



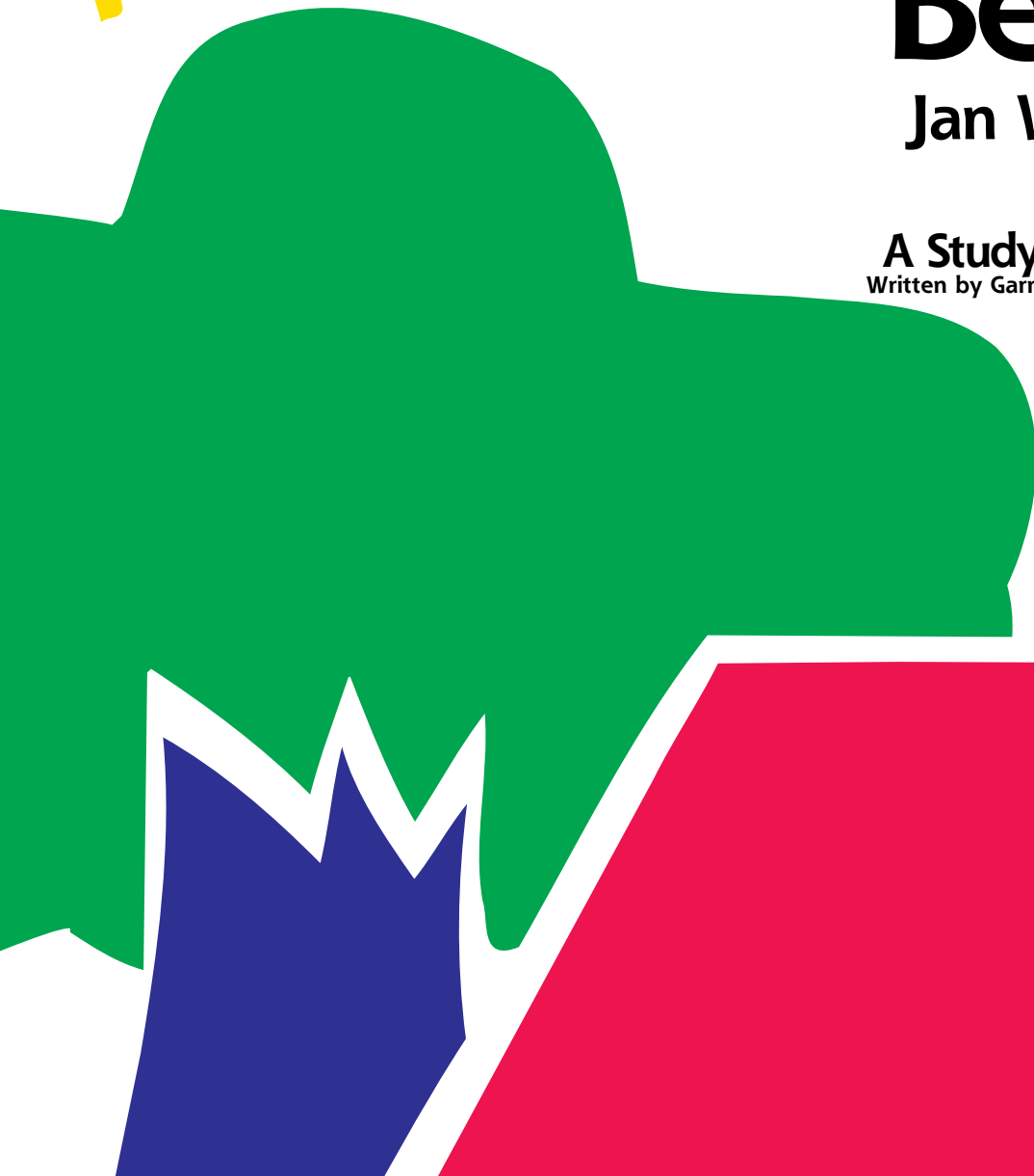
**Little  
Novel·Ties**



# **Humphrey's Bear**

**Jan Wahl**

**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 *Humphrey's Bear*. 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**

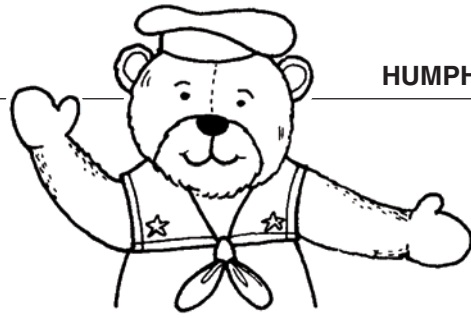
These activities are designed to activate children's prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group, or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

### **Word Study – Describing Words**

This page presents examples and brief instructional material on adjectives, which are called describing words. Children read some sentences about events in the story and are asked to select a describing word to complete each sentence.

### **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 picture on the cover. What do you think this story will be about?
2. Look at the pictures on the first few pages. Do you think this story is about a real bear or a make-believe bear? What makes you think this?
3. In this story, the boy has a dream. What are some of the things you dream about? Make a list and share it with a friend.
4. The bear in this story once belonged to Humphrey's dad. Do you have something that once belonged to another family member? Draw a picture. Show something you have or would like to have from a parent or grandparent.



## STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does Humphrey's father think about Humphrey's bear? Why? How do you think Humphrey may have felt about his father's remark?
2. How did the bear change? When did this change take place?
3. What did Humphrey and the bear do when they reached the backyard? Could this happen in real life?
4. What did Humphrey and the bear see and do after they sailed out of the backyard?
5. Describe the storm. What happened to the bear? How did Humphrey try to help?
6. How do you think Humphrey felt when he saw the bear disappear under the waves? Why do you think he felt this way?
7. Where did the two friends finally meet each other? What did they do then?
8. Who did Humphrey see when he opened his eyes? Why do you think his father was standing there? What did his father remember?
9. Did Humphrey really go on a boat trip with his bear? What clues can you find to suggest that the trip was a dream?
10. By the end of the story, do you think Humphrey's dad changed his mind about Humphrey sleeping with the bear? Tell why you think as you do.