



**Little
Novel·Ties**



CRICTOR

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A Study Guide
Written by Garrett Christopher

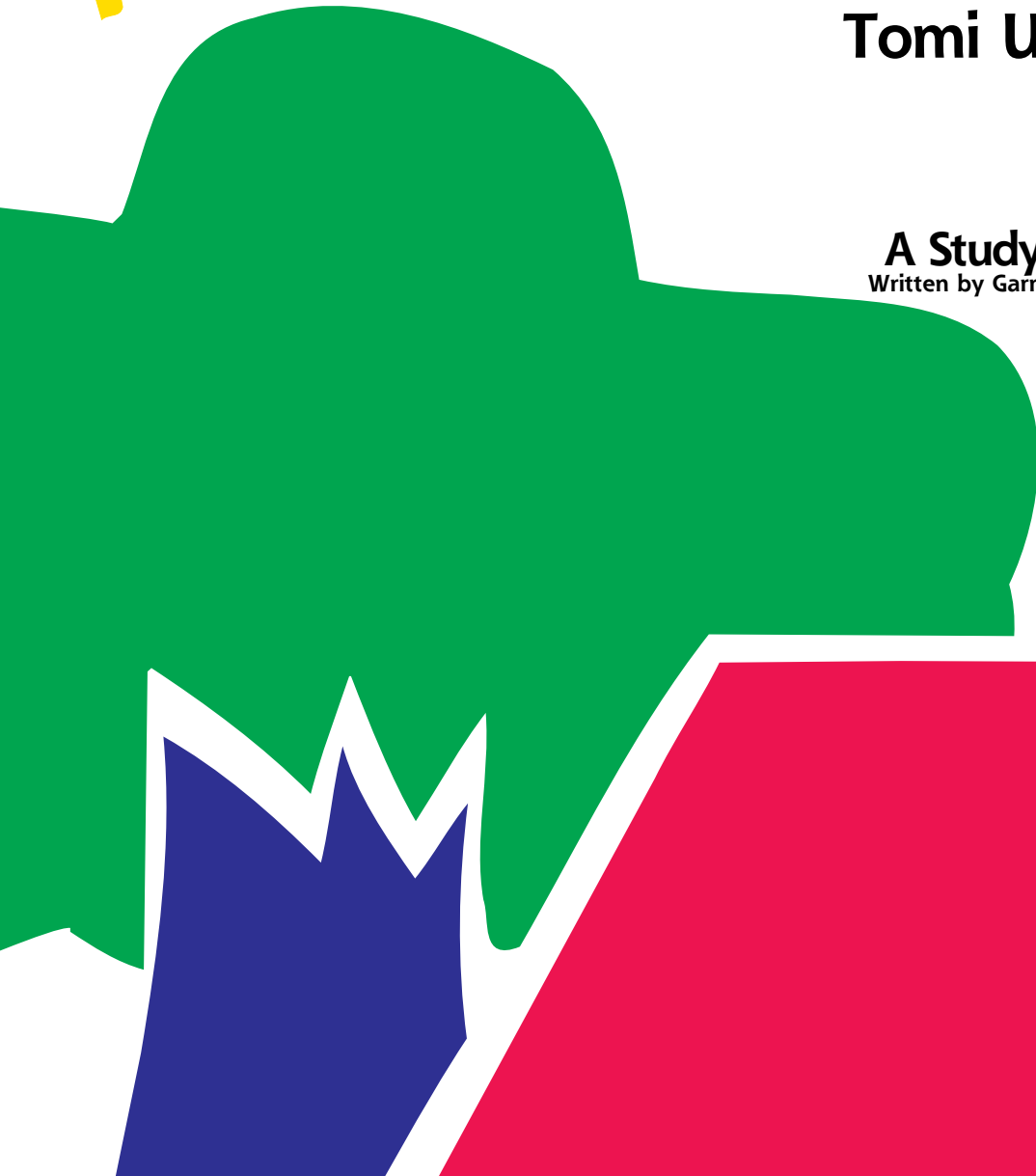


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For the Teacher

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *CriCTOR*. 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 – Word to Word

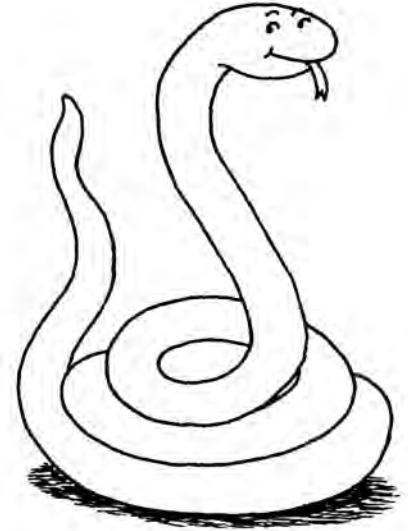
On this page, children are presented with pairs of sentences that contain analogous relationships. Children read the first sentence in each pair and determine the relationship between two underlined words. Then they complete the second sentence by selecting a word to complete the analogy.

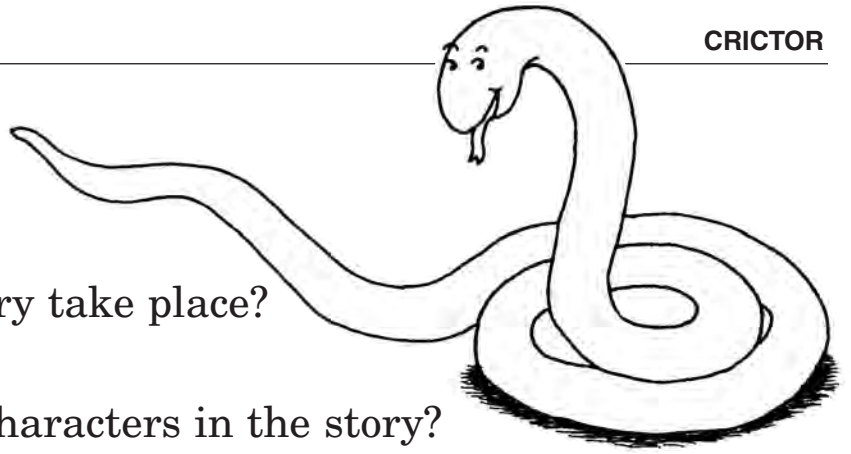
Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions

The story questions include a number of literal, inferential, and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The picture questions help focus children’s attention on picture details.

BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the title of the book. Then look at the picture on the cover. Which one of the characters is Crictor?
2. Some stories about snakes are real. Other stories are make-believe. Look at some of the pictures. Is this a real or a make-believe story? What makes you think so?
3. Snakes such as Crictor make unusual pets. What are some advantages of having a snake for a pet? What are some disadvantages? Make two lists and share them with a partner.
4. Draw a picture. Show something unusual that a snake could do to help its owner.





STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where does this story take place?
2. Who are the main characters in the story?
3. How does Madame Bodot behave when she opens the package from her son? Why does she act this way? What would you have done in her place?
4. How does Crictor get his name?
5. Describe how Madame Bodot cares for Crictor. How do you think she feels about her pet?
6. What happens when Madame Bodot takes Crictor to school? Would you like to sit next to Crictor? Tell why or why not.
7. How does Crictor play with the neighborhood children? What does he do to help out?
8. What surprising thing happens during the night? What does Crictor do to help Madame Bodot?
9. How is Crictor rewarded for his bravery? Do you think he deserves to be treated like a hero?
10. If someone offered you a pet snake like Crictor, would you accept it? Why or why not?