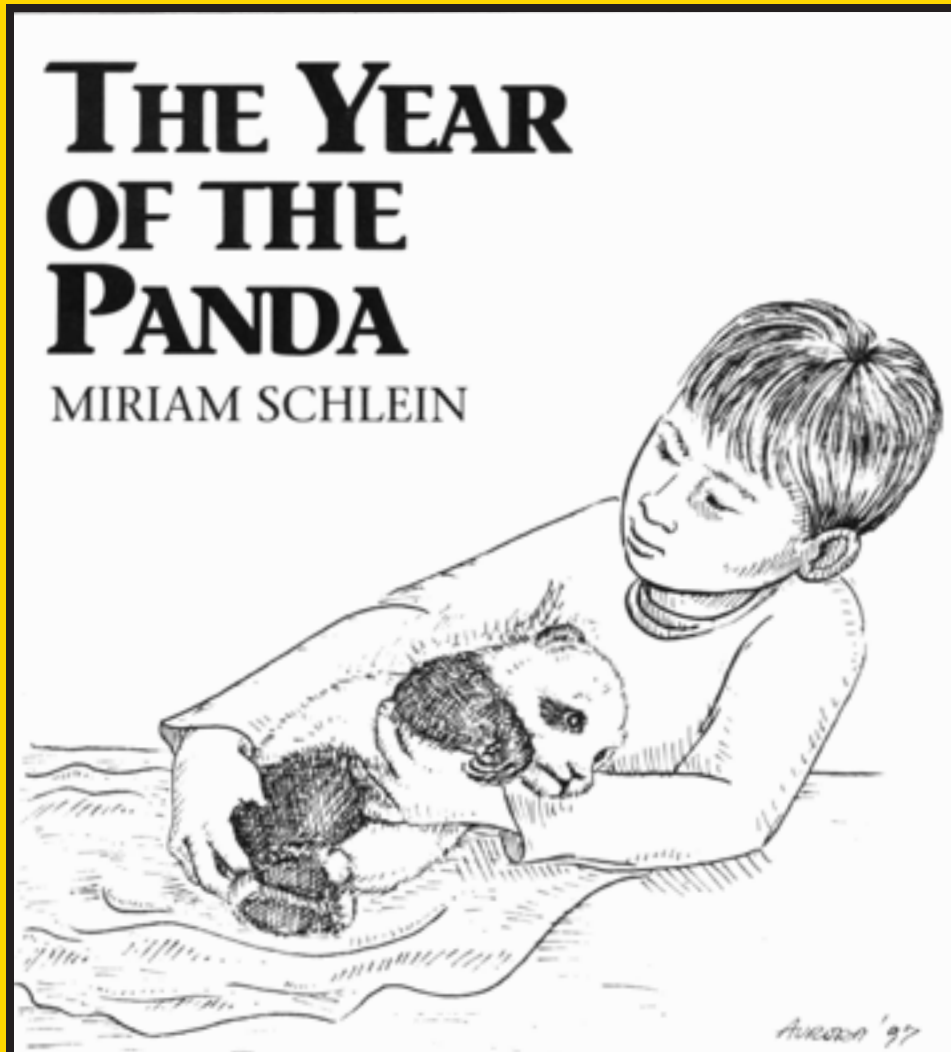


Novel•Ties



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 Year of the Panda*. 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 at the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book will be about? Where do you think the story takes place?
2. Since you will be reading about great pandas, start a K-W-L chart, such as the one below. Before you read the book, fill in the first two columns. Return to this chart as you read the book to fill in column three with what you have learned about pandas.

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

3. Bring photos of baby and adult pandas into class. Display them in the room as you read the book.
4. What do you think would be the best way to care for an injured animal? How would you care for an animal that was separated from its mother? What could you do to be sure the animal had no diseases before you tried to help it?
5. **Science Connection:** Bamboo is the most important food for pandas. Do some research to learn about bamboo. Find out where it grows, how it grows, and what are its many uses. Set up a classroom display of bamboo plants or stems, bamboo shoots, and objects made from bamboo.
6. **Science Connection:** “Endangered species” are animals or plants that have such small populations that there is a danger that they may disappear from the earth. Do some research to develop a chart on endangered species. Include the place where the animals usually live and the number of animals that scientists think are living today.
7. **Social Studies Connection:** On a map of the world, find China. What is the capital of China? How far is the capital of China from Washington, D.C.?
8. Most people in the United States drink cow's milk, but there are many other kinds of milk. The characters in *The Year of the Panda* drink goat's milk. Cheese is made from the milk of goats and sheep, as well as cows. Have you ever tried goat milk or visited a goat farm? In your class, talk about students' experiences with goats, goat's milk, or goat cheese. You may bring some goat's milk cheese into class to sample on crackers.

Chapters 1, 2 (cont.)

Questions:

1. Where was Lu Yi's home?
2. What awakened Lu Yi? Why was he surprised?
3. Why was Lu Yi's father arguing with the strangers? How did Lu Yi's father know that he could disagree with the strangers?
4. Why didn't Lu Yi and his family want to do what the strangers asked?
5. Why did Lu Yi sometimes stay home from school?
6. Why was it odd to see the daxiong mao in Lu Yi's village?
7. Why was Mr. Po angry at the giant panda?
8. Why did Lu Yi's father stop Mr. Po from shooting the daxiong mao?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the daxiong mao came down from the mountain?
2. Why do you think Lu Yi's father would not talk to his son about moving?

Literary Element: Setting

Setting is the time and place where a story happens. What is the setting of this story?

How do you know that the setting of this story is very important?

Writing Activity:

Write about a time when you or someone you know had to move. Tell the reason for moving and how the person felt about it.