

Novel·Ties

FREEDOM CROSSING

MARGARET GOFF CLARK



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 the novel *Freedom Crossing* 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.

HISTORICAL PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE NOVEL

Nat Turner

A slave preacher, Turner led a slave revolt in Southhampton County, Virginia, in 1831. Approximately sixty whites were put to death and more than one hundred slaves lost their lives. Turner managed to escape, but was later tracked down, tried, and hanged.

Harriet Tubman

A runaway slave and member of the Underground Railroad, Tubman escaped from slavery in Maryland. She returned to the South nineteen times to assist hundreds of slaves to escape through the Underground Railroad. Known as the Moses of her people, Harriet Tubman had the support of many Americans who provided hiding places, or “stations,” along the Underground Railroad. This courageous woman never lost one of her “passengers.”

Henry Clay

An American statesman during the period preceding the Civil War, Clay was one of the most important congressional leaders of the period. He was known as the Great Compromiser for his ability to negotiate between the North and the South over the question of slavery. His Compromise of 1850 brought California into the Union as a free state, ended the slave trade in the capital while not abolishing slavery there, and included other provisions designed to balance northern and southern interests. The most controversial part of this compromise was the Fugitive Slave Law, which guaranteed slave owners the return of their runaways.

Frederick Douglass

An escaped slave and abolitionist, Douglass was one of the most well-known blacks of the nineteenth century and one of the greatest of all antislavery speakers. Escaping from slavery in Maryland, he first became involved with the abolitionist movement in 1841 when he attended an antislavery convention in Nantucket, Massachusetts. He then traveled throughout the North lecturing on abolition. In 1847, he started the *North Star* (later *Frederick Douglass' Paper*), a newspaper dedicated to abolition.

NEW YORK

