# TABLE OF CONTENTS

For the Teacher ................................................. 1
Suggestions For Using Activities ......................... 1 - 2
Synopsis .......................................................... 3
Author Information ............................................. 3
Pre-Reading Activities ....................................... 4
Word Study ....................................................... 5
Understanding the Story ..................................... 6 - 7
Understanding Pictures ....................................... 8
Story Frame ........................................................ 9
Extension Activity .............................................. 10 - 12
Follow-Up Activities ........................................... 13 - 14
Suggestions For Further Reading ......................... 15
Answer Key ....................................................... 16
Notes ............................................................. 17

Little Novel-Ties® are printed on recycled paper.

The purchase of this study guide entitles an individual teacher to reproduce pages for use in a classroom. Reproduction for use in an entire school or school system or for commercial use is prohibited. Beyond the classroom use by an individual teacher, reproduction, transmittal or retrieval of this work is prohibited without written permission from the publisher.
For the Teacher

This reproducible Little Novel-Ties study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears. 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 – Animals On the Move

This page presents examples and brief instructional material to introduce the concept of verbs, which are identified as action words. Using characters and action words from the story, children are asked to match subjects and predicates to create sentences that describe how various story characters move.

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.
BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the title of the book.  
   Then look at the illustration on the cover.  
   What do you think this story will be about?

2. What sound do mosquitoes make?  
   What else do mosquitoes do?  
   What do most people do when they hear a mosquito? Why?

3. In this story, some animals get blamed for something they didn’t do. Has this ever happened to you? Make a list of words telling how you felt. Then share your list with a partner.

4. Some insects are helpful. Some insects are pests.  
   Draw a picture of an insect doing something helpful.  
   Then draw a picture of an insect doing something harmful.
STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why does the iguana become so annoyed at the mosquito? How does he show his feelings?

2. What does the python think when he sees the iguana? Why does he think this? What does he do?

3. Why does the crow decide to spread the alarm? Who helps the crow?

4. What happens to the baby owl? Why does it happen? Would you say it was an accident or was it done on purpose? Tell why you think so.

5. How does Mother Owl feel when she learns what has happened? How does she show how she is feeling?

6. Who calls a meeting of all the animals? What is the purpose of the meeting? What happens during the meeting?

7. Why does the mosquito feel guilty? What is her punishment?

8. Would you blame the mosquito for the owlet’s death? Why or why not?

9. What do you notice about how this story is told? Were you able to tell what would come next? Do you know any other stories that are told in this way?

10. What does the old saying “look before you leap” mean? Which of the story characters should have followed this advice? How would it have changed the story?