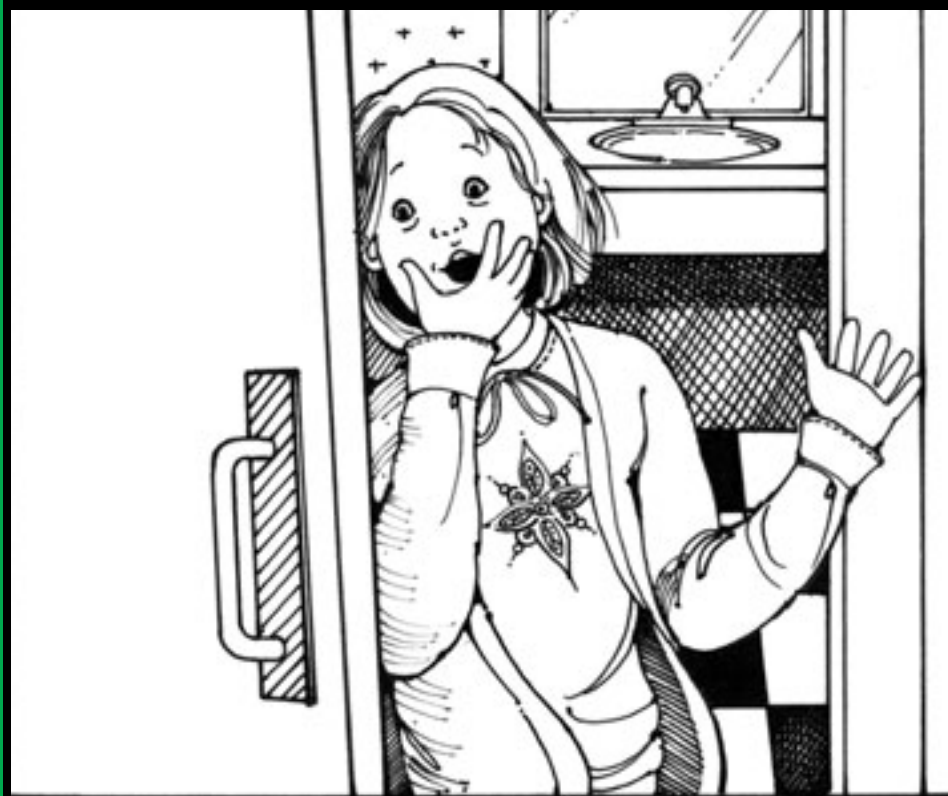


Novel·Ties

**There's A Boy  
in the Girl's Bathroom**

LOUIS SACHAR



**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 a specific novel 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 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.

**PRE-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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 book will be about? Do you think this book will be serious or humorous? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Read the first paragraph of *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*. What does Bradley's seat in his classroom reveal about him? What does it tell about the way others judge him? Do you think that you would want Bradley as a friend? Why or why not?
3. What problems do you face when you try to make new friends? What problems does a new student in your school face? As you read *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*, think about your answers to these questions. Think about how the characters deal with these problems.
4. A person's reputation refers to the way someone is regarded in a particular community. It could be a reputation at school, in the town, or among those who are the same age. How important is it to have a good reputation? Once someone has a reputation, how easy or difficult is it to change that reputation?
5. Have you ever failed to stand up for someone who was your friend? If you faced the same situation again, would you act in the same way? Do you think friends should always stand up for each other? If not, when is it all right *not* to support your friends?
6. What is a bully? Have you ever faced a bully? Why do you think some people become bullies? Do you think people become bullies by choice? If not, how might they try to change? How might others make it hard for them to change?
7. Is there a guidance counselor in your school? Why would some students visit a guidance counselor? Why might it sometimes be easier to discuss a problem with a guidance counselor than with a family member or friend? What qualities should a counselor have to gain your trust?

## Chapters 1 – 5 (cont.)

### Questions:

1. How did Mrs. Ebbel reveal her low expectations for Bradley?
2. How did Bradley show his displeasure with school?
3. How did Jeff's behavior surprise Bradley? How did Jeff's behavior confuse Bradley?
4. What role did the toy animals play in Bradley's life?
5. How did Bradley try to prevent his mother from going to the parent-teacher conference?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. In your opinion, is there anything Mrs. Ebbel could do to help Bradley?
2. Do you think Bradley's parents might help their son?
3. Why do you think Jeff wanted Bradley as a friend?
4. Do you think Miss Davis will be able to help Bradley?
5. Do you know anyone who behaves like Bradley? Why do you think this person acts that way?

### Literary Device: Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two unlike objects is suggested or implied. This is an example of a metaphor from the first paragraph of the book:

He [Bradley] was an island.

What is being compared?

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What does this reveal about Bradley?

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### Writing Activities:

1. Write a journal entry about a time when you or someone you know told a lie. Tell whether the lie got the person into trouble.
2. Imagine you are Bradley and write a letter to one of your animal friends expressing your thoughts and feelings as you wait for your mother to return from the parent-teacher conference.