

Novel·Ties

Abel's Island

William Steig



A Study Guide

Written By Estelle Kleinman

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	1
Pre-Reading Activities	2
Chapters 1 - 3	3 - 4
Chapters 4, 5	5 - 7
Chapters 6 - 8	8 - 10
Chapters 9, 10	11 - 12
Chapters 11 - 13	13 - 15
Chapters 14 - 16	16 - 17
Chapters 17 - 20	18 - 20
Cloze Activity	21
Post-Reading Activities	22 - 23
Suggestions For Further Reading	24
Answer Key	25 - 26

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *Abel's Island*. 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.

CHAPTERS 1 - 3

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. impulsively | a. stormy |
| 2. caromed | b. firmness of spirit |
| 3. turbulent | c. very small stream |
| 4. maelstrom | d. rashly |
| 5. capsized | e. reflected |
| 6. fortitude | f. hit and bounced off |
| 7. speculated | g. great whirlpool |
| 8. rivulet | h. turned bottom side up |

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- The ball _____ off the back wall.
- The _____ weather was dangerous for sailing.
- The sailboat nearly _____ in the high wind.
- Because of the drought, the once magnificent stream was now nothing more than a(n) _____.
- The philosopher _____ about the meaning of life.
- The child _____ ran into the street to get his ball.
- The small boat spun out of control when it became caught in a(n) _____.
- True courage is being able to face calamity with _____.

Read to find out how Abel is swept away.

Questions:

- What is Abel's mood as he picnics with his wife?
- What signs show that Abel and his wife are well-to-do and cultured?
- How do Abel and Amanda each react to the storm?
- Why does Abel venture out from the shelter of the cave? What does this suggest about his character?
- Why is Abel unable to return to the cave?

CHAPTERS 4, 5

Vocabulary: Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its synonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | <u>A</u> | <u>B</u> |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. prominence | a. clothing |
| 2. filament | b. disgust |
| 3. ineptitude | c. commonplace |
| 4. envision | d. fiber |
| 5. revulsion | e. projection |
| 6. ingenuity | f. imagine |
| 7. raiment | g. inability |
| 8. mundane | h. cleverness |

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1. My _____ for smoking was so great that I had to leave the room if someone lit a cigarette.
2. I prefer turning on the dishwasher to the _____ task of washing dishes by hand.
3. My _____ on ice skates was evident the first time I tried to spin.
4. She showed great _____ in making bookcases out of some old crates.
5. The radio play was so well written that I could _____ the entire scene.
6. A single _____ from his sweater was enough to identify the robbery suspect.
7. If you stand atop a rocky _____, you can see the entire island below.
8. The beggar's _____ consisted of nothing more than rags.