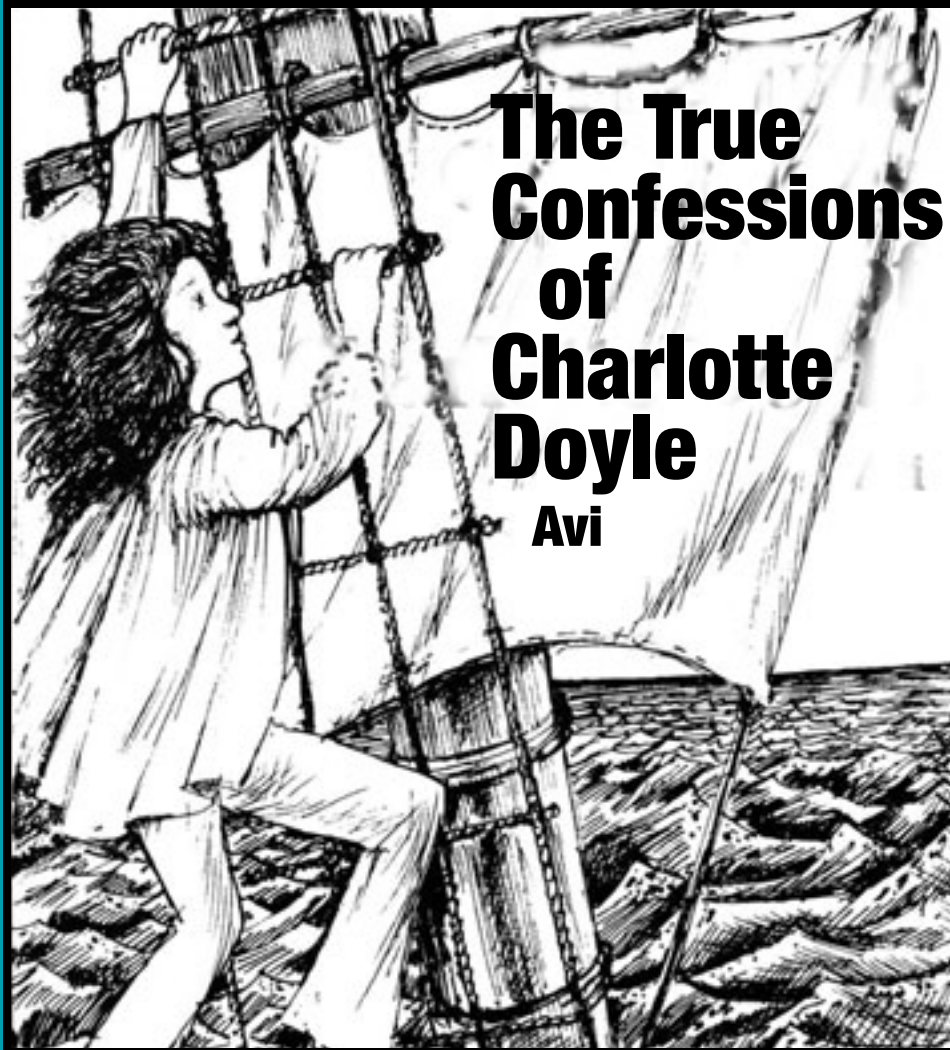


Novel·Ties



**The True  
Confessions  
of  
Charlotte  
Doyle**

**Avi**

**A Study Guide**

Written By Kathleen M. Fischer

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

**LEARNING LINKS**

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Synopsis . . . . .                        | 1       |
| Background Information . . . . .          | 2       |
| Glossary of Nautical Terms . . . . .      | 3 - 4   |
| Pre-Reading Activities . . . . .          | 5       |
| Prologue: An Important Warning . . . . .  | 6       |
| Chapters 1, 2 . . . . .                   | 7 - 9   |
| Chapters 3 - 5 . . . . .                  | 10 - 12 |
| Chapters 6 - 8 . . . . .                  | 13 - 15 |
| Chapters 9 - 12 . . . . .                 | 16 - 18 |
| Chapters 13 - 15 . . . . .                | 19 - 22 |
| Chapters 16 - 18 . . . . .                | 23 - 24 |
| Chapters 19 - 21 . . . . .                | 25 - 26 |
| Chapter 22 . . . . .                      | 27 - 28 |
| Cloze Activity . . . . .                  | 29      |
| Post-Reading Activities . . . . .         | 30 - 31 |
| Suggestions For Further Reading . . . . . | 32      |
| Answer Key . . . . .                      | 33 - 35 |

*Novel-Ties® are printed on recycled paper.*

---

*The purchase of this study guide entitles an individual teacher to reproduce pages for use in a classroom. Reproduction for use in an entire school or school system or for commercial use is prohibited. Beyond the classroom use by an individual teacher, reproduction, transmittal or retrieval of this work is prohibited without written permission from the publisher.*

## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* 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.

## GLOSSARY OF NAUTICAL TERMS

This glossary contains definitions of nautical terms that are not illustrated in the diagram in the appendix of the book. Refer to this glossary as you read.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| admiralty codes  | laws that regulate ships and shipping   |
| aft              | at, toward, or close to the stern of a ship   |
| aloft            | in or toward the upper rigging of a ship; high above the deck   |
| articles         | written contract between sailors and shipowners   |
| ballast          | heavy material placed in the hold of a ship to give it stability  |
| belaying pin     | short, removable wooden peg that fits into a hole in the rail of a ship, used to fasten ropes   |
| bilge            | 1. rounded part of a ship's hull 2. lowest inner part of the hull<br>3. stagnant water that collects in the bilge of a ship               |
| block and tackle | arrangement of ropes and pulleys used to lift heavy objects and lower them into the hold of a ship  |
| brig             | 1. two-masted sailing ship with square mainsails 2. ship's jail   |
| bulkhead         | wall that divides a ship into compartments  |
| bulwarks         | part of a ship's side above the upper deck  |
| capstan          | device with a hand-turned spindle that is used to hoist heavy weights, such as anchors  |
| clew             | lower corner of a square sail   |
| deadeye          | flat, wooden disk through which lanyards are passed, used to fasten shrouds   |
| doldrums         | 1. regions of the ocean near the equator characterized by calm, light winds and tropical showers 2. weather characteristic of this region |
| futtock shroud   | iron rod that connects the rigging of the top mast with that of the lower mast  |
| gaff             | spar attached to a mast and used to extend the upper edge of a sail   |
| gangplank        | removable ramp used as a bridge between a ship and a pier   |
| hardtack         | hard biscuit made of flour and water; also called sailor's bread, or sea biscuit  |
| head             | 1. bow of a ship 2. top of a sail 3. ship's toilet  |
| heel             | tilt to one side  |
| helm             | wheel of a ship   |

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Preview the book by reading the title and author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think the book will be about? When and where does it take place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. **Social Studies Connection:** The novel you are about to read takes place in 1832 during an ocean voyage made in a wooden sailing ship. Find a world map that shows Atlantic Ocean currents. Then locate Liverpool, England, the Irish Sea, and Providence, Rhode Island. Trace the likely course of the ship. How long do you think such a voyage would take? What would determine the length of the voyage?
3. Read the Background Information on page two of this study guide and the appendix at the end of the novel to acquaint yourself with information about tall ships. Also, become familiar with the glossary of nautical terms on page four of this study guide. Do some research to learn more about wooden sailing ships of the past. Find books with pictures of ships known as brigs and photographs of piers where many ships are docked. Try to imagine yourself standing on such a pier or sailing on one of these ships.
4. One major theme in *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* is the abuse of authority. What does abuse of authority mean to you? Have you ever witnessed such abuse? Authority grants power, but it also imposes obligations. What are the obligations of people in power?
5. Another major theme in the novel is the importance of a home. What constitutes a home and a family? What might happen to someone who is separated from his or her home for a long period of time?
6. Another theme of this novel is the subject of racial prejudice. One of the main characters is a free black man who sailed for an American shipping company in 1832. Given your knowledge of American history in the turbulent years before the Civil War, what kinds of prejudice do you think this character might have faced?
7. The main character in the novel is called upon to make several crucial decisions. Think about important decisions you have made in your life. How have your decisions been influenced by your family and the place in which you live?
8. The book you are about to read is an adventure story that falls into the category of historical fiction. In such a story, realistic details are used to show the conditions and the spirit of a particular historical era. The writer may use actual figures and historical events, fictional characters and events, or a combination of both. As you read, notice what you learn about life for sailors aboard a sailing ship in 1832.