

Novel·Ties

One Crazy Summer

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A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	1
Background Information	2
Advocates of Black Power in America	3 - 5
Pre-Reading Activities	6 - 7
Chapter Questions and Activies	8 - 27
Cloze Activity	28
Post-Reading Activities	29
Suggestions For Further Reading	30
Answer Key	31 - 33
Notes	34

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the book *One Crazy Summer* 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.

ADVOCATES OF BLACK POWER IN AMERICA

H. Rap Brown

Hubert Gerold Brown, known as H. Rap Brown and later as Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in October 1943. His civil rights activism included involvement with SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) of which he was named chairman in 1967. That same year Brown was arrested in Cambridge, Massachusetts and charged with inciting to riot as a result of a speech he gave.

Brown appeared on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List after avoiding trial on charges of inciting riot and of carrying a gun across state lines. The venue for the trial was moved from Cambridge to Bel Air, Maryland. After the courthouse where he was to be tried was bombed, Brown disappeared for over a year and then was arrested after a reported shootout with officers due to an attempted robbery of a bar in New York.

Brown spent five years in Attica Prison where he converted to Islam and changed his name to Jamil Abdullah al-Amin. After his release, al-Amin opened a grocery store in Atlanta, Georgia and became a Muslim spiritual leader.

Al-Amin is currently serving a life sentence for the 2000 shooting of two Fulton County Sheriff's deputies, one of whom died.

Eldridge Cleaver

Leroy Eldridge Cleaver, better known as Eldridge Cleaver, was born in Arkansas in August 1935 and moved with his family to Phoenix and then to Los Angeles. As a teenager, he was involved in petty crime and spent time in detention centers. In 1957, Cleaver was arrested for committing rape and was convicted of assault with intent to murder. While in prison, he wrote *Soul on Ice*, a book of essays that became highly influential in the Black Power movement.

In 1966, Eldridge was released from prison and joined the Oakland-based Black Panther Party. He was a presidential candidate in 1968 on the ticket of the Peace and Freedom Party. Later that year, he was shot during an ambush by Oakland police in which fellow Black Panther member Bobby Hutton was killed and two police officers were injured. Charged with attempted murder, Cleaver jumped bail and became a fugitive in Cuba, then Algeria, and then in France.

Cleaver returned to the United States in 1975, became a "born again" Christian and denounced his radical past. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1983. By the 1980s, Cleaver had become a conservative Republican. In 1986, Cleaver embarked on an unsuccessful campaign to win the United States Senate seat held by Democratic incumbent Senator Alan Cranston of Wyoming.

In 1988, Cleaver was placed on probation for burglary and was jailed briefly after testing positive for cocaine. The next ten years were marked by serious problems due to drug addiction. Cleaver died in May 1998.

Black Panther party with Bobby Seale. He earned a bachelors degree at UC Santa Cruz in 1974 and later enrolled there as a graduate student in History of Consciousness.

Newton and the Panthers started several social programs in Oakland, including the Oakland Community School and the Free Breakfast for Children Program. Newton was later accused of embezzling \$600,000 of state funds from the Oakland Community School; the charges were reduced to a single count of cashing a \$15,000 check. Newton was sentenced to six months in jail.

When Oakland police officer John Frey challenged Newton as he participated in Panther patrol, a shootout ensued among Frey, Newton, and backup police officer Herbert Heanes. Frey died, while Heanes and Newton suffered injuries. Newton was convicted of voluntary manslaughter, but his case was appealed. After two mistrials, the case was dropped. From 1974 to 1978, Newton was accused of the murder and assault of a prostitute and a tailor. After trials and deadlocked juries, these cases were also dropped.

In 1980, Newton earned a Ph.D. in social philosophy at UC Santa Cruz. During this time, Newton's relationships within the Black Panther party became strained as many questioned his commitment to their cause. In August 1989, Newton was fatally shot.