

Novel·Ties

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy

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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 *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* 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 the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. When and where do you think this book takes place? What do you think this book will be about? Will it tell a realistic or a fantastic story? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Locate the states of Maine and Massachusetts on a map of the United States. In what part of the country are they found? Then on a map of the New England states, find the city of Boston, Massachusetts, and the town of Phippsburg in Maine. Using the distance scale, calculate how far Phippsburg is from Boston by road. Then trace the water route between the two locations. Why might people prefer to travel by steamer rather than road in the early part of the twentieth century?
3. **Social Studies Connection:** Locate Malaga Island on a map of coastal Maine. Read the Background Information on page two of this study guide and the Author's Note that appears at the end of *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. Based on what you have learned about Malaga Island, make a prediction about what happens to Lizzie Bright, who lives with her grandfather on the island.
4. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* describes the struggles that the son of a minister faces when his family relocates from a large city to a small rural town. What problems do most young people confront when moving to a new community? What unique challenges might a minister's son encounter?
5. When Turner Buckminster finally makes a new friend, he soon finds that his father, as well as the town, disapproves of this relationship. Have you ever been in a situation in which your parents did not approve of a friendship? Why did they disapprove? How would you feel if your parents forbade you to associate with someone?
6. In an interview, the author, Gary Schmidt, said, "I suppose the big reason [that I write for young readers] is that I am fascinated by that moment in a kid's life when she decides that she will take responsibility for a decision . . ." Tell about a time in your life when you had to take responsibility for a difficult decision. Describe the decision and tell how it affected your life. Looking back, would you make the same decision if you were confronted by a similar problem today? As you read the book, notice why Darwin's theory was controversial in Phillipsburg, Maine.
7. **Science Connection:** Do some research to learn about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. Why did his work create controversy when it was first published? Why does it create controversy today? As you read the book, notice why Darwin's theory was controversial in Phillipsburg, Maine.
8. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* was named both a Newbery Honor and a Printz Honor book. Think of award-winning books you have read. What qualities do these books have in common? As you read this novel, decide why it was selected to receive these prestigious awards.

CHAPTER 1

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. parsonage | a. wood flat-bottomed rowboat with high sides |
| 2. deacons | b. temporary relief from danger or trouble |
| 3. meandered | c. simultaneous action |
| 4. chaos | d. church officers who help a minister |
| 5. reprieve | e. wandered without any purpose |
| 6. dory | f. thick substance obtained from certain pine trees |
| 7. resin | g. home of a minister or parson |
| 8. unison | h. complete confusion and disorder |

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- When Jon's presentation was postponed because of a fire drill, he felt as if he had been given a temporary _____.
- The fisherman rowed out into the bay in search of cod after loading his _____ with nets and bait.
- The women of the Ladies Sewing Circle made new curtains to decorate rooms of the _____ before the arrival of the new minister and his family.
- It was hard to remove the _____ that had dripped on the windshield from the pine tree near our driveway.
- Complete _____ erupted in the auditorium when someone yelled, "Fire."
- The chorus practiced long and hard so that they could sing in _____.
- It was difficult to follow the path through the woods because it _____ around large outcroppings of granite, fallen trees, and broken stumps.
- After interviewing several candidates, the _____ met to choose the new pastor of the First Congregational Church.

Read to find out what happens when Reverend Buckminster and his family arrive in Phippsburg.