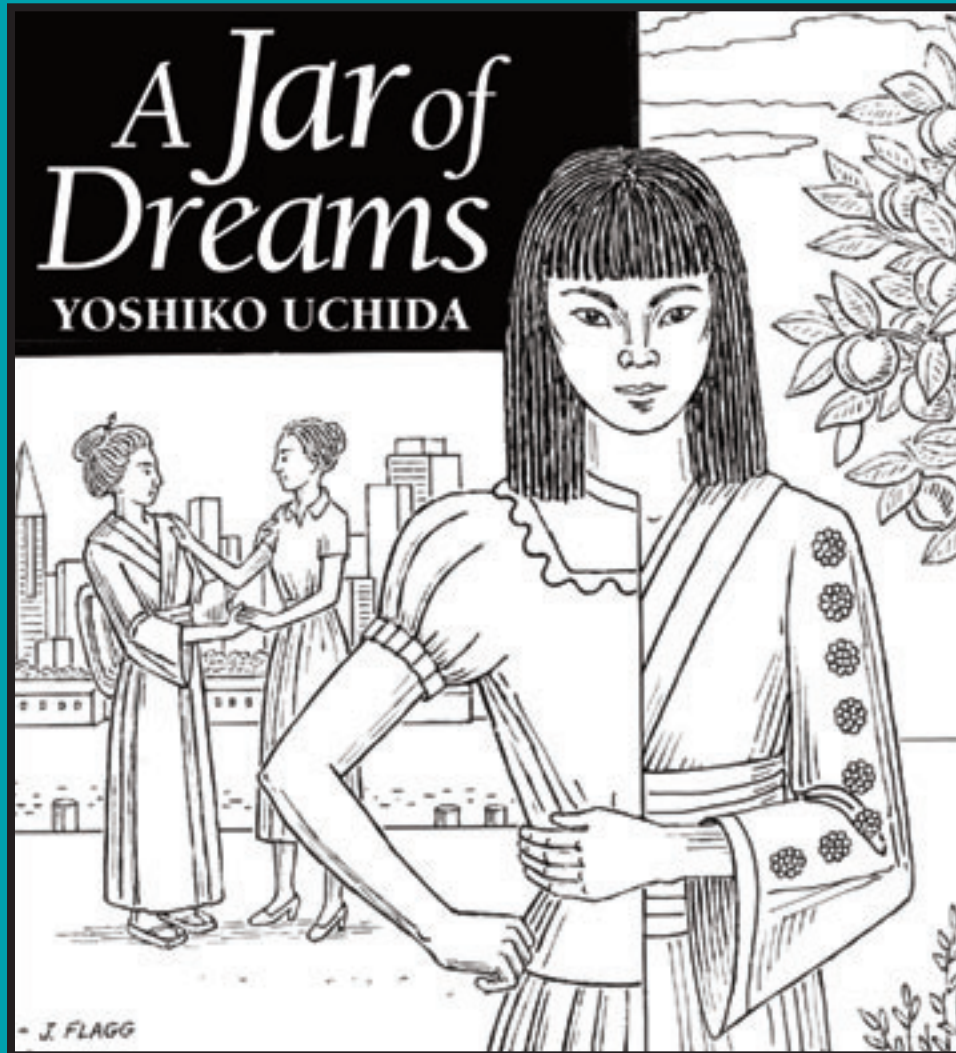


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

Written By Mindy Armstrong
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 *A Jar of Dreams*. 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.

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. engineer | a. eagerly desire |
| 2. covet | b. disease of the bowels |
| 3. misfortunes | c. designer or builder |
| 4. tragic | d. gloomy |
| 5. dysentery | e. sad or disastrous |
| 6. tuberculosis | f. disease of the lungs |
| 7. tuition | g. unfortunate accidents |
| 8. melancholy | h. fee for instruction |

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1. My hair is so curly and unruly that I _____ long, silky, straight hair.
2. Being confined indoors on a dreary, wet day left the children feeling _____.
3. My mom has been saving money for my college _____ for many years.
4. The farmer, having suffered through fire, flood, and drought, continued rebuilding despite his _____.
5. Complaints of upset stomach might cause a doctor to suspect _____.
6. After viewing x-rays of the patient's lungs, the physician diagnosed him with _____.
7. The bridge was designed by a(n) _____.
8. Playing with matches can cause _____ accidents.

Read to find out how Rinko and her family suffer from prejudice.

Questions:

1. What caused Rinko to worry when she returned home from school?
2. Why did Rinko usually avoid walking past the Starr Laundry?
3. How did the confrontation with Wilbur Starr affect Rinko?
4. Why did Rinko suffer at school?
5. What was Rinko's father's dream?
6. What did Rinko dream of becoming in the future?
7. Why was Rinko surprised that Aunt Waka would be coming to visit?

CHAPTER 2

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. forlorn | a. overjoyed |
| 2. kindred | b. ugly |
| 3. ecstatic | c. neglected |
| 4. homely | d. helpful |
| 5. accommodating | e. threatening |
| 6. menacing | f. related |

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- After years without being painted or repaired, the house looked _____ as it stood alone on the hill.
- As soon as I learned you enjoyed sailing and swimming as much as I do, I knew we were _____ souls.
- The entire team was _____ when they won the track meet.
- The river's rising water was a(n) _____ sight to the residents along its banks.
- Our _____ host considered the needs of all his guests.
- Everyone was surprised when the _____ little girl grew up to be a beautiful young woman.

Read to find out how the family felt about Aunt Waka's upcoming visit.

Questions:

- Why was Rinko excused from attending Japanese Language School?
- Why was Rinko pleased that she did not have to attend Japanese Language School?
- How did Maxwell become part of the family?
- What evidence showed that Rinko was more serious about her future than Joji?
- Why did Mama leave Japan to come to America?
- Why was Mama particularly excited about her sister's visit?