

Novel·Ties

THE GIRL WHO OWNED A CITY

O.T. NELSON



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *The Girl Who Owned a City* consists of lessons for guided reading. 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 at its own 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 reading development 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; 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, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

Pre-Reading Activities and Discussion Questions (cont.)

7. Some authors use chapter titles and others do not. A good chapter title serves many purposes. It can:
- state the main idea of the chapter
 - name an important event
 - introduce a new character
 - repeat a meaningful phrase

There are no chapter titles in this book. As you read *The Girl Who Owned a City*, create your own titles for each chapter.

Chapter #	Your Title
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	

Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How do you think you would react if you found yourself in Lisa’s position?
2. If you were in Lisa’s position, where would you go for help?
3. In a society where many of the old rules have become useless, what rules would you obey?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Hook*—A hook is a compelling opening of a novel that entices a reader into the story. Reread the first five paragraphs of *The Girl Who Owned a City*. How does this hook draw you into the story?
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- II. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two unlike objects is stated directly using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

It was almost as if they [the maggots] were tiny ghosts who had moved in to haunt the empty houses.

What is being compared in this simile?

How is the use of simile more effective than saying, “Maggots were the only living things left in the houses”?

Literary Element: Point of View

Point of view refers to the voice telling the story. There are three possible points of view in a work of fiction:

- *First-person narrator* who, as a character, tells the story as she or he experienced it
- *Third-person limited narrator* who knows what one character is doing and thinking
- *Third-person omniscient narrator* who knows what all the characters are doing and thinking

What is the point of view in this novel?

What are the limitations of this point of view?
