

Novel•Ties

Arthur, For the Very First Time *Patricia MacLachlan*



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with a specific novel. 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 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.

MOLES

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. immense | a. making a hole or passage in or under something |
| 2. loyal | b. depending on chance or unknown conditions |
| 3. ogle | c. stare at |
| 4. alternate | d. faithful to one's duties |
| 5. burrowing | e. very great in size or number |
| 6. precariously | f. interchange regularly in time or place |

.....

1. Knowing that you are a(n) _____ friend, I will entrust my secret to you.
2. Once their children moved away, the elderly couple felt lonely in their _____ house.
3. The crops were planted in _____ rows of red tomatoes and green beans.
4. Even though you have never seen triplets before, try not to _____ as you pass by.
5. We gasped in wonder as we watched the acrobat balance _____ on the high wire.
6. The long bumps on our lawn showed that moles had been _____ underneath.

Questions:

1. Why did Arthur think he was having a problem summer?
2. How do you know that Arthur's father felt bad about yelling at him?
3. How did Arthur know his mother was going to have a baby?
4. Why was Arthur sent to live with Aunt Elda and Uncle Wrisby for the summer?
5. Why was Arthur happy to be with his aunt and uncle?

THE FAR AWAY END, THE MOCKING BIRD

Vocabulary: Use the context to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then compare your definition with a dictionary definition.

1. Visitors were asked to wait in the alcove before being invited into the office.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

2. I used binoculars to see the birds nesting in the tall trees.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

3. The gravel on the driveway washed away in the storm.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

4. A parrot can imitate the words of its owner.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

5. A fence was built around the field in order to create a paddock for grazing the animals.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

6. The pianist played the song with short, quick staccato notes.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

7. The smell of baking bread lured customers to the bakery.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____