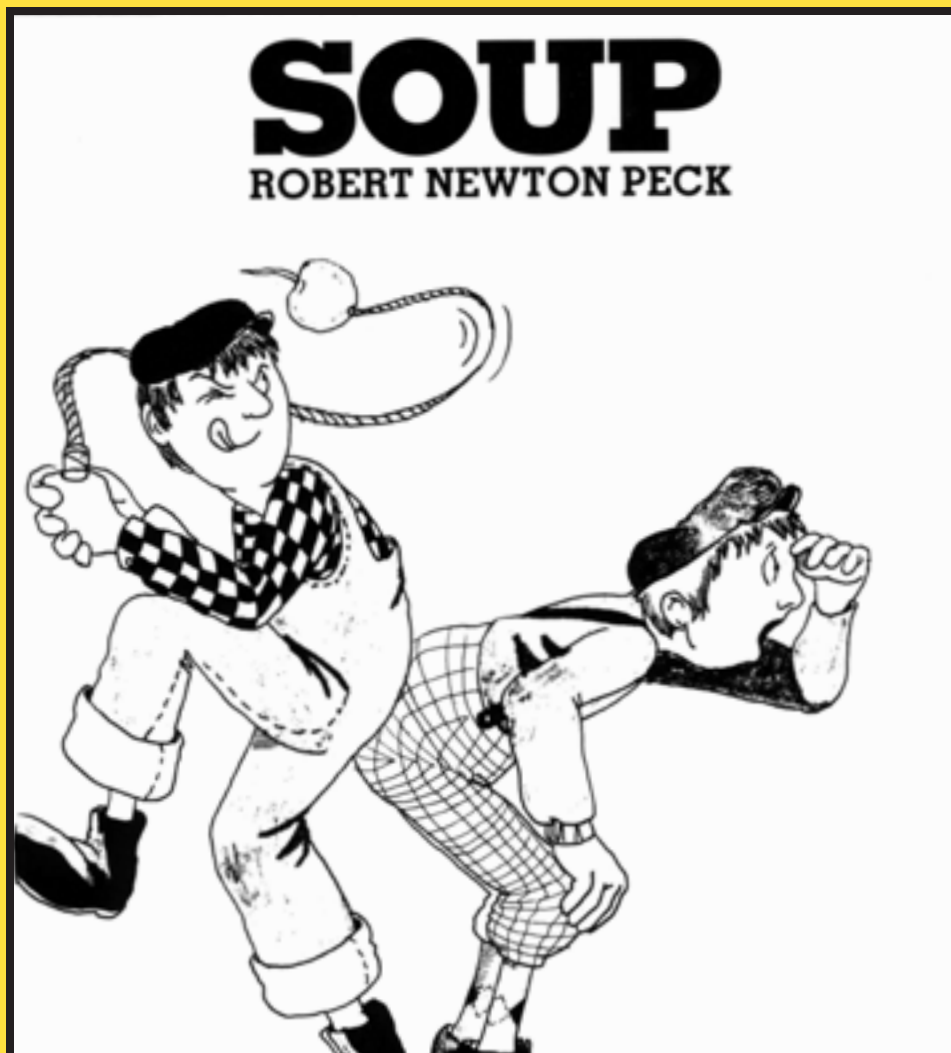


Novel·Ties



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 the book *Soup*. 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. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the cover illustration. What do you think the book will be about? Do you think it will be serious or humorous? When do you think it takes place? Does it take place in the past or the present? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. This book describes the childhood experiences of two boys who grew up in the 1920s. In the chart below, write a check [✓] next to any activity that you think children did in that era. Share your responses with your classmates. As you read, notice whether the book bears out your conclusions.

<input type="checkbox"/> watched television	<input type="checkbox"/> played with dolls that talked
<input type="checkbox"/> read books	<input type="checkbox"/> played football
<input type="checkbox"/> went to movie theatres	<input type="checkbox"/> roller skated
<input type="checkbox"/> played video games	<input type="checkbox"/> skateboarded
<input type="checkbox"/> played CDs	<input type="checkbox"/> worked on computers
<input type="checkbox"/> played musical instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> played "let's pretend" games

3. As you read about two best friends, Rob and Soup, consider the qualities you look for in a friend. Before you begin the book, complete the following phrase:

A FRIEND IS _____

Write your sentence on a strip of construction paper about 2" high and 18" long. Use your strip and those that your classmates create to make a bulletin board display.

4. **Social Studies Connection:** Locate the state of Vermont on a map of the United States. Then do some research to learn about Vermont. Fill in the information below.

Vermont is located in the _____ region of the United States.

State tree: _____

State bird: _____

Vermont was originally inhabited by the following Native American tribes:

Vermont was first explored by _____.

Vermont became a state in _____.

Motto: _____.

The capital of Vermont is _____.

You can find answers to these questions using an encyclopedia, or visit the official website of the state of Vermont at <http://www.state.vt.us>.

Chapter 1: A Note From Miss Kelly (cont.)

Literary Analysis:

Autobiography / biography — A biography is the story of a person's life written by someone else. An autobiography is the story of a person's life written by that person. A story may be said to be *autobiographical* if it is based on something an author remembers about his or her past. Some things in the story may not be exactly as they were in the author's life, while others are. Read the *biographical* information about Robert Newton Peck on page two of this study guide. What connections can you make between his biography and the first chapter of *Soup*?

Literary Device: Hook

A hook in literature refers to the author's attempt to grab the reader's attention at the beginning of the book. What is the hook in *Soup*?

Literary Elements:

- I. *Style* — Style is the way a writer tells a story. Peck's style has been called "folksy": his characters talk the way real people talk and use common expressions. Find some examples of this style in Chapter One.
- II. *Setting* — The setting of a work of literature refers to the time and place in which the story occurs. What is the first clue that this story occurred in the past?

What did you learn about the place it occurred?

Writing Activity:

Imagine you are there when Miss Kelly and Aunt Carrie see one another at the grocery store one day soon after the incident with Miss Boland and Rob. Write their conversation—"throwing a ball back and forth."