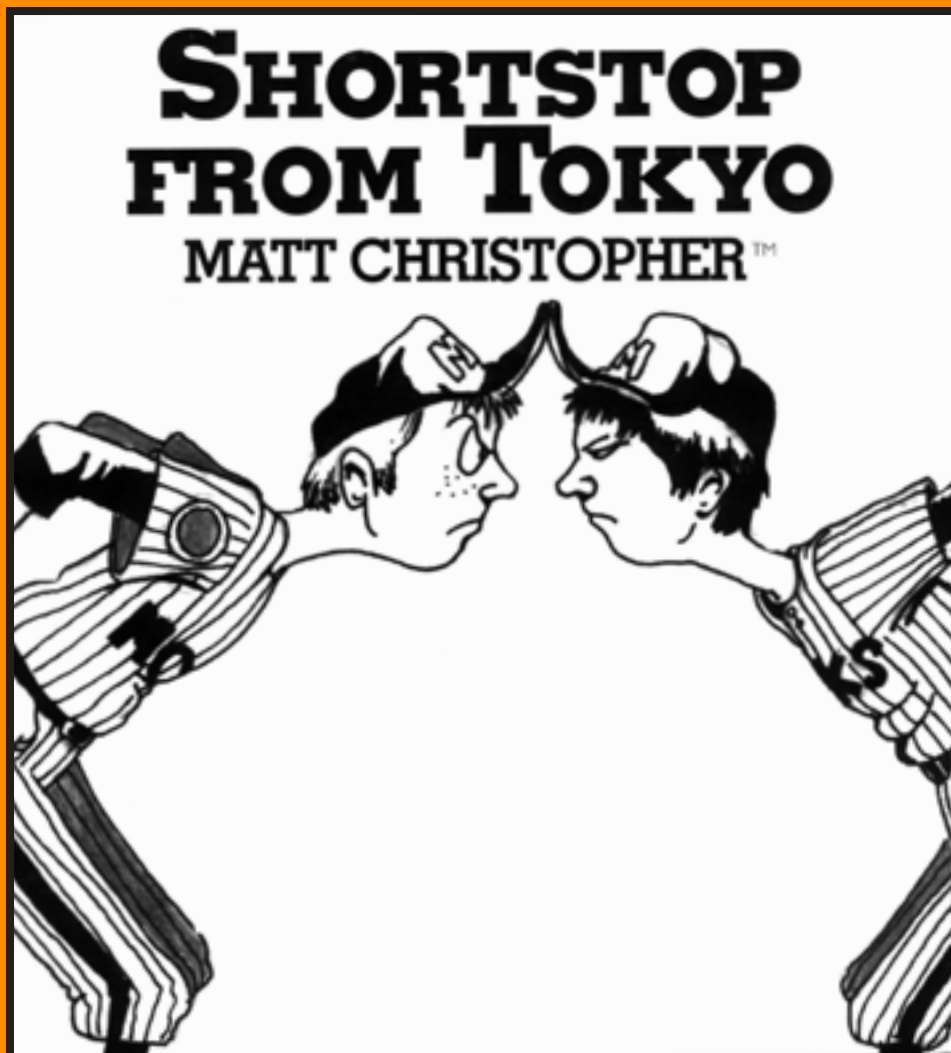


Novel•Ties



## A Study Guide

Written By Amy Losi

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 *Shortstop from Tokyo*. 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 illustration on the cover. What do you think this story will be about? When do you think it takes place? Have you read any other books by this author?
2. With your classmates, talk about the game of baseball. How is the game played? What are the rules of the game? On the blackboard draw a baseball field. What geometric shape is it? Mark the different positions in the field. Where does the shortstop stand?
3. Read the Background Information about baseball in Japan on page two of this study guide. Do some additional research to learn more about this popular sport.
4. **Social Studies Connection:** Look on a map or a globe and locate the city of Tokyo. What country is it in? Trace the path an airplane might fly from Tokyo to the United States. Do some research to learn about the city of Tokyo.
5. In this story, one of the characters leaves his home to live temporarily in a new country. Put yourself in his place and think about what it would be like to move from your home to a foreign country.
  - What are some of the adjustments and problems you might face in a strange place? What would you miss most about your home?
  - What belongings would you want to take with you if you were going to live in a new country for a year? Compare your responses to those of your classmates.
6. **Classification Activity:** Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Throughout this book the author uses many different words to describe the actions that take place during a game of baseball. Create a chart, such as the one below. As you read each chapter, write down the synonyms the author uses for the words at the top of each column. The first row is filled in as an example.

### SYNONYMS

threw	caught	hit	ran
whipped	speared	rapped	streaked

## 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. stout     | a. rarely                  |
| 2. seldom    | b. stooping or bending low |
| 3. scurry    | c. take turns              |
| 4. pivoted   | d. turned                  |
| 5. crouching | e. move quickly            |
| 6. alternate | f. fat                     |

.....

- You will see the catcher \_\_\_\_\_ behind home plate waiting for the next pitch.
- We saw the mouse \_\_\_\_\_ out of its hole, look for food, and then race back again.
- Since there were two good first basemen on the team, the coach decided they should \_\_\_\_\_ playing their games.
- If I continue eating rich foods, I will become too \_\_\_\_\_ to fit into my clothes.
- To get away from the person trying to block his shot, the player \_\_\_\_\_ and tossed the ball right into the basket.
- Since we live so far from town, I \_\_\_\_\_ get a chance to go to the movies.

Read to find out why Stogie Crane is worried about the new boy on his baseball team.

### Questions:

- What does Coach Dirkus expect from Stogie when he introduces him to Sam?
- Why isn't Stogie glad that Sam is joining the Mohawks?
- What can you tell about Sam from the way he talks to Stogie?

### Questions for Discussion:

- Do you think Stogie should be worried about Sam joining the team?
- How important are first impressions? Do you think you can tell what someone is like the first time you meet?
- How do you think Stogie feels when he sees Sam demonstrate his playing skills?