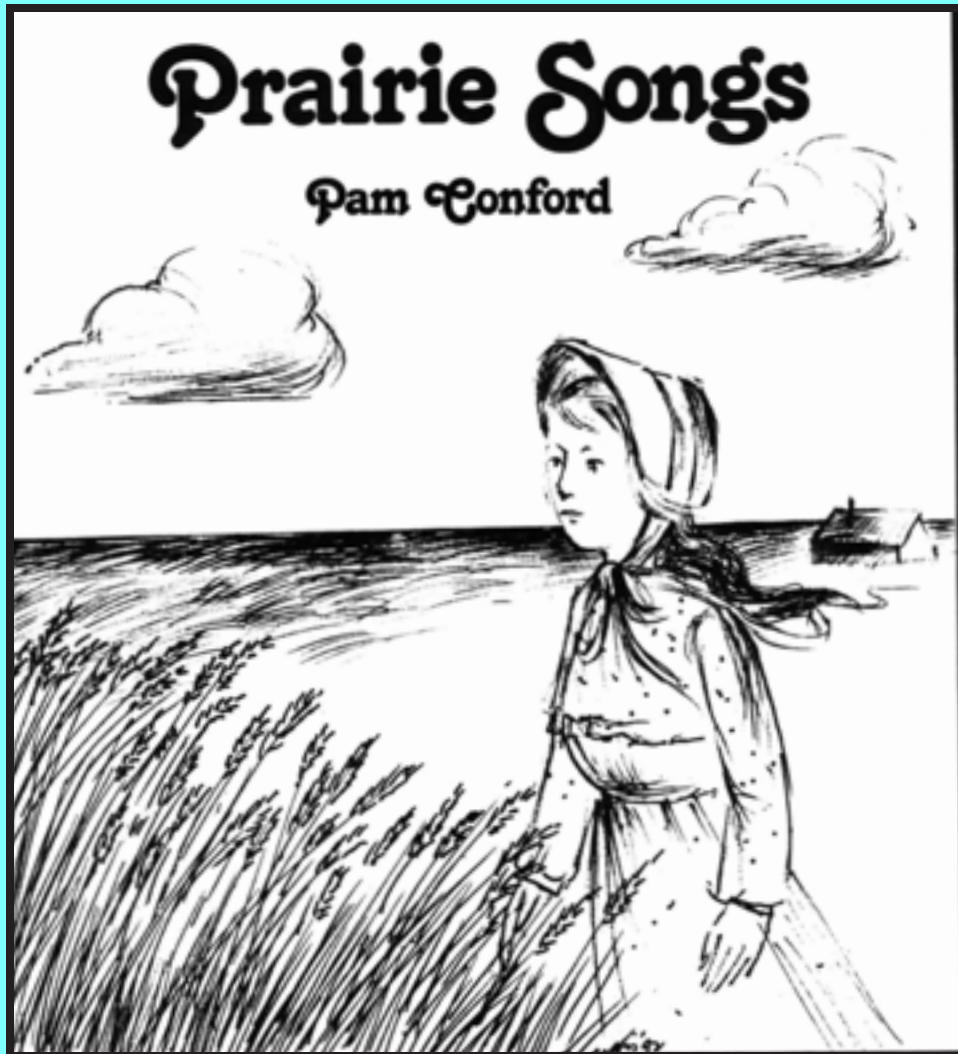


Novel•Ties



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 *Prairie Songs*. 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.

GLOSSARY OF PRAIRIE TERMS

cornmeal cakes	small cakes made from ground corn, something like corn-bread
cottonwood	poplar tree with cottony hairs on the seeds
cow chips	waste matter dropped by cows; manure
coyote	small wolf of the Western prairie
flour-sack curtains	window coverings made from printed cotton bags that had contained flour
grasslands	land covered with grasses rather than with trees
gunnysacks	sacks made of a coarse heavy fabric of jute or hemp
jackrabbit	large hare with long ears and strong hind legs
prairie	flat or rolling grassland without many trees
prairie brick	“bricks” cut from sod and used for building
prairie dog	small barking animal, something like a squirrel
prairie flowers	wildflowers that grow on the prairie, such as asters, blazing stars, cornflowers, goldenrods and sunflowers
prairie grass	thick cover of grasses on the prairie, actually consisting of many different species of grasses
prairie pioneer	early settler on the prairie
sod	top layer of earth, including grass and its roots
soddy	house made of blocks of sod piled on top of each other
windmill	water pump driven by the wind, which turns a wheel of vanes at the top of a tower

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. eternity | a. make fun of, jeer at |
| 2. glare | b. cultured and polished in manners and tastes |
| 3. refined | c. unconscious, unaware |
| 4. taunt | d. held fast as if by magic, enchanted |
| 5. undefined | e. silly, not serious |
| 6. spellbound | f. stare in an angry way |
| 7. frivolous | g. without clear outlines |
| 8. oblivious | h. endless time |

.....

- At first, the figures coming toward us in the distance were _____, but gradually they could be recognized.
- Having never been away from the prairie, Louisa was _____ by Mrs. Berryman's loveliness.
- Observing Mrs. Berryman's elegant dress and _____ manners, Louisa concluded that she was a typical woman from New York City.
- The sight of the prairie at sunset with the shadows from the tall grass dancing before my eyes will be etched for _____ in my memory.
- Pioneer women, accustomed to lives of hard work, considered Mrs. Berryman's lace and frills as too _____ for life in the West.
- Being outgoing and friendly, Louisa would often _____ her brother Lester for being so shy.
- As we stood facing into the sun, we were _____ of the approaching wagon.
- When Lester became angry at his sister, he would clench his teeth and _____ at her, making no sound at all.

Questions:

- Why was Louisa critical of her brother?
- What was meant by the phrase, "the prairie rang with silence"?