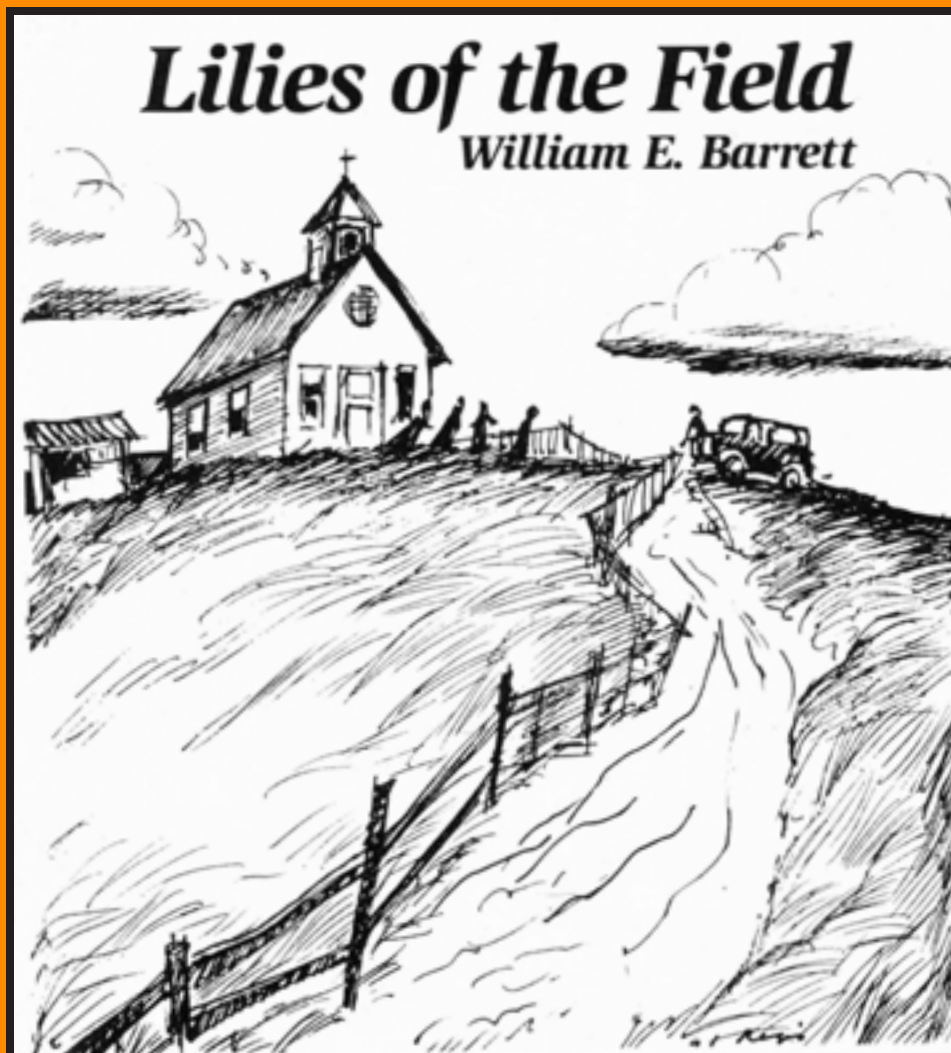


Novel•Ties



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 *A Boat to Nowhere*. 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's

Put yourself back in time. It is the early 1950's and you are an African American living in the South. Public schools are segregated, with separate facilities for white students and black students. Your right to vote, guaranteed by the constitution, is challenged by whites who intimidate you or abuse you whenever you attempt to register. Public transportation is segregated and you are forced to ride in the back of the bus. The few restaurants that will serve you have a special section where blacks must eat, apart from white customers. It is against this backdrop that Homer Smith, the protagonist in *Lilies of the Field*, travels across the country.

In 1950, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) took action against school segregation. Challenging the legality of "separate but equal schools, the organization sued the school board of Topeka, Kansas for refusing to allow a black girl named Linda Brown to attend an all-white public school. In ruling on the landmark case in 1954, the Supreme Court decided that school segregation was unconstitutional and that all public schools must be integrated. But many communities in the South were violently opposed to the ruling, and in 1957, Little Rock, Arkansas became a proving ground for the decision when federal troops were called out to ensure that nine black students were allowed to enter an all-white high school.

Throughout the 1950's and 60's, African Americans continued to take other bold actions to protect their rights. They organized to battle the injustices they faced and formed a powerful civil rights movement to challenge segregation and discrimination. Under the leadership of people like Martin Luther King, Jr., blacks boycotted segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama and staged nonviolent protests to call attention to injustices practiced all over the South. Groups such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organized sit-ins to force the integration of public places, and blacks and whites together risked their lives to take integrated "Freedom Rides" across the South and to register black voters during the "Freedom Summer" of 1964. Protest marches staged in Birmingham, Alabama; Washington, D.C.; and Selma, Alabama brought further attention to the cause.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. A legend is a popular story that has been handed down from earlier times and that may or may not be true. Many legends tell about the deeds and actions of great heroes. Can you name some legendary heroes? What did they do to become legendary?
2. What does the word freedom mean to you? Do you think a person can ever be totally free, without responsibilities or concerns for others? State your opinions about this subject in a personal essay. Share your essay with your classmates.
3. Do you believe that your actions are governed by personal choice, by a divine authority or by fate? How does your philosophy affect the things you do and your goals in life?
4. Who is the most unusual person that you have ever known? What makes that person unusual? Write a brief character sketch telling about that person. In the character sketch, describe the person's appearance and personality. Then tell what makes the person different from others you know.
5. Working with a partner, find a definition for each of the following words. Record the definitions on paper. Then meet with other pairs of students to discuss how the words are alike and different.

church	cathedral	synagogue	chapel	temple
basilica	tabernacle	meetinghouse	pagoda	mosque

6. Read the background information on pages two, three and four of this study guide so as to read the novel in its proper perspective.