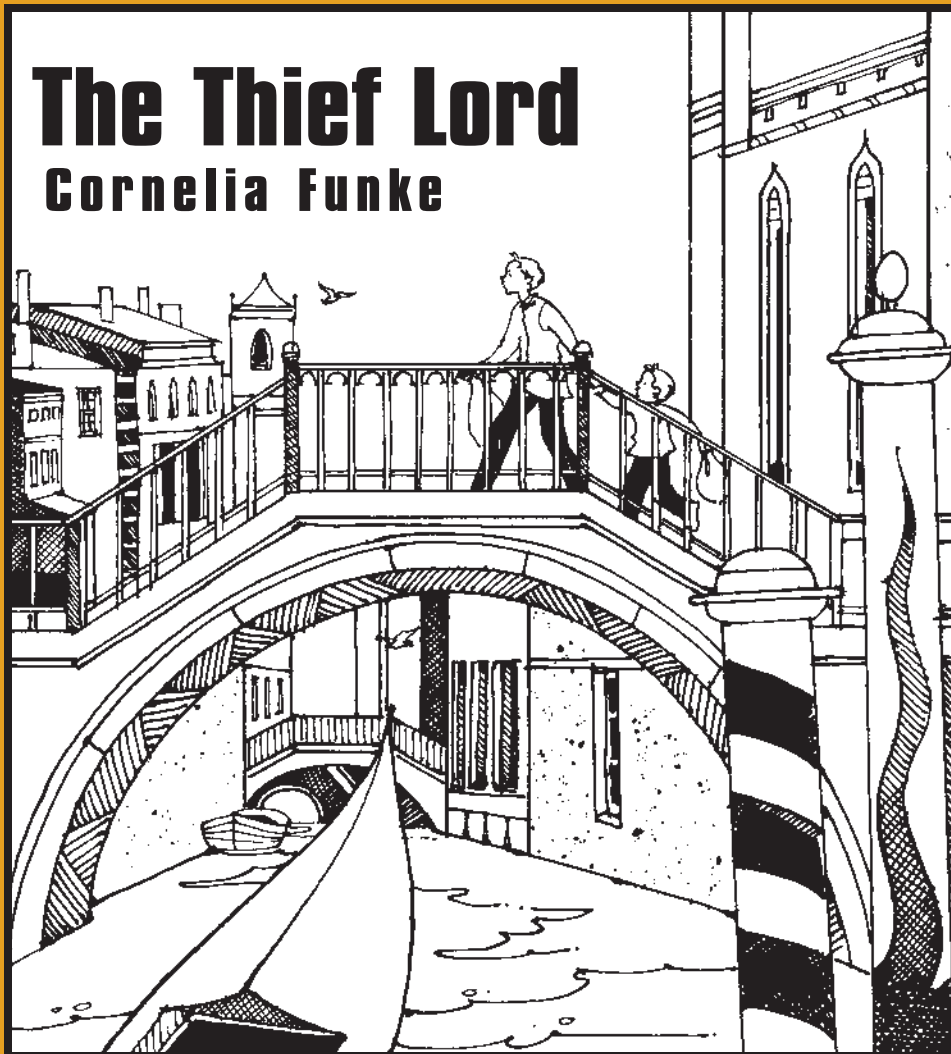


Novel·Ties



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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

History of Venice

Venice, or Venetia, as the Italians call this famous port city, has an interesting topography and a rich history. The city is built on many islets within a lagoon on the Gulf of Venice. These Islets are connected by canals and bridges. Because the city is composed of many town squares, or campi, and very few streets, cars are not allowed in Venice. Instead, people travel by gondola or motorboat. Because Venice is a city surrounded by the sea, water has always presented a problem for its inhabitants. The earliest people had to dig wells to gather rain water. In times of low rainfall, people had to collect water from the Brenta River using floatboats. This water was none too clean. About a century ago, Venice developed a municipal water system. However, water still presents a problem for the Venetians, who are plagued by floods as the city, which is built on piles, gradually sinks a little bit each year.

Settled over many centuries by people of different backgrounds, Venice shows a number of influences. The first settlers were most likely the Ligurians, the Trojans, and the Slavonic peoples. By the fifth century, refugees fleeing the Lombards settled on the islands under the leadership of a doge, an official who was elected by the Grand Council. Although the doge did not have extensive powers, the highest honors were attached to the office, and noble families were always eager to have a doge among their number. However, much of the responsibility for government of the region actually lay in the hands of the Senate and the Grand Council.

By the ninth century, Venice had become a city-state, its more than one-hundred islets organized into a central government. Its position on the Adriatic Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea, made Venice the link between Europe and Asia. The Rialto became the commercial center of Venice, the scene of a bustling trade with foreign lands, as barrels and boxes of oils and spices were unloaded on the bank of the Grand Canal to be stored in the city's warehouses. The main outdoor market of the city, the area around the church of San Giovanni Elemosinaro, provided Venetians with a place to buy their foods and other supplies. Some of these came from as far away as Asia. The Venetian Marco Polo was the first European to travel extensively on that continent; his travel writings gave Europeans a glimpse of Asian culture that so astonished readers, he was widely believed to have manufactured his observations. Venice was for a time the greatest sea power in the world, reaching the height of its influence in the fifteenth century. In 1797, Napoleon I conquered the city. In 1866, Venice became part of Italy.

With so many cultures contributing to its settlement, Venice embodies a number of distinct architectural styles. The world-famous St. Mark's church shows the Byzantine influence, while other churches and public buildings are baroque in style. St. Mark's Square, where some of the action of *The Thief Lord* takes place, is the centerpiece of the city, with its lofty Basilica, the Campanile, and Doge's Palace. Today, tourists love to visit the square on the sea. Its openness contrasts vividly with the narrow streets and many smaller squares of the city, in which apartment buildings, shops, and restaurants are tucked away. The city has notable museums, hotels, and restaurants and continues to be a popular tourist attraction.

CHAPTERS 1–9

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. camouflage | a. ready in speech |
| 2. contemptuous | b. those who commit a crime |
| 3. custody | c. examined carefully |
| 4. engrossed | d. gloomily silent |
| 5. fluent | e. concealment by means of disguise |
| 6. perpetrators | f. scornful; lacking respect |
| 7. scrutinized | g. absorbed; giving complete attention to something |
| 8. sullen | h. the official duty of looking after someone |

.....

1. Students who were committed to the honor system were _____ of the boy who was caught cheating on the test.
2. When the morning turned cold and rainy and the picnic was cancelled, the disappointed child grew _____.
3. My sister, who is _____ in Spanish and French, plans to teach languages.
4. The police caught the _____ before they could flee the scene of the crime.
5. The hikers _____ the weather reports before they headed for the mountain trails.
6. The soldiers wore _____ so that their enemy could not spot them in the jungle.
7. I was so _____ in a good book, I didn't realize it was past midnight.
8. Because Pam's mother could not take care of her, Pam's grandmother gained _____ of her.

Read to find out how Prosper and Bo came to live at the Star-Palace.