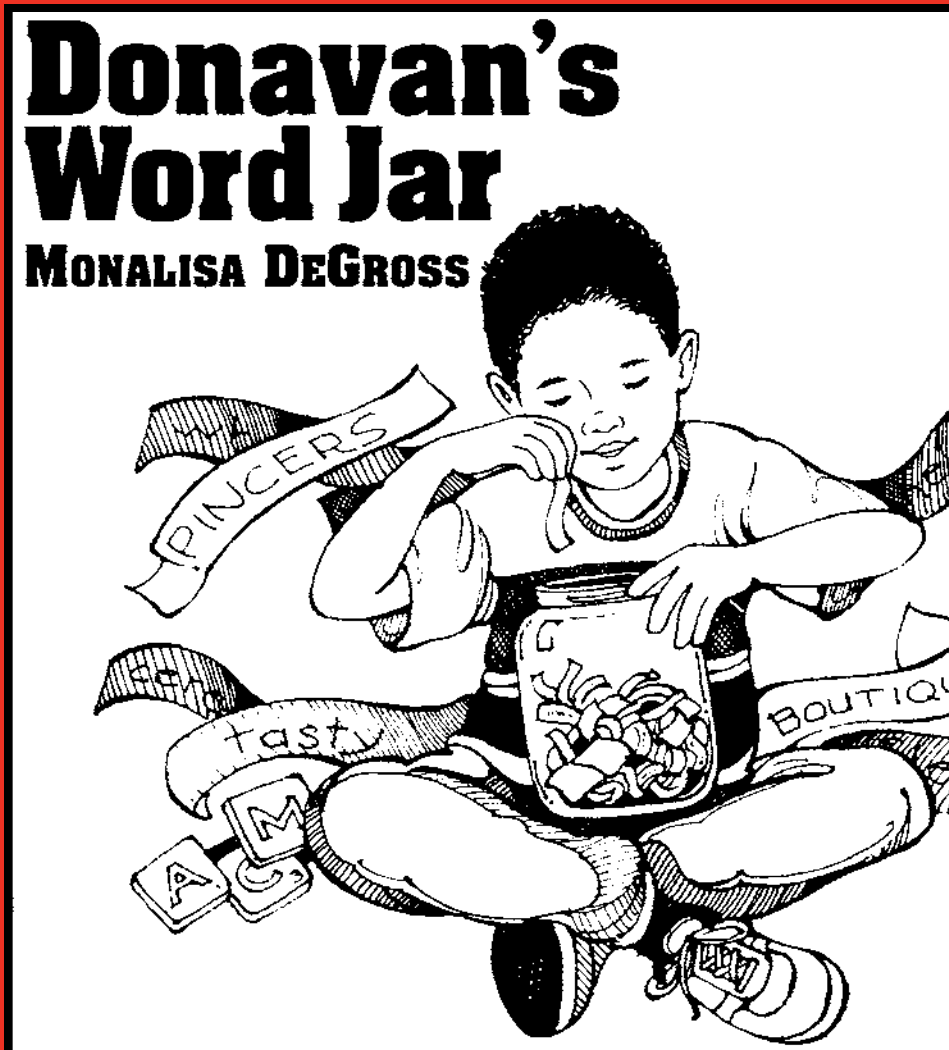


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Donavan's Word Jar* 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.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

6. To help you understand many of the fascinating words that Donovan adds to his collection, you may want to keep a dictionary handy while reading this book. As a warm-up, look up the word “persnickety” and answer these questions:
- What are the guide words on the page where you found the word?
 - How many syllables does the word have?
 - What is its part of speech?
 - What does it mean?
 - Based on what you know about Donovan from reading the blurb on the back cover, do you think this word describe how he feels about his collection?
7. Sometimes authors provide titles for their chapters. Often the titles are a main idea, the name of a character or place, or a “catchy” phrase to capture the reader’s interest. Scan the titles below. What is unusual about them? Based on these titles, write a sentence telling what you think each chapter might be about.

1. Donovan	
2. Donovan’s Discovery	
3. Donovan’s Dilemma	
4. Donovan’s Decision	
5. Donovan’s Delay	
6. Donovan’s Departure	
7. Donovan Dines	
8. Donovan’s Disappointment	
9. Donovan’s Diplomacy	
10. Donovan’s Delight	

After you finish reading the book, look back at your chapter predictions to see if you were correct.

Chapters 1, 2 (cont.)

Questions:

1. How is Donovan like the other children in his third-grade class?
2. In what important way is Donovan different?
3. How did Donovan begin his collection? What does he use to help him understand the new words he finds?
4. What kinds of words does Donovan collect?
5. What is Donovan's favorite way of collecting words?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What words would you use to describe Donovan? Would you enjoy meeting him? What would you ask him about his collection?
2. How does Donovan deal with Nikki's curiosity about his collection? How else might he have responded to her questions?

Picture Questions:

Study the pictures of Donovan in the first two chapters. What does the artist include around the borders of each drawing? Talk with a partner about how these words relate to the drawing and to what you have just read. Can you think of other words that the artist might have included?

Literary Device: Point of View

Stories can be told by different people. Sometimes the author as narrator tells the story. Other times, the story is told by one of the story characters. Who is telling this story? How do you know?
