

Novel·Ties

The  
Egypt Game

Zilpha Keatley Snyder



A Study Guide

Written By Pearl Neuman

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 a specific novel 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 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 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.

## 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? Do you think it will take place in present or past time? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** Read the Background Information on page two of this study guide and do some additional research to fill in the first two columns of a **K-W-L** chart, such as the one below. Complete column three after you finish the book.

Ancient Egypt		
- K - What I Know	- W - What I Want To Know	- L - What I Learned

3. *The Egypt Game* takes place the summer that eleven-year-old April Hall begins a new life in a new neighborhood. How do you think she might feel about being the “new kid on the block”? How do you feel about meeting people? How do you feel about having new experiences?
4. April tries to make a strong impression on the people she meets. Do you think first impressions are important? Do you think that they are accurate? How do you act when you are trying to make an impression on someone?
5. April's new neighbor Melanie Ross hopes April will become a real friend. What is a real friend? What qualities do you look for in a friend? Is it important that he or she be like you? Why or why not?
6. Do some research to learn about hieroglyphics, the pictographic script of the ancient Egyptians. Find illustrations of hieroglyphics that have been found at ancient sites. What do the hieroglyphs reveal about courtly life and life among commoners in ancient Egypt.
7. Do you believe in the possibility of supernatural events? Have you ever read about any, or have you had any experiences that suggested a supernatural cause? Take an informal poll of your classmates to find out who believes in extraterrestrial beings, the ability of some people to foretell the future or read the thoughts of others, and the possibility of summoning spirits from the past.

## The Discovery of Egypt, Enter April, Enter Melanie—and Marshall (cont.)

5. How is April’s reaction to the Professor different from that of all the other children?
6. What impression does April want to make on Melanie? Does she succeed?
7. Why does April stop acting “grown-up and Hollywoodish”?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think April has trouble expressing feelings of pleasure or affection? How do you know she likes Melanie?
2. Do you think April’s grandmother is happy to be taking care of April? Does she seem to love April? What kind of a relationship do you think might develop between them?

### Literary Device: Flashback

A flashback is an interruption in a story to tell about events that happened at an earlier time. At the beginning of *The Egypt Game*, the Professor watches three neighborhood children playing in the storage yard behind his store.

What important information about these children is provided by the flashback in the next two chapters?

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What background information is still missing?

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Why do you suppose the author begins the book with the chapter “The Discovery of Egypt” rather than “Enter April”?

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