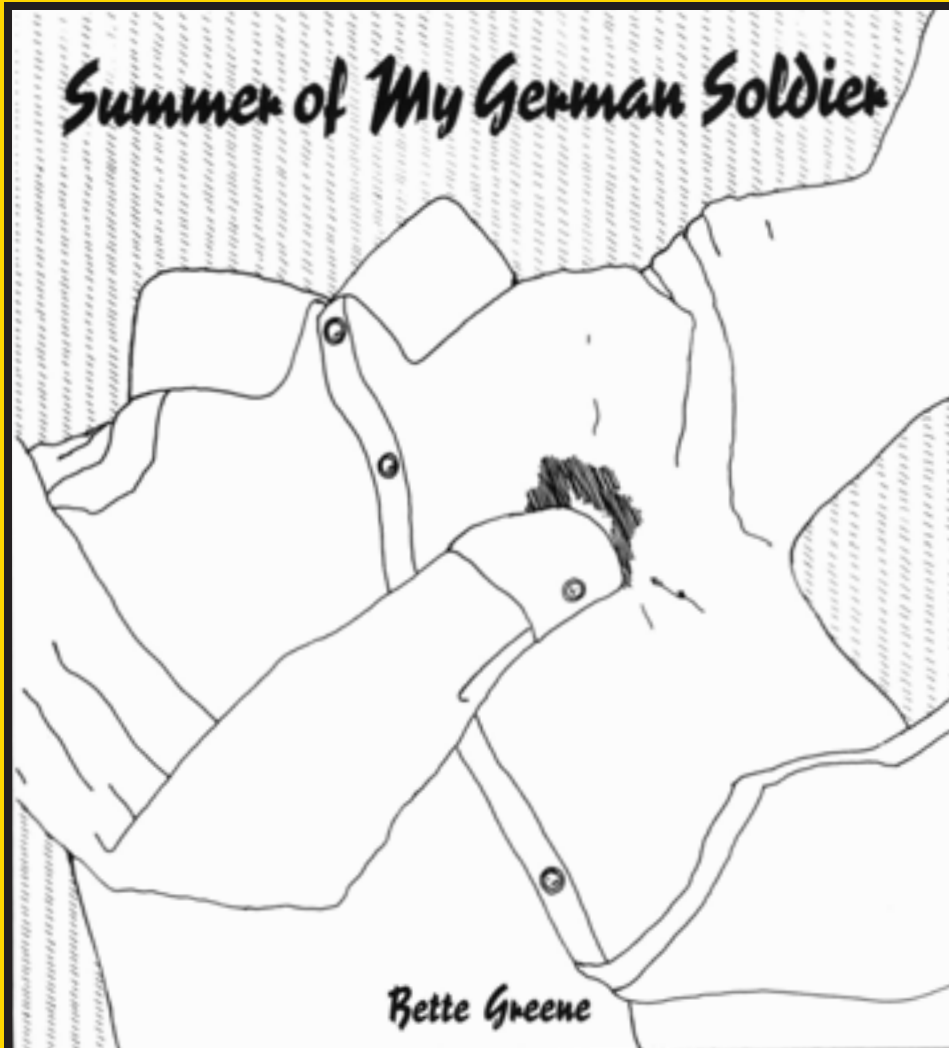


Novel·Ties



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 the novel *Summer of My German Soldier* 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.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think the book will be about? When and where do you think it takes place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. What is anti-Semitism? Do some research to find out about its existence in pre-World War II Europe. Are you aware of anti-Semitism existing in the United States and, more specifically, in your own community? If so, how has anti-Semitism revealed itself and what, if anything, is being done about it?
3. Do some research to learn about the treatment of the Jews in Germany during World War II, Hitler's hatred of the Jews, and their subsequent mass extermination in concentration camps. This genocide is now called the *Holocaust* and has been commemorated at the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., as well as at other sites.
4. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** What is patriotism? Work with a cooperative learning group to write a list of acts that would be considered patriotic and a list that would be considered unpatriotic. Then discuss whether these lists would remain the same or change during a time of war. Also discuss whether it is possible for over-enthusiastic patriots to become oppressors.
5. Read the Background Information on page two of this study guide to learn about American internment of German prisoners of war during World War II. Find out whether your social studies textbook mentions this or whether any adults that you know are aware of the internment.
6. Although America was at war with both Japan and Germany during World War II, Japanese Americans were viewed with great suspicion, while the loyalty of German Americans was rarely questioned. Discuss with your classmates the probable causes of this unequal treatment.
7. Look at a television news broadcast that covers a war zone. Then compare that coverage with the same event as it is covered on the radio, and in newspaper and magazine articles. Which media coverage seems to have the greatest impact? Now imagine what news coverage was like during World War II, prior to the time people had televisions in their homes. The available media were radio, movie newsreels, newspapers, and popular magazines, such as *Look*, *Life*, and *Colliers*. Try to obtain copies of print media of the time to see how every advertisement and news article glorified the war effort and vilified the enemy. Do you think this was a justifiable use of the media? Are there some kinds of propaganda that should be permitted in a democracy during wartime that would not be permitted during a time of peace?
8. To get a sense of what life was like on the home front during World War II, find out about Victory Gardens, how people economized on the use of scarce commodities, the kinds of civil defense that were practiced, and the many ways that women joined the work force. Do additional research to find out how your own community contributed to the war effort at home.

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Vocabulary: The context in which a word is used often determines its meaning in a particular sentence. Use the information about each word below to determine the meaning of the word in a new context.

1. If a vacant house is empty, what is a vacant stare?

2. If a high mountain is lofty, what are lofty ideals?

3. If something drifts when it is carried along by a river's current, what does it mean if a country is drifting toward war?

4. If an attack is an offensive, what is an offensive odor?

5. If brilliant means shining brightly, what is a brilliant student?

6. If merge means to combine or unite, what does a merge sign on the highway indicate?

Questions:

1. Why did the arrival of German prisoners of war cause excitement among the people of Jenkinsville?
2. In what way was the German prisoners' appearance different from what Patty had expected?
3. What did Ruth mean when she told Sharon and Patty that "We keep our jubilee in easy reach"?
4. Why was Chu Lee's grocery store closed? What was Patty beginning to realize about the people in her town?
5. According to Patty, why did her father dislike his in-laws?
6. Why did Patty conclude that she was a bad person?
7. Why did Patty's father resent his brother Max?
8. Why did Patty call her grandparents house "a home" while her house was just the place where she lived?