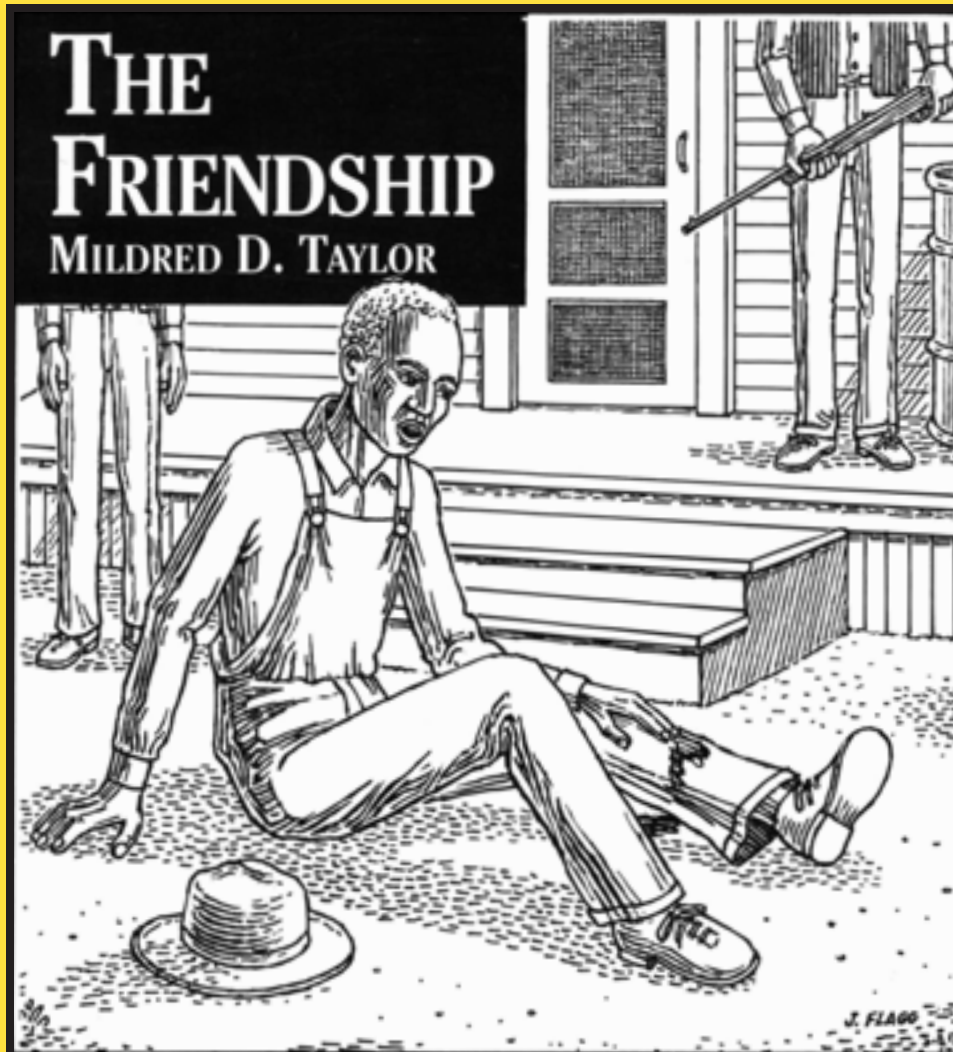


Novel·Ties



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 *The Friendship*. 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.

Dialect

Mildred D. Taylor incorporated a southern dialect into *The Friendship*. Her dialect transcription included grammatical changes such as dropping the subject of a sentence as well as incorporating nonstandard subject-verb agreement and pronoun use. There were also spelling changes such as the dropping of letters in a word (nothin'), respelling words to replicate the dialect (ole), and combining words (don'tcha). Taylor also made use of colorful words and expressions such as “like it just fine” and “them old britchers done stretched way too big.” This use of dialect is easy to read and effective in giving the novel a sense of place.

About the Author

Mildred D. Taylor was born on September 13, 1943 in Jackson, Mississippi, and grew up in Toledo, Ohio. After graduating from the University of Toledo, she spent two years in Ethiopia as a Peace Corps volunteer. While going to school, Taylor was dismayed to find that the textbooks did not accurately depict the contributions of African-Americans or the injustices they had faced. Because of this, Taylor dedicated herself to presenting a truer picture of African-Americans based on her own experiences. Her books for children reflect pride in her racial heritage and provide historical fiction about the lives of African American families. She has won many awards for her writings including the Newbery Medal in 1977 for *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. The author received this award on behalf of her father without whose teachings and words of wisdom she would not have succeeded.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

9. Mildred Taylor, the author of *The Friendship*, has said that the source of her stories are the tales her father told her and her daydreams. What do you daydream about? Would your daydreams make good stories?

10. Prejudice is an opinion formed without taking the time and care to judge fairly. In a class discussion, explore the nature of prejudice. You might wish to use the following questions as a way to begin your discussion:
 - What do you think causes people to be prejudiced?
 - What different forms of prejudice have you witnessed personally, seen on television or in the movies, or read about?
 - What do you think can be done to overcome prejudice?

11. Use the Response Journal sheet on page six of this study guide to record your personal reactions to each section of the book. Make copies of this page as needed.