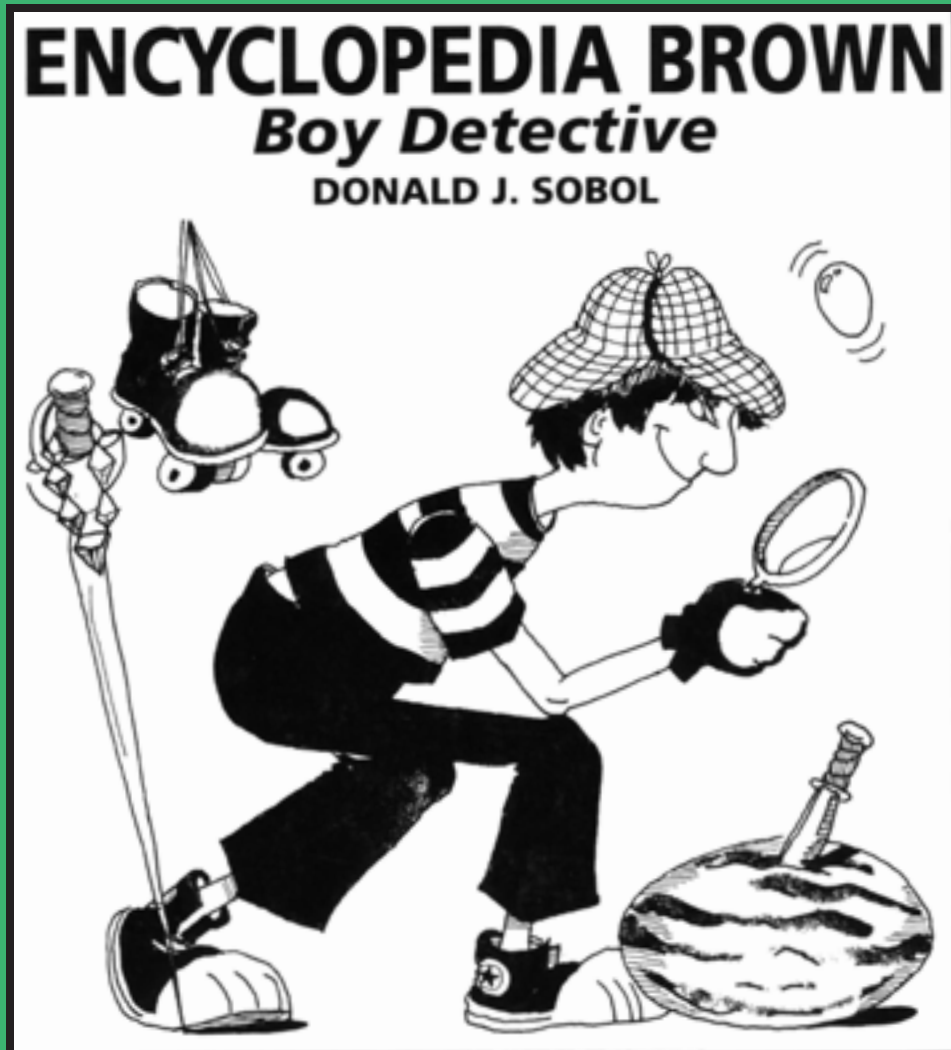


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

Written By Duncan Searl

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective*. 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.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. What nicknames do you and your friends have for each other? What do these nicknames tell about you? Suppose you had a friend whose nickname was “Encyclopedia.” Tell what you think he or she might be like.
2. Mysteries come in all shapes and sizes, and they don’t always have to do with crimes. Have you or someone you know ever solved a small mystery in your home or community? Tell how using your eyes and ears can help you figure out a solution to a mystery.
3. Name a detective or private eye that you have read about in mysteries or seen in TV shows or movies. What is the detective’s name? What are some of the special skills and tools she or he uses to solve cases?
4. One of the “bad guys” in the cases you will read about is named Bugs Meany. He’s a bully who is mean to other children. Think of people you know who are bullies or are mean to others. Why do you think they act this way? What is the best way to avoid trouble with them?
5. Read the first few pages of *Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective*. You will notice that Encyclopedia’s father is the police chief of Idaville. What are some ways that this might help Encyclopedia be a good detective?
6. As you read each case, fill in a Problem/Solution chart, such as the one below. The first problem has been stated. You should supply the solution in the other part of the box. Continue the chart and do each of the other cases in the same manner.

| Problem | Solution |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>The Case of Natty Nat <i>Natty Nat claims that his store was robbed by a man in a trenchcoat, belted in the back.</i></p> | |
| <p>The Case of the Scattered Cards</p> | |

The Case of Natty Nat (cont.)

Questions:

1. Why were all the crimes in Idaville solved right away?
2. Why did Chief Brown think that Natty Nat had robbed the store?
3. What detail told Encyclopedia that Mr. Dillon was lying?

Questions for Discussion:

Has listening carefully and watching closely ever helped you solve a problem? Have you ever tried to “train your memory”? Describe your experience.

Literary Device: Simile

A simile is a comparison between two unlike objects using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

Leroy Brown’s head was like an encyclopedia.
He was like a complete library walking around in sneakers.

What is being compared?

What does this comparison tell you about Encyclopedia?

Write a simile in which you compare yourself with some object.

Writing Activity:

Write about a time when you or someone you know mistakenly made an incorrect observation. Describe the consequences of this mistake.