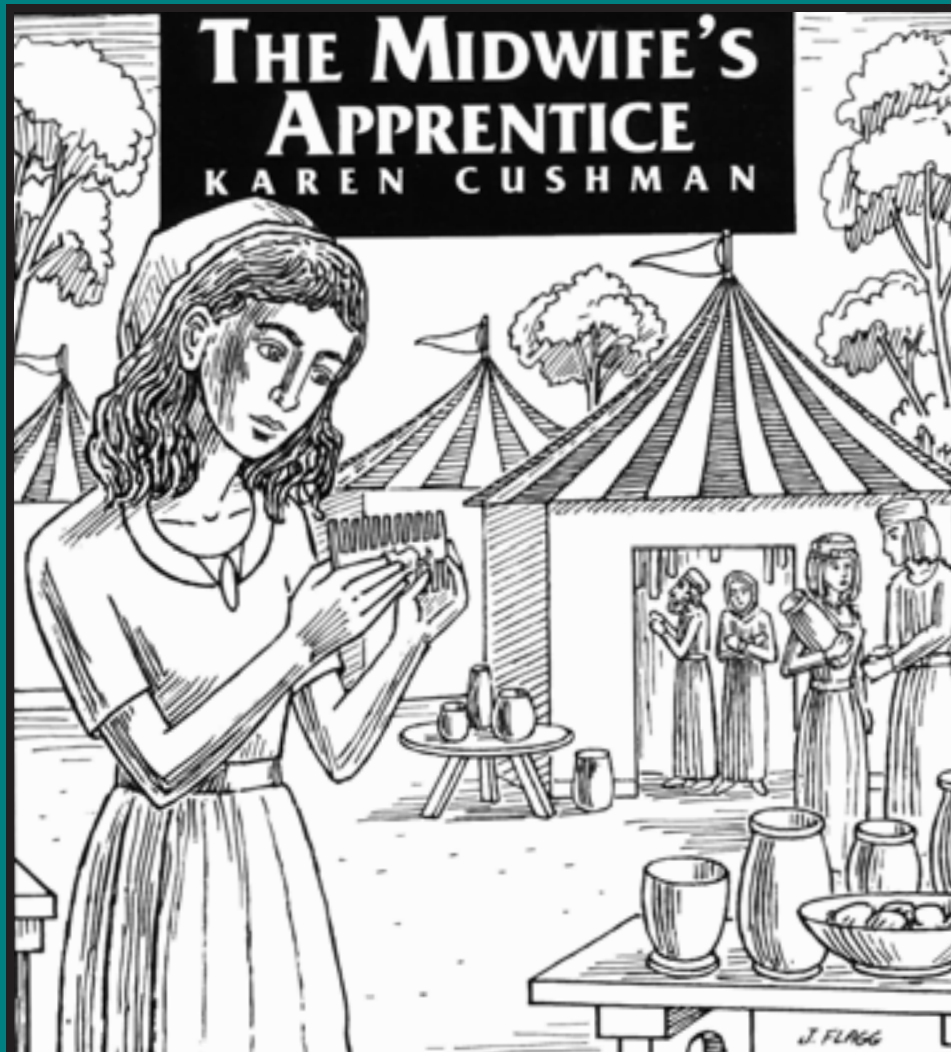


# Novel•Ties



## A Study Guide

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**LEARNING LINKS**

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*Novel-Ties® are printed on recycled paper.*

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *The Midwife's Apprentice* 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.

almost entirely Catholic.

Monks, nuns, and friars, in addition to priests, worked for the Church. Friars often lived among the people, teaching and setting an example of chastity and poverty. In abbeys, monasteries, and convents, on the other hand, monks and nuns prayed in solitude. They often cared for the sick or welcomed travelers and pilgrims in special areas called “hospices.” Some monasteries were centers of learning where manuscripts were copied and illuminated.

## **Medicine**

Doctors were very scarce during the Middle Ages and the basic concepts of modern medicine were unknown. Although doctors could do some simple surgery, they knew nothing of germs or infection. Disease was thought to result from the imbalance of body fluids, so bloodletting or purging were common cures. Most people treated themselves with traditional home remedies and herbs.

Women giving birth were attended by midwives, and babies were born at home. The midwife was generally a woman who gained her skills through apprenticeship. She used herbs which she gathered as the only medicine available. There was little she could do to help in any but a normal delivery.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

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 does it take place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Read the Background Information on page two of this study guide and do some additional research to learn about life on a country manor in the Middle Ages.
3. Before you read *The Midwife's Apprentice*, brainstorm with your classmates to fill in the first two columns of a K-W-L chart about the Middle Ages, such as the one below. When you finish the book, fill in the third column.

	Middle Ages	
What I Know -K-	What I Want To Know -W-	What I Learned -L-

4. Read the Author's Note at the end of the book that provides a history of midwifery. Reading this before you read the novel will give you a better understanding of this ancient woman's profession and a better appreciation of the story.
5. Do some research to find out how each of the following occupations was practiced in medieval times. What kind of work did each person do? Did the person use special tools or work in a special workshop? Does a similar job exist today?
 

bailiff	baker	cook	fletcher	groom
innkeeper	merchant	millar	priest	reeve
shepherd	smith	taylor	weaver	
6. **Science Connection:** Do some research to learn about the ancient theory of humors. In this theory, a person's physical health and personality were determined by the balance of four bodily fluids—blood, phlegm, choler, and bile.
7. **Art Connection:** Find books and slides that show the art of the Middle Ages, or visit a museum to see the actual artifacts and paintings. Although the subjects are mainly religious or courtly, they provide some glimpses into the lives of ordinary people in the Middle Ages.