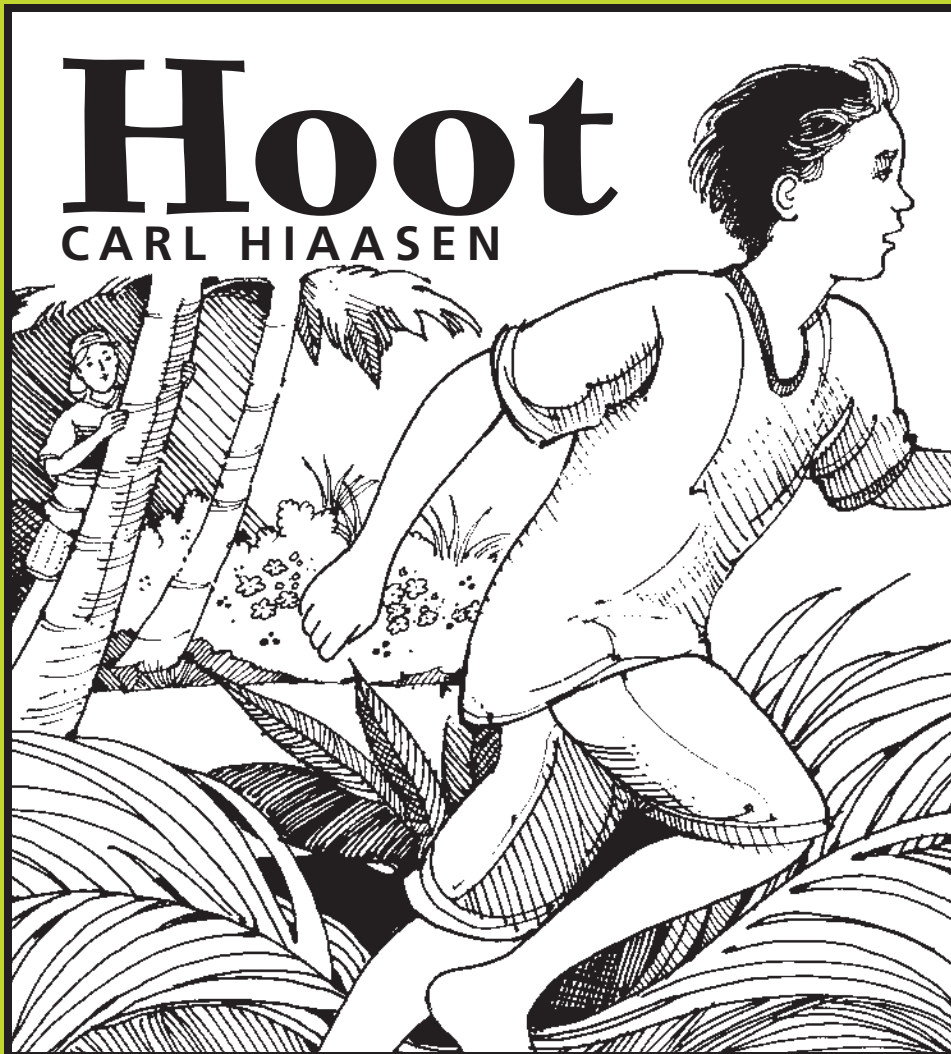


Novel·Ties



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 the novel *Hoot* 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 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Burrowing Owl

Description

The burrowing owl is a small ground-dwelling owl. It has a round head, no ear tufts, white eyebrows, yellow eyes, and long legs. The young are brown on the head, back, and wings with a white belly and chest. They are relatively easy to see because they are active during daylight hours, and they are surprisingly bold and approachable. The females are usually darker than the males. Typically, the burrowing owl is 8 1/2 inches long with a wingspan of 20–24 inches. It weighs between 6 and 7 1/2 ounces. It flies with irregular, jerky wingbeats and frequently makes long glides, alternating with rapid wingbeats. The male hovers during hunting and courtship.

Hunting and Food

Burrowing owls feed on a wide variety of prey, depending upon location, time of year, and availability. Beetles and grasshoppers comprise a large portion of their diet. Small mammals, especially mice, rats, and squirrels are also important food items. The owls capture prey in several different ways: they chase down grasshoppers and beetles on the ground, use their talons to catch large insects in the air, or hover in mid-air before swooping down on unsuspecting prey. Burrowing owls are most active at dusk and dawn, but they will hunt throughout a twenty-four hour period, especially when they have young to feed.

Breeding

The nesting season begins in late March or April. Burrowing owls are usually monogamous, but occasionally a male will have two mates. The male performs courtship display flights, rising quickly to 100 feet, hovering for several seconds, then dropping 50 feet. This sequence is repeated many times. Burrowing owls nest underground in abandoned burrows dug by mammals or may even dig their own burrows. They will also use man-made nest boxes, which they line with an assortment of dry materials. Adult owls usually return to the same burrow or a nearby area each year. The female lays from 6 to 9 white eggs a day apart, and incubates them for 28–30 days. The male brings food to the female during incubation and stands guard near the burrow by day. The males care for the young while still in the nest. The young leave the nest at about 44 days and begin chasing live insects at 49–56 days old.

Distribution

Burrowing owls are present in North America across the grassland regions of southern Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba in Canada. They occur in all states west of the Mississippi Valley. A separate subspecies is found in Florida and the Caribbean Islands. They extend south into Mexico, Central and South America, but populations have declined in many areas due to human-caused habitat loss or alteration.

CHAPTERS 1 – 3

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. ambushed | a. confronted boldly |
| 2. vandalism | b. willful destruction of property |
| 3. deface | c. having doubt |
| 4. accosted | d. injury of the brain resulting in disturbance of cerebral function |
| 5. consternation | e. attacked by surprise from a hidden place |
| 6. intimidate | f. state of being overwhelmed with shock, surprise, and wonder |
| 7. skeptical | g. dismayed and thrown into confusion |
| 8. flabbergasted | h. mar the appearance of |
| 9. concussion | i. make timid or fearful |

.....

1. A frilled lizard makes itself look bigger in order to _____ its enemy.
2. Every Halloween the school gets covered with eggs and shaving cream, making it necessary for the school authorities to report the _____ to the police.
3. I was _____ when I won the quilt raffle because I had never been lucky before.
4. Unaware of the other animal's presence, a scampering mouse was _____ by the stealthy cat.
5. The patient reacted with _____ when the doctor told him the bad news.
6. Wear a helmet when you ride a bicycle to avoid getting a(n) _____.
7. A man entered the circus without a ticket, only to be _____ by a guard who was dressed like a clown.
8. Although many people claimed to have seen the same UFO, I was _____ of their report.
9. The principal made the students wash their names off the wall and warned them never to _____ school property again.