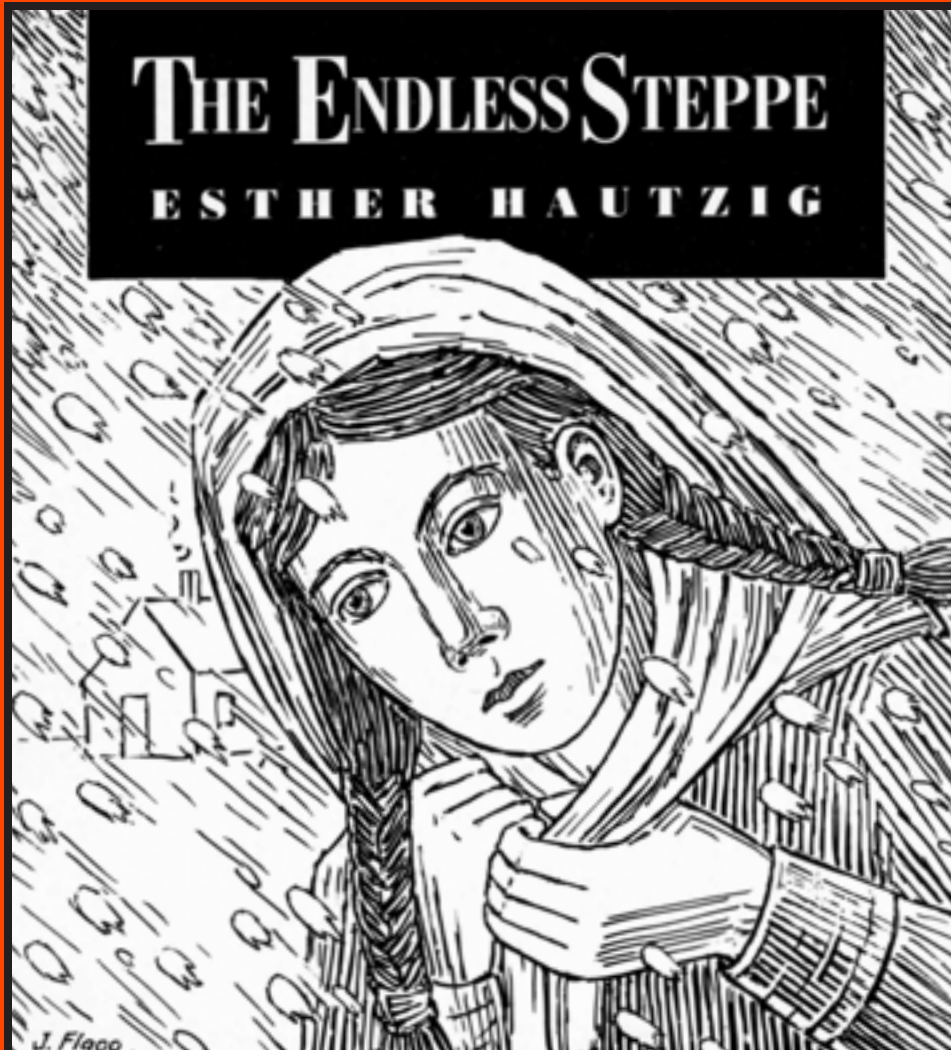


# Novel·Ties



## 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 novel *The Endless Steppe*. 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.

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**GLOSSARY**

anti-Semite	person who shows dislike or hatred of Jews
<i>bania</i>	public bath (Russian)
<i>baracholka</i>	marketplace (Russian)
challah	ritual bread
<i>fufaika</i>	quilted jacket worn in Siberia
Kaddish	prayer for the dead
rabbi	ordained preacher and teacher of Jewish law and religion, usually serving as the spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
Sabbath	seventh day of the Jewish week (Saturday) set aside for rest and worship
<i>sapogy</i>	knee-high leather boots worn by the well-to-do in Siberia
<i>sit shivah</i>	sit in mourning for a period, usually seven days, during which Jewish mourners receive condolence visits from family and friends
<i>Sh'mah Israel</i>	beginning of a prayer (Hear, O Israel . . .)
synagogue	Jewish house of worship
Talmudic scholar	one who studies the Talmud, a collection of sixty-three volumes containing the Jewish civil and canonical law in the form of interpretation and expansion of the teachings of the Old Testament
<i>yahrzeit</i>	candle, memorial candle for the dead
<i>yarmulka</i>	skullcap worn by Jewish men and boys, especially for prayer and ceremonial occasions
Yiddish	language which originally developed from a dialect of Middle High German, containing many Hebrew and Slavic words, and written in Hebrew characters; spoken mainly by Jews of eastern and central Europe and their descendants

**CHAPTERS 1, 2**

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- |                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. opulent         | a. warning                   |
| 2. aberration      | b. smelling very bad         |
| 3. explicit        | c. temporary mental disorder |
| 4. admonishing     | d. in an exacting manner     |
| 5. fastidiously    | e. showing wealth            |
| 6. immaculate      | f. secretly                  |
| 7. surreptitiously | g. continuously              |
| 8. fetid           | h. clearly expressed         |
| 9. sardonic        | i. flawless                  |
| 10. incessantly    | j. bitterly mocking          |

.....

- The \_\_\_\_\_ air in the small cabin forced us outside.
- My room, which is usually in \_\_\_\_\_ order, was in total disarray after the party.
- When you go for a job interview, it is best to be \_\_\_\_\_ groomed from head to toe.
- To impress their neighbors, the family built the most \_\_\_\_\_ house on the block.
- The prisoners were \_\_\_\_\_ hungry because they were fed only thin soup and bread.
- The child \_\_\_\_\_ reached for a cookie when his parents weren't looking.
- After walking in the desert for two days without water, we worried that the lake we saw in the distance was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you give me \_\_\_\_\_ directions, I will have no trouble finding your house.
- After the teacher made a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ comment about my expressed opinion, I no longer spoke up in class.
- I cast a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ glance at my friend so she would not reveal our hiding places, but I was too late.