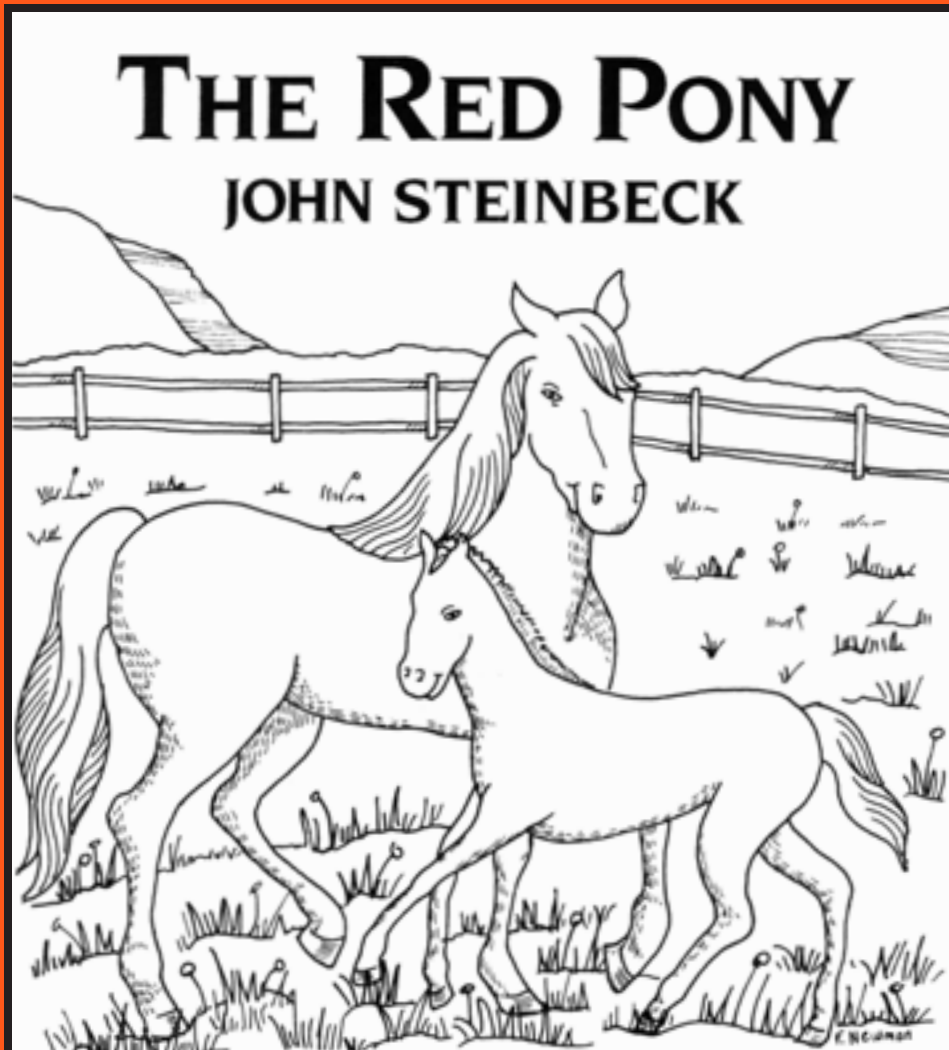


# Novel·Ties



## 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 *The Red Pony*. 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.

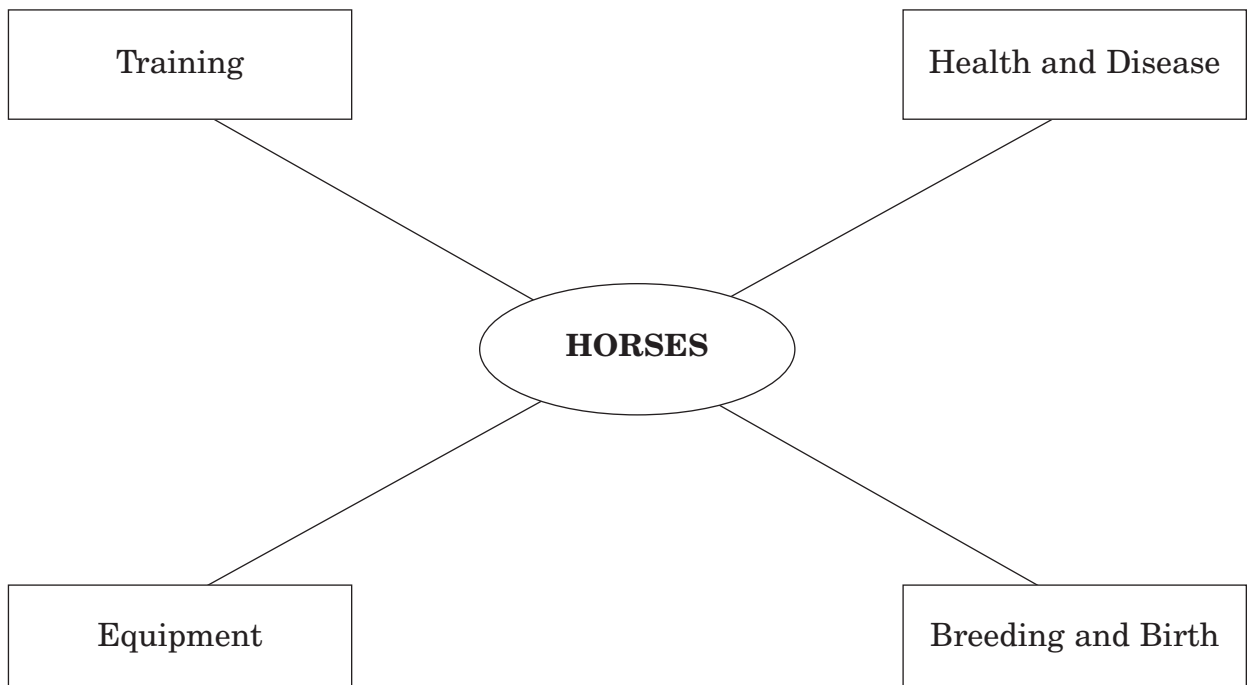
The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and author’s name and by looking at the illustration on the cover of the book. Also, read the Table of Contents at the beginning of the book. What do you think the book will be about? Are you familiar with any other books by the same author?
  
2. **Social Studies Connection:** Locate the following places on a map of California:
  - Salinas
  - Salinas Valley
  - Gabilan Mountains
  - Monterey
  - Monterey County

Find the mountain range west of the Salinas Valley. What is its name? Do some research to learn about these places. What is the climate? What are the occupations of its residents?

3. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** Work with a small group of your classmates to complete a word web, such as the one below, to show what you know about horses. You can use the categories to list facts and details. Then compare your word web with those compiled by other groups to learn more about horses.



4. Read Steinbeck’s description of the Tiflin ranch on the first few pages of the book. Draw a picture of the scene as you visualize it. Or you may find pictures in books or magazines that show early California ranches. Tell what you think life on such a ranch would be like.

## THE GIFT: Pages 1 - 18 [Penguin Edition]

**Vocabulary:** Try to determine the meaning of each underlined word from the context of the sentence. Then check your meaning with the dictionary definition. Record your answers on the chart below.

1. The ranch hand curried and brushed the pony's glistening coat.
2. When I heard you telling jokes to your friends, I knew your jovial mood had returned.
3. Once an animal in the wild dies, buzzards are attracted to the carrion.
4. You should not speak disparagingly of a student trying to learn to ride but having no success.
5. An incipient horseman, Bill hung around the trainers to learn about horses.
6. The hasp of the barn door stuck when I tried to open it.
7. We knew the pony's reputation for being rambunctious was well deserved when it nipped my hand.
8. Holding on to the hackamore, the ranch hand led the pony into the corral.
9. To steady himself, the rider clasped the pommel of his saddle.

	<b>Your Definition</b>	<b>Dictionary Definition</b>
1. curried		
2. jovial		
3. carrion		
4. disparagingly		
5. incipient		
6. hasp		
7. rambunctiousness		
8. hackamore		
9. pommel		