

Novel·Ties



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 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.

LLOYD ALEXANDER

Lloyd Alexander, a master storyteller, is best known as a writer of fantasy. He believes that fantasy is one of many ways to express attitudes and feelings about real people—their actual relationships and problems. Lloyd Alexander was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1924. Today he lives in Drexel Hill near Philadelphia, where he writes and continues to do drawings, cartoons, and etchings for his own enjoyment.

From the time Alexander was a teenager, he knew he wanted to be a writer. When he felt that college would not help him become a writer, he dropped out and joined the military during World War II. As a member of an American combat intelligence team, he was sent to Wales for training. This country seemed like an enchanted kingdom and, years later, greatly influenced his writing.

Returning to the United States after the war, Alexander earned a living working as an advertising writer, cartoonist, layout artist, and editor for a small magazine. In his spare time he wrote adult fiction. It was several years before he came into his own by writing for young people.

Alexander is perhaps best known for the five books in his Prydain Chronicles, most of which focus on the battle between good and evil characters. Among his many award-winning books are *The High King*, from the Prydain series, which won the Newbery Medal in 1969.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)**ANTICIPATION GUIDE**

STATEMENT	YOU	AUTHOR
1. People are either good or evil.		
2. Honesty is the best policy.		
3. In life the “bad guys” win as often as the “good guys.”		
4. War is sometimes necessary to ensure peace.		
5. There is no excuse for killing another human being.		
6. Victims of wrong-doing deserve revenge.		
7. People who have achieved success are entitled to be proud and arrogant.		
8. Power corrupts.		