

# Novel•Ties

## DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

Jeff Kinney



## A Study Guide

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### LEARNING LINKS

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. 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 on 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 guided reading 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 or group of chapters; 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 will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Cartooning

A cartoon is a sketch or drawing, usually humorous, in a newspaper or periodical, satirizing, symbolizing, or making fun of some action, person, or subject of popular interest. It can be in the form of a comic strip which is a set of cartoons usually in a newspaper. In 1843 the word “cartoon” was first used in newspapers. The first use of the word cartoonist was recorded in 1880.

### Bullying

Bullying is a pervasive problem in American schools. It can go beyond the school environment into social media. Schools and communities are trying many approaches to protect students. Have you seen any aspects of bullying in your school? Have you been able to do anything about it?

### Author Information

Jeff Kinney was born in Maryland and grew up in the Washington D.C. area. It was at the University of Maryland that he ran a comic strip called “Igdoof” for the campus newspaper. This experience influenced him to become a newspaper cartoonist. In addition to cartooning and writing, he created a virtual world, “poptropica.” *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* first appeared in FunBrain.com in 2004 where it was extremely popular. It first appeared in book form in 2007. Jeff lives in New England with his wife and two sons.

SEPTEMBER

**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. appreciated  | a. silly                            |
| 2. dismantle    | b. valued highly                    |
| 3. fabrications | c. weak; timid                      |
| 4. gimmicks     | d. definitely, exactly              |
| 5. hassling     | e. small devices                    |
| 6. permanently  | f. in such a way as to last forever |
| 7. ridiculous   | g. take apart                       |
| 8. specifically | h. bothering                        |
| 9. wimpy        | i. false statements                 |

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- 1. I was told \_\_\_\_\_ to come directly home from school because we were going to have company and I needed to help.
- 2. His work was \_\_\_\_\_ by everyone who saw it; they thought that it was done by a professional.
- 3. Jeffrey had all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ that he used in his science projects.
- 4. We all laughed at the \_\_\_\_\_ costume Barbara wore to the Halloween parade.
- 5. It took us such a long time to build our city of blocks that we were hesitant to \_\_\_\_\_ it when it was time for supper.
- 6. We wanted to build a sand castle that would last \_\_\_\_\_ but the tide was coming in and it would be washed away soon.
- 7. The teacher made sure that no one bullied the \_\_\_\_\_ kid.
- 8. Be careful when you state \_\_\_\_\_ in your homework assignment because the truth will be easily found out.
- 9. Whenever my brother and sister were \_\_\_\_\_ each other, they stopped the minute an adult came into the room.

Read to find out about the “Cheese Touch.”