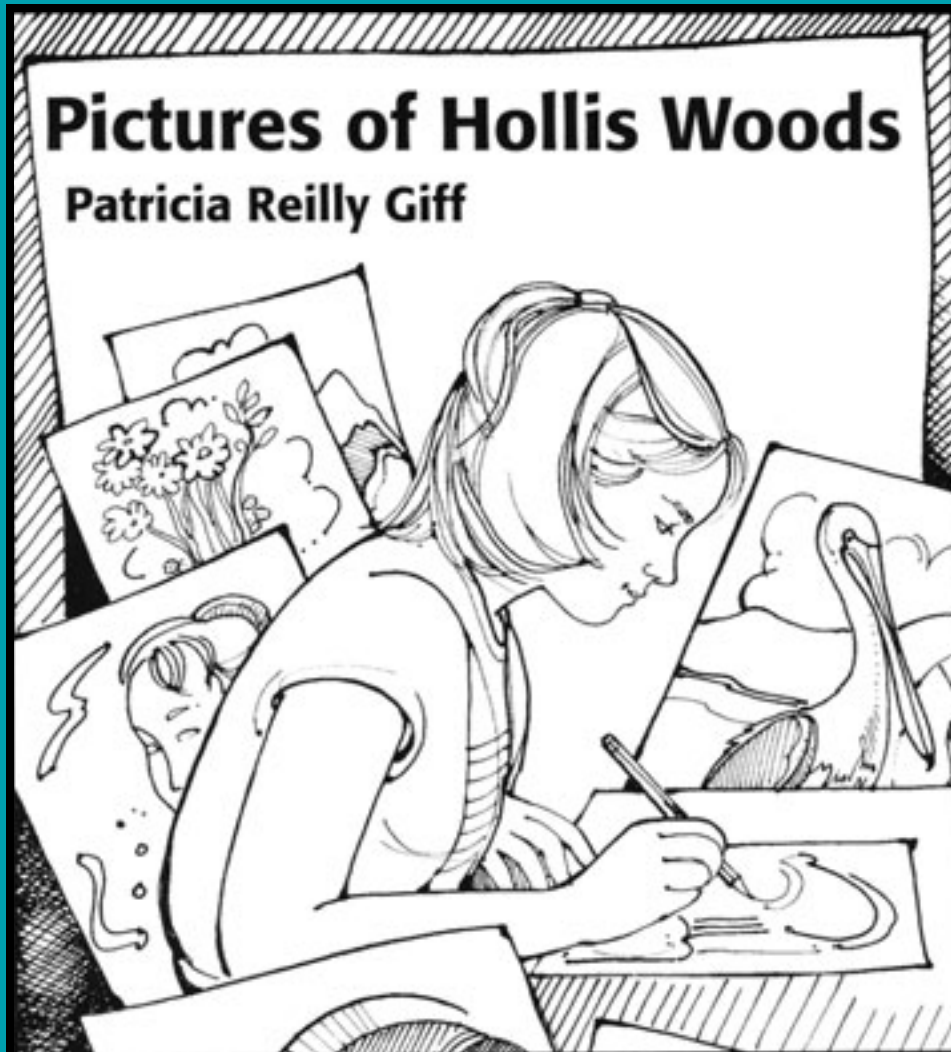


Novel·Ties



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 *Pictures of Hollis Woods* 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 own 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 QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What can you predict about this story? When and where do you think it takes place? Will it be serious, humorous, or both? Have you read any other books by Patricia Reilly Giff?
2. Read the information on foster care in the Background Information on page two of this study guide. Then do some further research to learn about the rules, regulations, and common practices for foster care in your state. Also, find out about the difference between adoption and foster care.
3. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** In a cooperative learning group, brainstorm to list everything you know about Alzheimer's disease. Then read the information on this disease in the Background Information on page two of this study guide and do some additional research in order to answer the following questions:
 - What causes the disease?
 - Who gets the disease?
 - What are its first symptoms?
 - What are the different stages and what symptoms appear at each stage?
 - How is it treated?
 - What special care do patients need?
 - What difficulties does the disease present?

After you find the answers to these questions, go back and review your original list. How many of your original thoughts about the disease turned out to be true? What mistaken beliefs, if any, did you have?

4. What different kinds of families have you known in real life, read about, or seen in movies and television shows? How are all of these families the same? How are they different?
5. Have you ever thought about running away? Can running away solve problems? In what way might it create even more problems?
6. What is the meaning of the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words"? In what way are feelings, thoughts, hopes, goals, and viewpoints sometimes portrayed better in pictures than with words? Give some examples.
7. **Art Connection:** In this book, Hollis Woods reveals her past through the pictures she draws. Select three moments that have been very important to you. Either create an original picture or create a collage from photos and magazine pictures to reflect each moment.
8. When discussing why she writes for children, author Patricia Reilly Giff relates:

I want to tell children that all of us have problems in our growing-up years....
I want to say that others share the same problems and find the courage they need.*

What books have helped you know that others share your problems? Have these books helped you find the courage you need to deal with those problems?

*From "Why I Write for Children" by Patricia Reilly Giff. The Children's Book Council at www.cbcbooks.org

1ST PICTURE, 2ND PICTURE; CHAPTERS 1, 2

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. boulder | a. slight coloring |
| 2. tinge | b. large, detached rock |
| 3. mangy | c. works of genius |
| 4. irritable | d. plaster or cement finish for walls |
| 5. stucco | e. showing many colors that shift and change |
| 6. hacking | f. easily angered |
| 7. masterpieces | g. shabby and dirty |
| 8. iridescent | h. chopping with hard blows |

.....

1. The explorers were _____ their way through the thick jungle.
2. The young child was fascinated by the colors in the _____ soap bubbles.
3. It is common to find _____ on the outside walls of homes in warm climates.
4. At sunset, the sky took on a(n) _____ of red.
5. A security system was installed to protect the many _____ hanging in the museum.
6. Lack of sleep always makes me _____.
7. The _____ dog looked as if he hadn't had a bath or been groomed in months.
8. A tow truck was needed to move the _____ off our property.

Read to find out why Hollis Woods is going to a new foster home.

Questions:

1. Why did Hollis's teacher mark an X over her picture of the family? What mistake did the teacher make?
2. What does Hollis think of when she thinks of her W picture?
3. What evidence shows that Hollis does not look forward to her new foster care placement?