

# Novel·Ties

## *Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear* Lensey Namioka



## A Study Guide

Written By Bonita M. Ferraro

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 *Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear*. 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.

**CHAPTER 1**

**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. alternate  | a. wholly committed to something        |
| 2. accompany  | b. impact; feeling                      |
| 3. permanent  | c. substitute                           |
| 4. dedicated  | d. degree of height or depth of a sound |
| 5. pitch      | e. go along with; join in action        |
| 6. impression | f. everlasting; constant                |

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1. It is hard to sing on \_\_\_\_\_ when those around you sing off-key.
2. If you dress neatly and speak slowly, you will make a good \_\_\_\_\_ at your job interview.
3. As the \_\_\_\_\_ violinist in the orchestra, I will not get to play unless one of the other violinists is ill.
4. Your life must be \_\_\_\_\_ to music if you hope to become a successful solo performer.
5. We need parent volunteers to \_\_\_\_\_ our class on its trip to the museum.
6. We hope that the new roof will be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ solution to the problem of a leaky ceiling.

**Questions:**

1. Why is the Yang family struggling financially in the United States?
2. How old is each child in the Yang family? How do you reach this conclusion?
3. What reason does Fourth Brother, Yingtao, give for not being as good a musician as the others in his family?
4. How do Eldest Brother and Second Sister respond to Yingtao's poor violin playing?
5. How does Third Sister show that she understands Yingtao's feelings?
6. Why is the recital so important to Mr. Yang?

**Chapter 1 (cont.)**

**Story Map:**

Every story has a plot, or plan. In most stories, a main character has a problem, and the events in the story are about how the problem is solved. The solution is how the character finally finds an answer to the problem. As you continue to read this story, complete the following story map.

**Title:** *Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear*

**Setting:** Where does the story take place?

**Characters:** Who are the important people in the story?

**Problem:** What problem does Yingtao face?  
 Yingtao wants to share his true feelings about playing the violin, but he doesn't want to disappoint his family.

**Events:** 1. Yingtao learns he must play his violin in a family string quartet for his father's recital.

2.

3.

**Solution:** How is the problem solved?