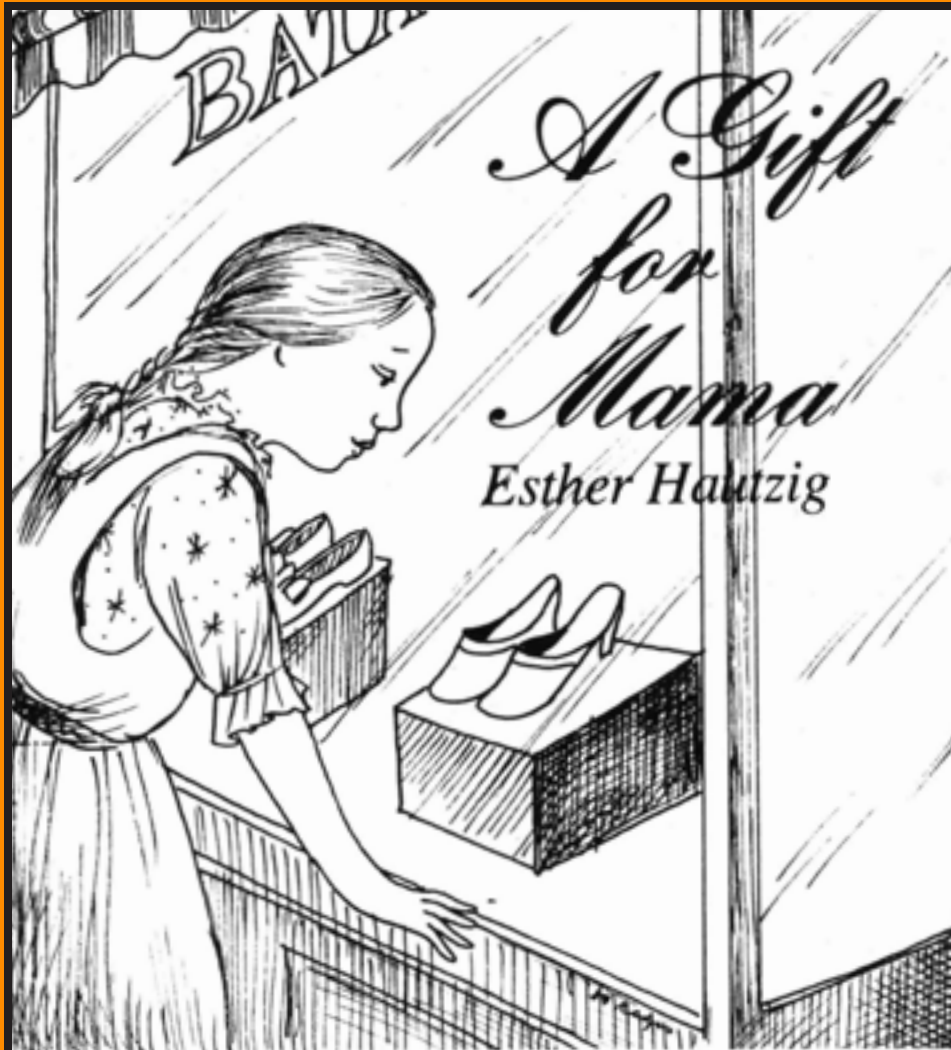


Novel·Ties



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 *A Gift for Mama*. 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.

CHAPTER 1

Background Information:

Hanukka is a Jewish festival that lasts eight days, beginning on the twenty-fifth day of the Jewish month of Kislev. It usually occurs in December. This festival commemorates the victory of Judah the Maccabee over the Hellenistic Syrians who occupied the land of Israel around 165 B.C. and desecrated the Jews' temple in Jerusalem. By lighting the Menorah, an eight-stemmed candelabrum, Jews celebrate the miracle of the one jar of sacramental oil that burned for eight days when the Temple was rededicated.

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to the word or phrase which best fits its meaning. Then use each of the words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. tradition | a. many-layered cake with creamy fillings |
| 2. Napoleon cake | b. cloth |
| 3. sideboard | c. a belief or way of doing something that is handed down from one generation to another |
| 4. fabric | d. a piece of dining-room furniture from which food is served |

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1. Wonderful odors came from the food on the _____.
2. _____ is my favorite dessert.
3. The drapery _____ was gold and blue.
4. In our family it has become a _____ for the children to spend every summer with Grandma.

Questions:

1. How do you know that Sara's parents appreciate her handmade gifts?
2. How does Sara choose to break with family tradition?
3. Why does Sara think that the slippers are a perfect present for her mother?
4. Why doesn't Sara receive an allowance? Do you think this is right? Explain.
5. What problem does Sara face in buying a gift for her mother?

CHAPTER 2

Vocabulary: Circle the letter of the word or phrase that means the same thing as the underlined word.

1. Margola's friends had such enormous appetites that Sara wondered if they were starving before they came.
a. tiny b. huge c. poor d. foolish
2. Since Poland did not manufacture machinery, Sara's father had to import it from Germany.
a. allow b. send out c. carry d. bring in
3. Mama enjoyed having elegant parties where she used her best pottery bowls and silver.
a. fancy b. busy c. crowded d. small
4. People preferred the miniature pastries they could eat with their fingers to large, messy pieces of cake.
a. individual b. decorated c. small d. sweet
5. The poor university students wore frayed collars and patches on their jackets.
a. old b. worn c. starched d. wrinkled

Questions:

1. Why does Sara go to Aunt Margola for help with her problem?
2. Why does Margola often come to Sara's house with her friends from the university? What does this tell you about Mama?
3. What does Sara notice about Aunt Margola's friends?
4. How do you know that Mama is pleased with the visit of Margola and her friends?

Writing Activity:

Tell about a relative you feel particularly close to. What is it about this person that makes you feel as you do? Tell how you would plan the day if you could spend twenty-four hours with this person.