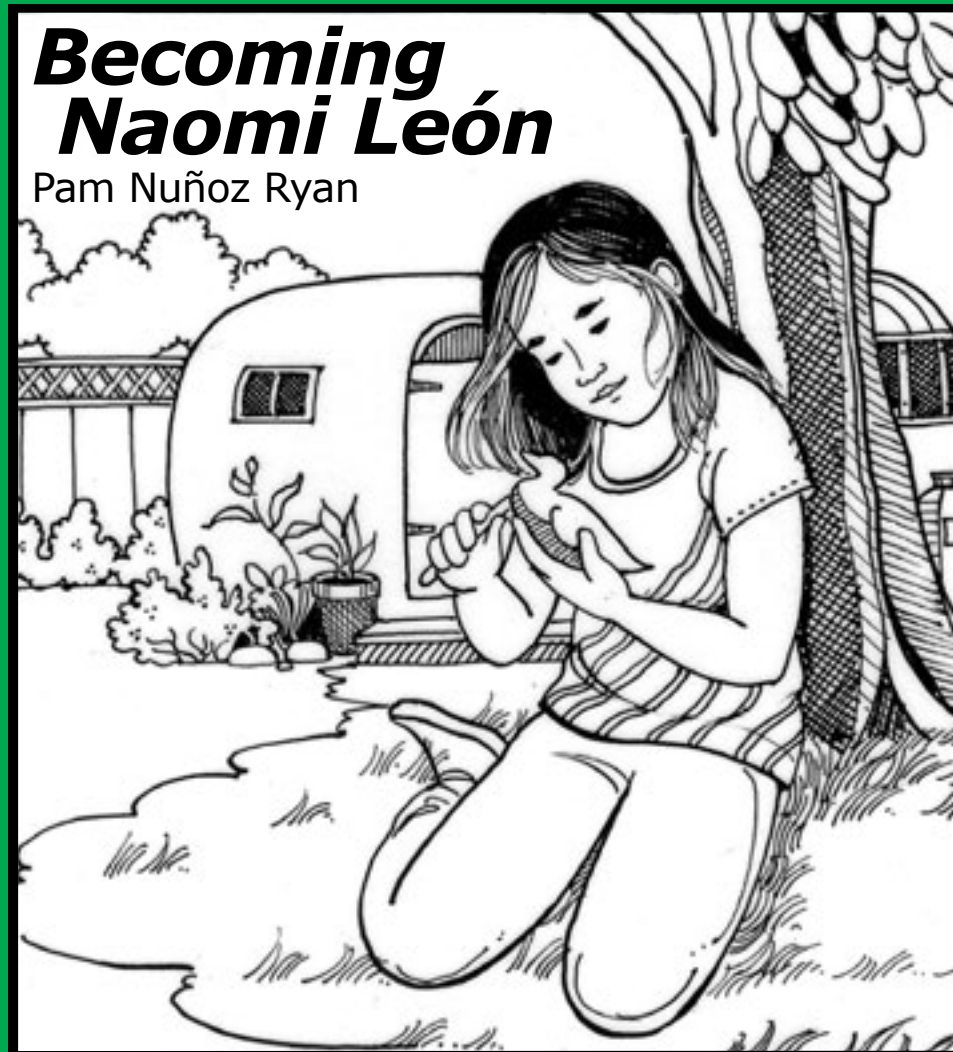


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

Written By Carol Alexander

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Becoming Naomi León* 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 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 AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover of the book. What do you think the book will be about? When and where do you think it takes place?
2. Have you read any other books by Pam Nuñez Ryan? Read about her in the "About the Author" section at the back of the book. As you read, consider what parts of the book might be based on her own experience.
3. **Social Studies Connection:** What do you know about the culture and traditions of Mexico today? Read the Background Information about Oaxaca, Mexico on page two of this study guide. Then brainstorm with a small group of classmates to fill in the first two columns in a K-W-L chart, such as the one below. When you finish the book, record what you learned in the third column.

MEXICO		
What I Know -K-	What I Want to Learn -W-	What I Learned -L-

4. The main characters in this story live together in an Airstream trailer. Read about Airstream trailers in the Background Information on page two of this study guide. Then go online to learn more and see photos.
5. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** In this novel, two children confront the reality of a parent who suffers from alcoholism and an emotional disorder. With a small group of classmates, make a list of possible reasons a person might begin to depend on alcohol or drugs. For each item on the list, brainstorm positive ways a person could manage issues and challenges in a healthy, productive way.
6. When the character Naomi sees her mother again after many years, she experiences mixed feelings. Have you ever had conflicting emotions about a person in your life? Write a journal entry describing your reactions to this individual.
7. Owen, a character in this novel, has some physical disabilities with which he must cope. How do you suppose a person might adapt to problems of this kind? How might others respond to a person who seems "different" on the outside?
8. Gram, the great-grandmother of the two children in this story, believes there is good and bad in most situations. Think of some circumstances in your own life now or in the past that had qualities of both good and bad. Make a list of the positive and the negative in each instance.
9. In the United States today, there are thousands of children growing up in foster care or with adults other than their biological parents. How do you think this might affect a young person? Make a list of some concerns a child or teen might have in such a situation.

Pre-Reading Activities and Discussion Questions (cont.)

13. Look at the Table of Contents at the beginning of the book. Chapter titles are usually a main idea or a catchy phrase. This book uses catchy phrases relating to animals for each of the chapter titles. As you read the book, record the chapter name given and create a new chapter title that reflects the main idea in a short phrase.

Chapter Number	Catchy Phrase	Main Idea
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
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11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
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