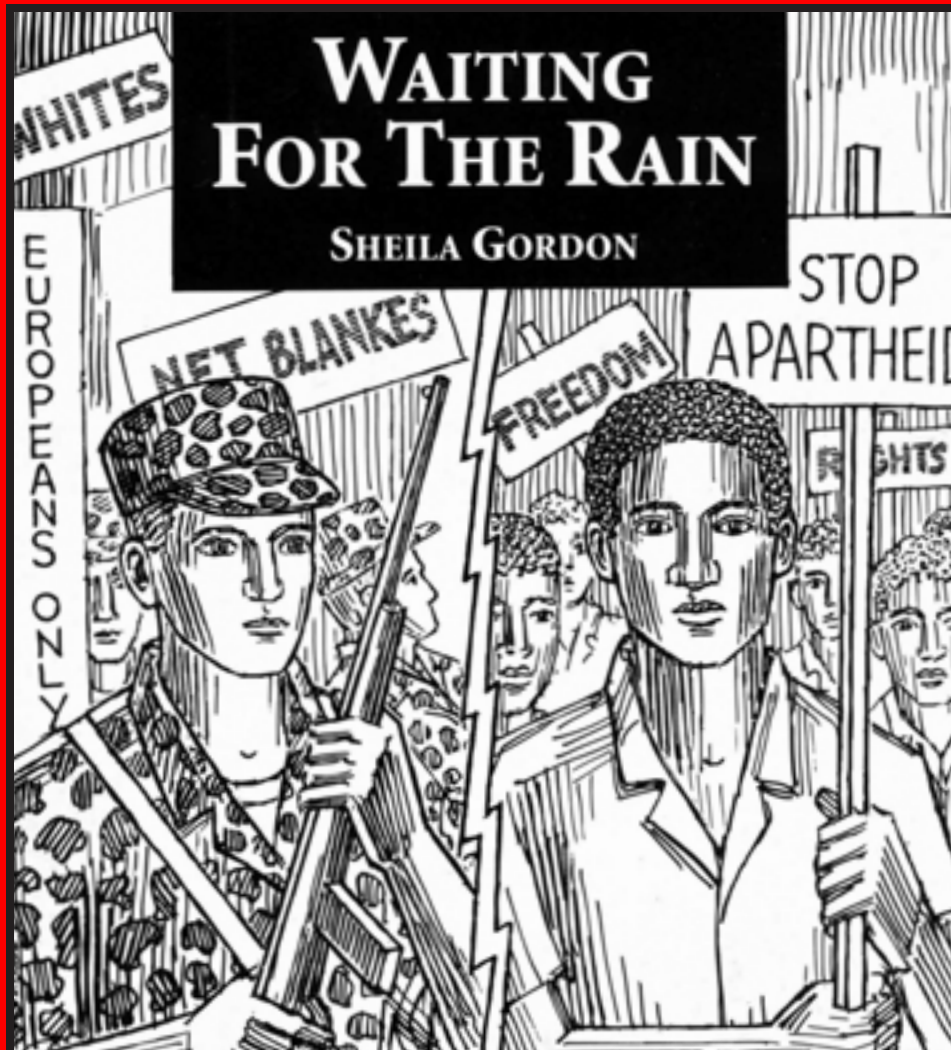


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	1 - 2
Background Information	3 - 4
Pre-Reading Activities	5
Chapters 1, 2	6 - 8
Chapters 3, 4	9 - 10
Chapters 5, 6	11 - 13
Chapters 7, 8	14 - 16
Chapters 9, 10	17 - 18
Chapters 11, 12	19 - 21
Chapters 13, 14	22 - 23
Chapters 15, 16	24 - 26
Cloze Activity	27
Post-Reading Activities	28 - 29
Suggestions For Further Reading	30
Answer Key	31 - 34

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *Waiting for the Rain*. 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 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Geography of South Africa

The country of South Africa occupies the southern-most tip of the continent of Africa. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the West and the Indian Ocean on the East. In the North, South Africa shares borders with the countries of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Mozambique. The 1,221,037 square kilometers that make up South Africa contain high mountains, plateaus, deserts, velds or grasslands, and lowlying coastal areas. There are about forty-three million people in South Africa and they are as diverse as their land. The largest group is blacks who are members of various native tribes. The white people who live in South Africa are mainly descendants of immigrants from Holland and Great Britain. Other groups of South Africans consist of Indians from the sub-continent of India and people of mixed blood, who are referred to as Coloreds.



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by looking at the cover, reading the title and the author's name, and examining the cover illustration. Where and when do you think this story takes place? What do you predict this story will be about?
2. The two main characters of this story have been friends for many years. What other stories have you read about friendships? What problems did characters in these books face that tested their friendships? How were they resolved?
3. *Waiting for the Rain* is a book of historical fiction, one in which fictional characters act out their lives against a historical background. Have you ever read any books or seen films that were fiction based on history? What eras did they portray? What is the benefit of historical fiction over historical text or documentary films?
4. *Waiting for the Rain* takes place in South Africa, a large country on the continent of Africa. Look at the map on page three of this study guide. Read the geographical information and do some additional research to learn how South Africa's geography has affected its history. Locate the city of Johannesburg, the most populated city in South Africa. You may do some research to learn about this city which provides the setting for much of *Waiting for the Rain*.
5. Read the History of South Africa on page three of this study guide and do some additional research to learn about apartheid and black/white relations. Create a K-W-L chart, such as the one below. Fill in the first two columns before you read the book. Fill in the last column after you finish the book.

What I Know — K —	What I Want to Know — W —	What I Learned — L —

6. Begin a scrapbook of newspaper articles about current events in South Africa and continue collecting articles as you read the book. Share current information about South Africa with your classmates.