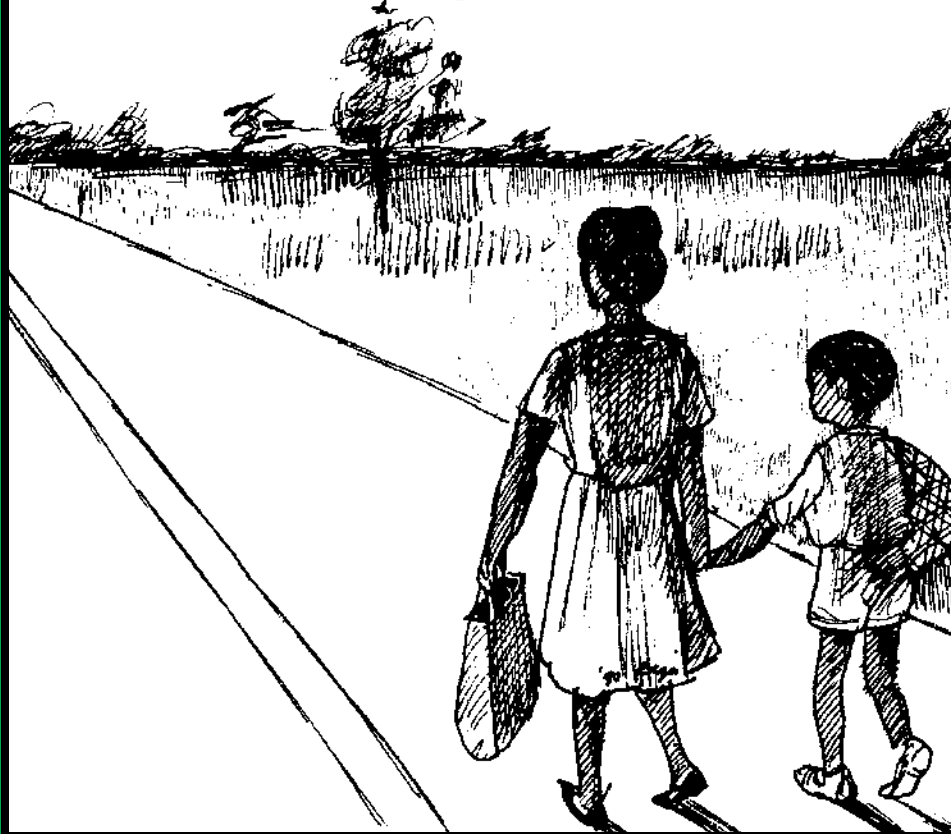


Novel·Ties

Journey to Jo'burg

Beverley Naidoo



A Study Guide

Written By Meish Goldish

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Journey to Jo'burg* 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 at its own 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.

riages was lifted in 1985 and the pass laws, which restricted the movement of nonwhites, were repealed in 1986. In October 1989, President F.W. de Klerk permitted anti-apartheid demonstrations; the Separate Amenities Act was abolished in 1990 and a new constitution promised. In 1990, Nelson Mandela, a leading figure in the African National Congress, was finally released from prison. In 1991, the remaining major discriminating laws embodied in apartheid were repealed, including the Population Registration Act of 1950, which had made it necessary for every citizen to be classified into one of nine racial groups. The final phase in the ending of apartheid was evidenced by the fixing of multiracial elections for both the state presidency and the new nonracial assembly in April 1994.

The Homelands

After the National Party came to power in 1948, certain areas, which had traditionally been the home of rural blacks, were set aside by the government to be occupied and governed exclusively by blacks. These were called “homelands.” They were divided along tribal lines and the government ostensibly laid the foundation for each homeland to become “independent.” Of South African’s ten homelands only four chose “independence.”

In 1970, the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act was passed. Under this law all blacks were forced to become citizens of one of the “independent” or non-“independent” homelands regardless of whether they lived there or not. Millions of black people living in urban areas resented being told by the government that they belonged to a certain “homeland,” even though they might be second- or third-generation city dwellers.

Soweto

This city, within commuting distance of Johannesburg, houses approximately two million black people. Although there is a growing number of professional black people, this city is the home of most of Johannesburg’s black workers. Soweto suffers from overcrowding and a thick smog resulting from myriad coal fires. For most of its poor inhabitants, electricity remains too expensive. As in most large cities where there is overcrowding and unemployment, crime and violence plague Soweto.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. Where and when do you think the events in this book take place? What do you think the book will be about? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Read the Background Information on pages two, three, and four of this study guide and do some additional research to learn about the history of South Africa. Pay particular attention to the information on *apartheid* and its effect on all parts of the population. Also, learn about the Pass system, which controlled every aspect of life for the non-white part of the population until 1991 when all of these laws were finally repealed.
3. As this book was written and as you read it today, conflicts and resulting changes are still occurring in South Africa. Read newspaper and magazine articles to learn all you can about South Africa today. Learn about recent reforms and reforms that still need to be made.
4. Do some research to learn about the life of Nelson Mandela and his role in ending the system of apartheid in South Africa.
5. **Social Studies Connection:** Find South Africa on a globe or world map: locate the city of Johannesburg. Then, look at the map at the beginning of the book that shows the children's route from the village to Johannesburg. Figure out the length of their trip in miles and kilometers and try to guess how long this trip would take as they traveled on foot, by truck, and by train.
6. Read the dedication at the beginning of the book. Based upon what you know about South Africa, who and what circumstances do you think might have inspired this story?
7. With your classmates, discuss the racial problems that exist today in America and possibly in your own community. Try to determine how and why these problems came about and whether anything is being done to bring about positive change. As you read the book, compare these issues with those that did exist and still persist in South Africa.
8. Have you ever taken a long journey to another city, state, or country? How did you travel? What interesting or unusual places did you see along the way? What kind of people did you meet? Did anything exciting or dangerous happen during your trip? Did you learn anything that changed your life?
9. Notice the Glossary at the end of the book and refer to it as you encounter these words while reading the novel.