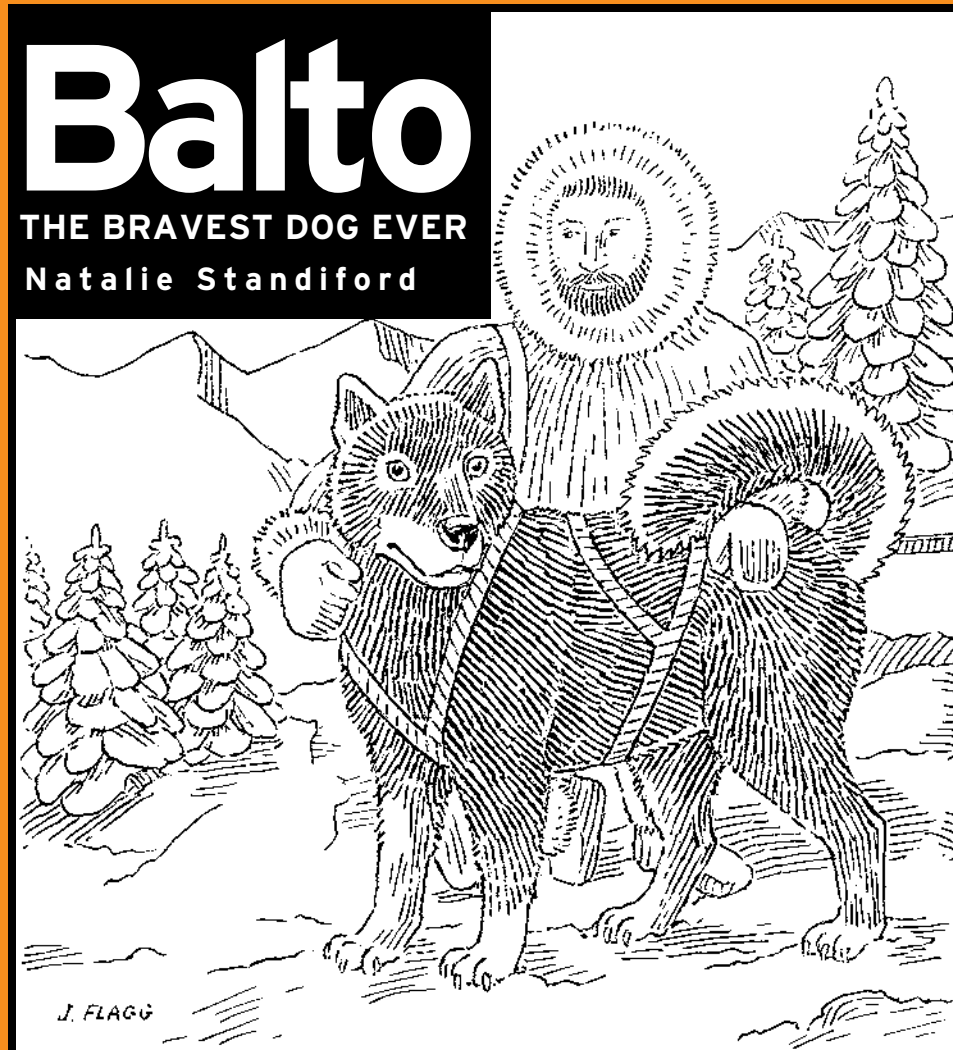


Novel·Ties



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.

4. Many books and movies are about dogs. Think of some that you have read or seen. Write the names of three dogs that are characters in books or movies. Tell what you like about each dog.

Name of Dog	What I Like About This Dog

5. **Social Studies Connection:** On a world map or globe, locate Alaska and the cities of Anchorage and Nome. Find out the distance between the two cities. Learn about their weather conditions. Find out about travel between these two cities. Then look at the map on pages 20 and 21 that shows all the stops on the Anchorage-Nome relay. As you read the book, trace the paths of the dog sled teams.
6. **Science Connection:** Find out all you can about the deadly disease of diphtheria. What happens to a person who has this sickness? How are people today protected against the disease?

Pages 3 – 15 (cont.)

Story Questions:

1. When does this true story about Balto take place?
2. Where does Balto live?
3. What is the only way to travel in Alaska at the time of this story?
4. What is Balto's job?
5. Who is Gunnar?
6. What terrible sickness breaks out in Nome?
7. Why can't the medicine reach Nome by train?

Picture Questions:

1. What do the pictures tell you about Nome, Alaska?
2. How many dogs are part of Balto's team?
3. What clues help you guess this story happened over eighty years ago?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is it important for a lead dog to be smart and strong?
2. Why were dog sleds the only way to travel in Alaska in 1925?
3. What might happen in Nome if the doctor doesn't get the medicine?

Geography Connection:

The medicine is 700 miles away from Nome. On a map of your region, find the town or city where you live. Then use the scale of miles to find three cities that are about 700 miles away.

List the names of these cities.
