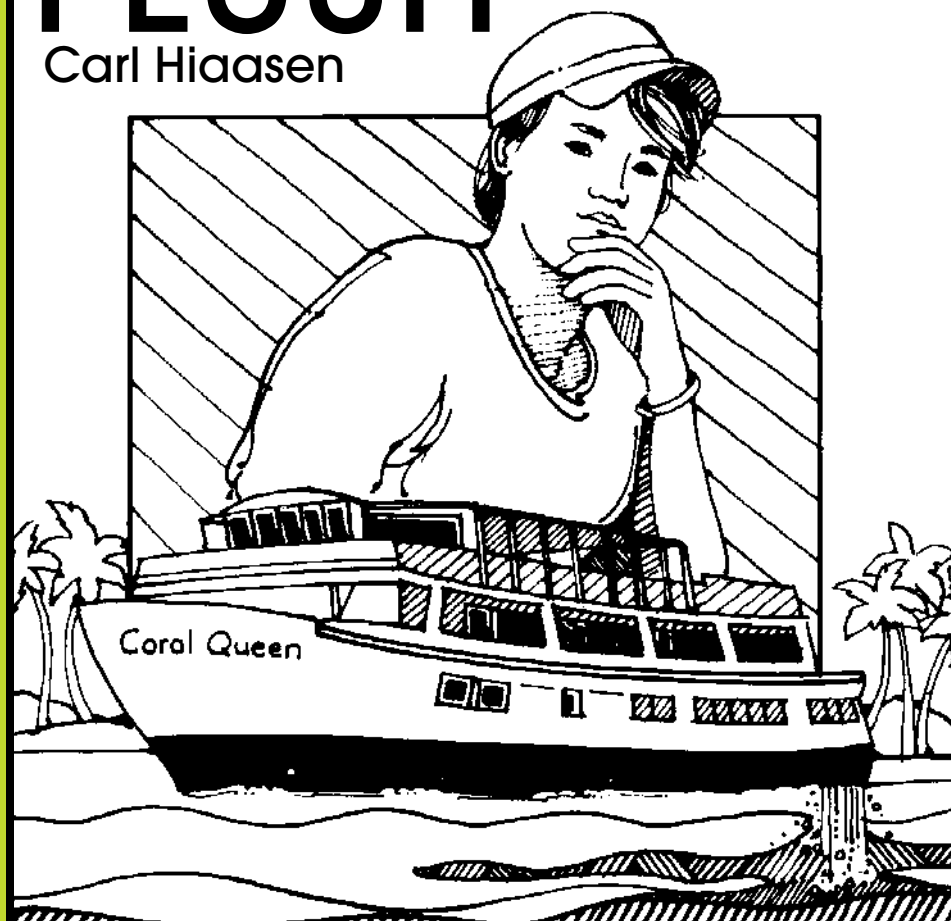


## Novel·Ties

# FLUSH

Carl Hiaasen



## 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 *Flush* 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.

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## 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. What do you think this book is going to be about? Do you think it will be serious or humorous? Where do you think it will take place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. **Science Connection:** Do some research to learn about the regulation of water pollution in your state. Find out whether there are any serious problems on the waterways in your state and whether these problems are being addressed.
3. **Social Studies Connection:** Noah Underwood, the main character, lives in the Florida Keys. Locate the Florida Keys on a map. Where is this area in the state of Florida? What body of water is on the east? What body of water is on the west? What do you think it would be like to live there? How might it compare to the place where you live?
4. **Science Connection:** Water pollution is a problem in the waters surrounding the Florida Keys. What do you think are some causes of this water pollution? Are you aware of any water pollution problems in Florida? How do you think the problems of water pollution can be solved?
5. Take a class survey to find out who your classmates think is responsible for the protection of wildlife and the environment in general? Is it the government, business, individuals, or all of the above?
6. **Science Connection:** Do some research and find some pictures of the animals and plants that can be found in the Everglades in Florida. As you read, notice whether any of these plants or animals are mentioned in the book.
7. Paine Underwood, the father of the main character in this book, goes to great lengths to save his local beach from pollution. Have you or anyone you know ever taken on an important cause and tried to make a difference? Did others help? Explain what happened.
8. Noah and his family spend a great deal of time fishing and boating. Have you had any experience fishing or boating? What kinds of boats have you been on? Did you enjoy it? What kinds of boats have you seen or read about?
9. Noah's father purposely commits a crime, but he does so to help the environment. Should a criminal's intentions influence the kind of punishment that is imposed?
10. In the novel *Flush*, a casino boat is the cause of a central conflict. What is a casino boat? Where is it legal to have casinos in the United States? How do you feel about casinos and gambling? Do you think they should be legal?
11. Do some research to learn about gaming regulations in Florida and in the state in which you live. What special gambling rights are granted to Native Americans?
12. Look at the glossary on page two of this study guide. Refer to it as you read the book and encounter words that are part of the nautical or oceanographic lexicon.

## CHAPTERS 1 – 3

**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. sneer      | a. windy, rainy storm                               |
| 2. stable     | b. blurred or dimmed (as vision)                    |
| 3. idle       | c. adapted to; in the habit of                      |
| 4. valid      | d. seriously  |
| 5. squall     | e. smile or laugh in a mean way                     |
| 6. gravely    | f. well-founded; sound                              |
| 7. accustomed | g. operate at a low speed                           |
| 8. bleary     | h. dependable; not wavering in character or purpose |

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1. Having grown up in northern Maine, I am \_\_\_\_\_ to cold winters and lots of snow.
2. My sister's \_\_\_\_\_ eyes revealed that she had stayed up too late at the slumber party.
3. The Coast Guard sent a warning for all boats to come in before the \_\_\_\_\_ hit the area.
4. Once the soldier returned from overseas, he was glad to be part of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ family unit again.
5. The news anchor spoke \_\_\_\_\_ as he described the effects of the flood.
6. It was such a beautiful day that we were happy to sit in our boat, letting the motor \_\_\_\_\_ only a few feet off shore.
7. Having just come to the city from a small farming town, the boy worried that his classmates would \_\_\_\_\_ at his country ways.
8. You need to have a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ passport to travel from one country to another.

Read to find out whether Noah and Abbey will help their father nail Dusty Muleman.