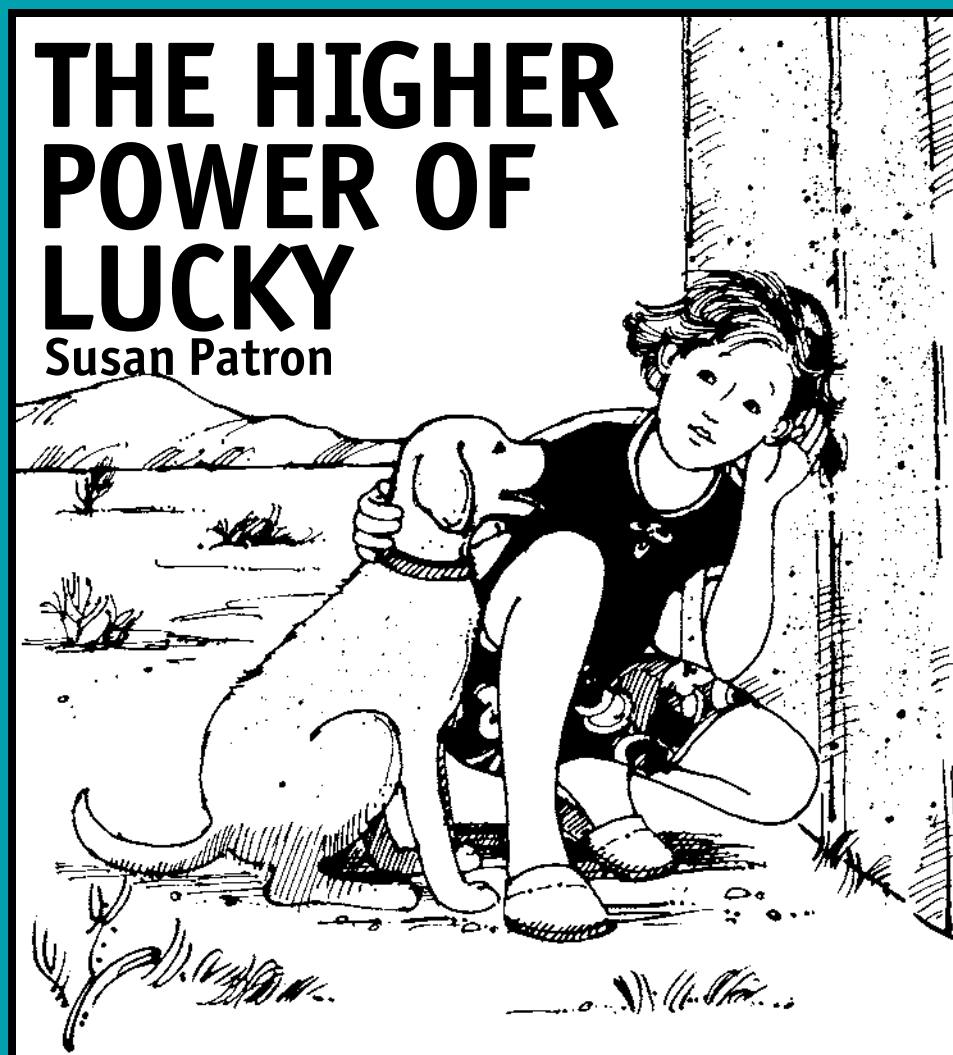


Novel·Ties



## 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 *The Higher Power of Lucky* 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.

## Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin, born on February 12, 1809, was the British naturalist who became famous for his theories of evolution and natural selection. Darwin discovered that all life on earth developed gradually over millions of years from a few common ancestors.

From 1831 to 1836, Darwin served as naturalist aboard the H.M.S. Beagle on a British science expedition around the world. In South America Darwin found fossils of extinct animals that were similar to modern species. On the Galapagos Islands he noticed many variations among plants and animals of the same general type as those in South America.

When he returned to London, Darwin conducted thorough research through the notes and specimens he had collected aboard the Beagle. Out of this study grew several theories:

- Evolution did occur.
- Evolutionary change was gradual.
- The primary mechanism for evolution was a process called natural selection.
- The millions of species alive today arose from a single form through a branching process called specialization.

## CHAPTERS 1 – 4

**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.

- | <u>A</u>     | <u>B</u>                                      |
|--------------|---|
| 1. anonymous | a. worn by rubbing; strained                  |
| 2. crevices  | b. against the law                            |
| 3. sinister  | c. of unknown name or origin                  |
| 4. veered    | d. incident or event                          |
| 5. frayed    | e. threatening or evil                        |
| 6. guild     | f. turned; changed from one course to another |
| 7. illegal   | g. narrow cracks                              |
| 8. episode   | h. group sharing a similar interest or trade  |

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1. The members of the \_\_\_\_\_ hold monthly meetings to discuss matters related to their work.
2. In most cities, it is \_\_\_\_\_ to deposit litter on the streets or other public areas.
3. Just when I began to understand your explanation, you \_\_\_\_\_ off to another subject and lost me completely.
4. After remaining \_\_\_\_\_ for several years, the author finally made his name public in order to accept an award.
5. The tall, spindly trees and the unpainted door, swaying on its hinges, gave the house a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance.
6. Tiny wildflowers are growing in the \_\_\_\_\_ between the rocks in the garden wall.
7. After an unfortunate \_\_\_\_\_ with his bicycle, my little brother decided to put the training wheels back on for a while.
8. After sitting outside for five years, the woven straps on the lawn furniture became \_\_\_\_\_.

Read to find out why Brigitte came to Hard Pan.