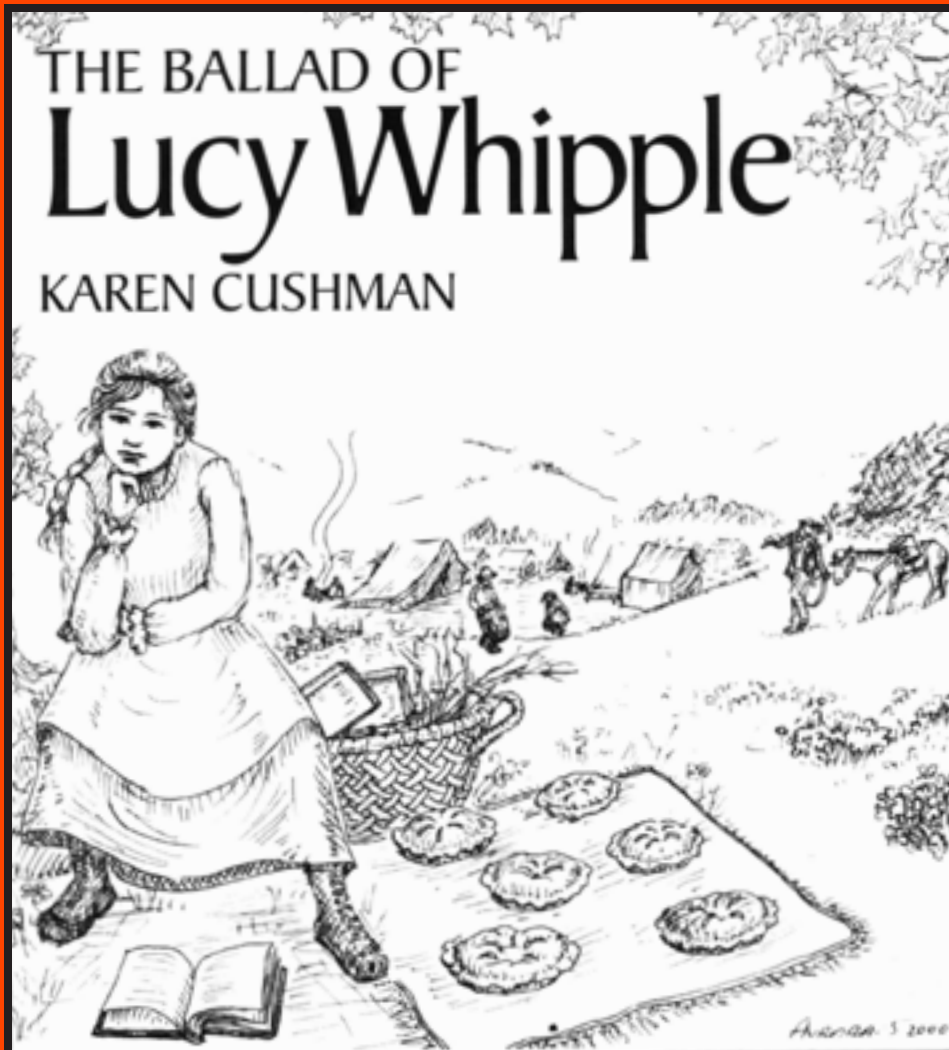


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*. 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 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.

Chapter 1 (cont.)

Questions:

1. How did the Whipples select their children's names?
2. Why was California's family traveling to California?
3. How did California's expectations differ from reality?
4. Why had California's mother been accused of being stubborn?
5. How did California suffer on board ship?
6. Why did California's mother stay in Lucky Diggins with her children?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think California's mother should have honored her daughter's wishes to return to Massachusetts?
2. Had you been alive in 1849, would you have wanted to travel west in search of gold?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Point of View* — Point of view in literature refers to the voice telling the story. It could be one of the characters or the author as narrator. From whose point of view is this story told?

Why do you think the author chose this point of view?

- II. *Personification* — Personification refers to the granting of human characteristics or actions to nonhuman objects. For example:

Small tents, shacks, and brush covered lean-tos huddled along one bank of the river.

Why would this statement be an example of personification?
