Novel·Ties

Ellen Tebbits BEVERLY CLEARY

A Study Guide Written By Duncan Searl Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Ellen Tebbits* 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 ACTIVITIES

- 1. Preview the book by reading the title and author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book will be about? Do you think the book will be serious or funny? Have you read any other books by the same author?
- 2. In this story, the main character Ellen Tebbits really wants to have a best friend. Do you think having a best friend is important? Why or why not? What qualities would you expect in a best friend? What is the best way to find and keep friends?
- 3. Locate the earliest copyright date for *Ellen Tebbits* on the page opposite the page in the front of the book. Why do you think a book stays in print for so many years? As you read, notice those details that show that this book was written in the past. On the chart below, list phrases, objects, and events that seem old-fashioned to you.

Page	Old-fashioned Things

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Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

5. As you read *Ellen Tebbits*, fill in the story map.

STORY MAP

Title		
Author		
Main Character		
Other Characters		
Main Events		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
\		
Story Outcome:		

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