

Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	1
Background Information	2 - 3
Pre-Reading Activities	4 - 5
Pages 5 - 17	6 - 7
Pages 18 - 29	8 - 10
Pages 30 - 47	11 - 13
Pages 48 - 62	14 - 16
Cloze Activity	17
Post-Reading Activities	18 - 19
Suggestions For Further Reading	20
Answer Key	21

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Sam the Minuteman* 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.

The British soldiers continued on to Concord. They found very little gunpowder and few rifles. Colonial soldiers attacked the British and forced them to march back to Boston. They were fired upon by Minutemen all along the way. By the time they arrived back in Boston, more than 250 British soldiers had been killed or wounded.

Paul Revere

Paul Revere was a well-known silversmith and patriot in Boston in the years before the American Revolution. He helped to set up a warning system to alert citizens of the actions of the British soldiers in Boston. He was also a member of a group that patrolled the streets of Boston to keep watch on British soldiers.

Paul Revere is best remembered as a messenger before the battles of Lexington and Concord. His famous “Midnight Ride” began on the night of April 18, 1775. He, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott rode from Charlestown to warn the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord that British army troops were coming from Boston. Revere was captured before he reached Concord.

During the American Revolution, Revere became a Lieutenant Colonel of artillery. He was part of the poorly planned Penobscot Expedition to Rhode Island in 1778. When he returned, he was accused of disobeying orders and had to leave the militia. Later, he was excused for his conduct. After the war, Revere returned to the manufacture of gold and silver objects. He also developed a business of copper plating, which eventually became the Revere Copper and Brass Company. On May 10, 1818, Paul Revere died at the age of eighty-three.

Captain John Parker

John Parker was a successful farmer, a skillful carpenter, and a good mechanic. As a patriot who was willing to fight for freedom, he was elected captain at the age of forty-six. Even though he was in poor health, he commanded a small force of Minutemen in Lexington on April 19, 1775. He showed great bravery when he told his men not to fire unless they were fired upon by the British. Although eight of his men were killed that morning, and several badly wounded, he collected his company and met the British soldiers on their return from Concord. On September 17, 1775, Parker died of tuberculosis.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

6. **Social Studies Connection:** Go online to find a map of the thirteen colonies as they were in 1775. Then locate the city of Boston and the towns of Lexington and Concord in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. As you read the book, trace the path of the British soldiers.
7. Read the Background Information on Paul Revere and Captain John Parker on page three of this study guide. As you read the book, decide whether the book is true to the facts about these two men.