

Novel·Ties

ALMOST STARRING  
SKINNYBONES

Barbara Park



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 *Almost Starring Skinnybones* 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 (cont.)**

5. Sometimes authors provide a title for each chapter of a book. The title may be a main idea, the name of a character or place, or a “catchy” phrase to grab the reader’s eye. The author of *Almost Starring Skinnybones* didn’t give the chapters titles, but you can. As you read each chapter, think of a good title. Write the chapter title on the chart below.

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Title</b>
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	
Six	
Seven	
Eight	
Nine	
Ten	

## CHAPTER 1

**Vocabulary:** Synonyms are words with the same or similar meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its synonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
1. dramatic	a. star
2. insulting	b. embarrassing
3. celebrity	c. strength
4. humiliating	d. exciting
5. glared	e. proud
6. authority	f. rude
7. self-respecting	g. frowned

- .....
- We waited outside the studio, hoping to get the autograph of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In the play, Juan made a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ entrance, waving his sword and shouting.
  - Tanya \_\_\_\_\_ at me angrily when I said I didn't want to go to her party.
  - It was \_\_\_\_\_ for the actor to trip and fall as he was reciting his lines on stage.
  - My feelings were hurt when my friends made \_\_\_\_\_ remarks about my robot costume.
  - If you wish your dog to obey you, use a tone of \_\_\_\_\_ in your voice.
  - No \_\_\_\_\_ ball player would show up for the game thirty minutes late.

Read to find out how Alex gets the chance to make a TV commercial.

**Questions:**

- How does Alex feel about Annabelle Poesy and her father?
- Why is Alex going to make a TV commercial?
- Why does Alex often feel humiliated at school?
- What does Alex do to act like a celebrity?