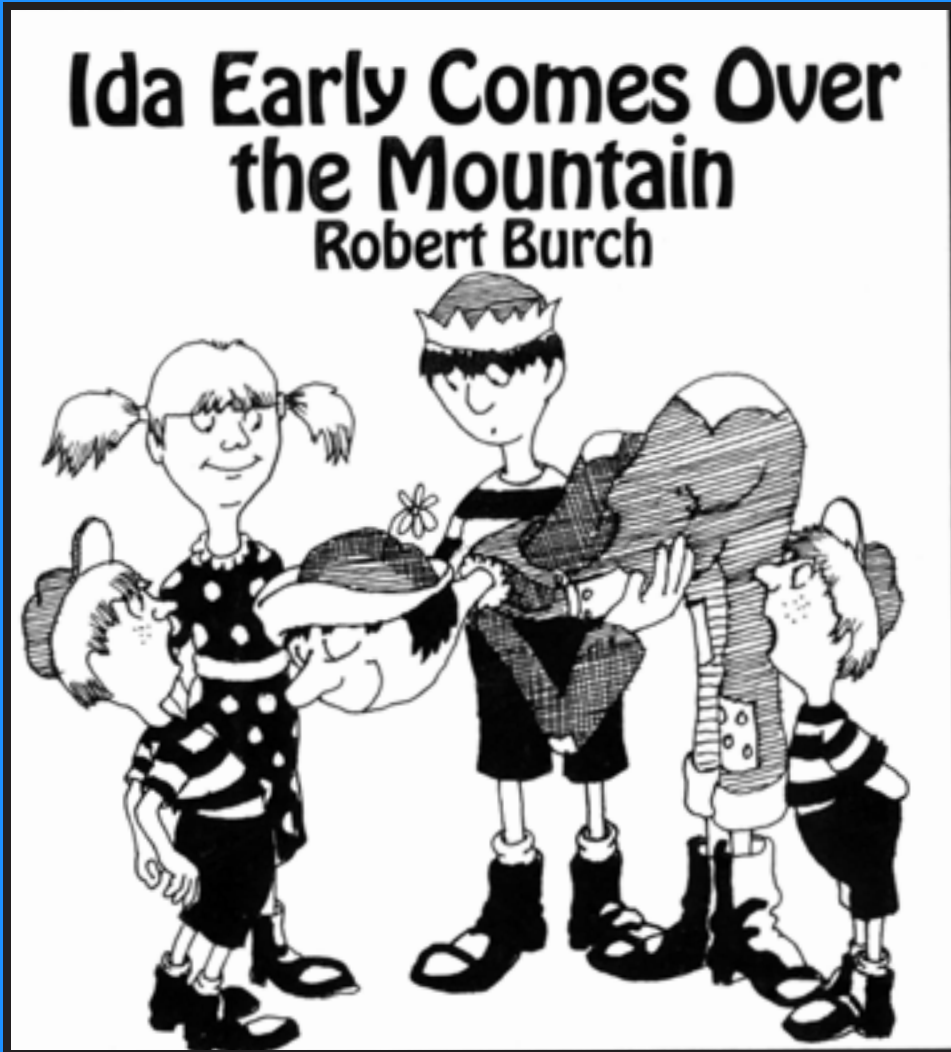


# Novel·Ties

## Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain

Robert Burch



## 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 *Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain*. 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 looking carefully at the cover illustration and thinking about the title. What do you think the story will be about? What clues does this picture give about the setting of the story?
2. **Social Studies Connection:** *Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain* is set in a time called the Great Depression. Using reference materials, find information about this era. What years did this period cover? What happens in a country during a depression? Ask someone you know who has lived through a depression to tell you how it affected his or her life. Share what you learned with the rest of the class.
3. The Sutton family lives on the Georgia side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ida comes from the Tennessee side. Read the Background Information on page two of this study guide and do some additional research to learn more about the Blue Ridge Mountains. Look at a map of the region to help you appreciate the extent of these mountains. Find out why they are called the Blue Ridge Mountains.
4. One of the literary devices used in this story is exaggeration. Has anyone ever accused you of exaggerating? What did that person mean? Is exaggeration the same as telling a lie? When might it be acceptable to exaggerate? When wouldn't it be a good thing?
5. The Suttons live in rural Georgia during the 1930s. How do you think their house might be different from a modern house? How would these changes affect what kind of work is done inside the house? What kind of outdoor chores might the children have to do? How do these chores differ from yours?
6. The family in this story liked to play the game of tiddlywinks. Have you ever played this game? How is it played? What do you need to play the game? How do you go about winning? Ask if anyone in the class has the game at home and is willing to bring it to school. Play it yourselves at recess or lunch time.
7. Ida Early is a complete stranger to the Sutton family. With a group of your classmates, conduct a survey of the kinds of things you notice when you first meet a stranger. List the factors that make the first impression in order from the most important down the least important. Have you ever been wrong in your first judgment of a stranger? What made you change your mind?

**“Taller Than Anybody,” The Stew-Making Fool,  
The Tiddlywinks Champion of the Whole Wide World (cont.)**

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Would you like someone such as Ida to enter your life?
2. What do you think Ida’s appearance reveals about her character?
3. Do you think Ida will be a good caregiver to the children?

**Literary Element: Characterization**

Choose words from the Word Box or words of your own to best describe Ida Early and Aunt Earnestine. Write the words you choose on the lines that surround each character’s name. You may add lines if you wish.

<i>WORD BOX</i>			
attractive	dishonest	imaginative	polite
bossy	enthusiastic	irresponsible	responsible
childlike	foolish	jovial	rigid
cranky	honest	organized	rude

