Little Novel-Ties

The Story of Ferdinand

Munro Leaf

Drawings by Robert Lawson

A Study Guide

Written by Garrett Christopher

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For the Teacher

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *The Story of Ferdinand*. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your whole language reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author and illustrator; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary; visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that link the story to other curriculum areas.

Suggestions For Using Activities

Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read

These activities are designed to activate children's prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group, or with the entire class.

Word Study – Full of Action

This page presents examples and brief instructional material on verbs, called "action words." After locating the action words in three sentences, children supply the missing verb in five sentences that relate to the story. Then children write several original sentences and circle the action word in each.

Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions

The Story Questions include a number of literal, inferential and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The Picture Questions help children draw inferences from the illustrations. Depending upon the level of the group, you may wish to have children respond orally or in writing.

BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the book title.
   Then look at the picture on the cover.
   Who is Ferdinand?

2. This story takes place in Spain, a country in Europe.
   Look at the pictures in the book.
   What clues can you find that the story takes place long ago?

3. Ferdinand is a bull.
   What words can you think of to tell about bulls?
   Make a list.
   Share it with a partner.

4. In this story, Ferdinand finds something that makes him happy.
   Draw a picture.
   Show something that makes you happy.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How is Ferdinand different from all the other little bulls?

2. Where would you look first if you wanted to find Ferdinand?

3. Why does Ferdinand's mother begin to worry? Why does she change her mind?

4. What do all the other young bulls dream about? What do they do to make this dream come true?

5. What kind of bull do the men want?

6. Why do the men pick Ferdinand?

7. The Banderilleros, the Picadores and the Matador all have different jobs in a bull fight. What does each do?

8. What happens when Ferdinand enters the ring? Why does he refuse to fight?

9. How might the story change if a bee had stung Ferdinand when he was in the middle of the bull ring?

10. Have you ever known someone like Ferdinand who didn't act like everyone else? What was this person like? Was this person happy?

11. Do you think this story has a lesson to think about? Explain your answer.