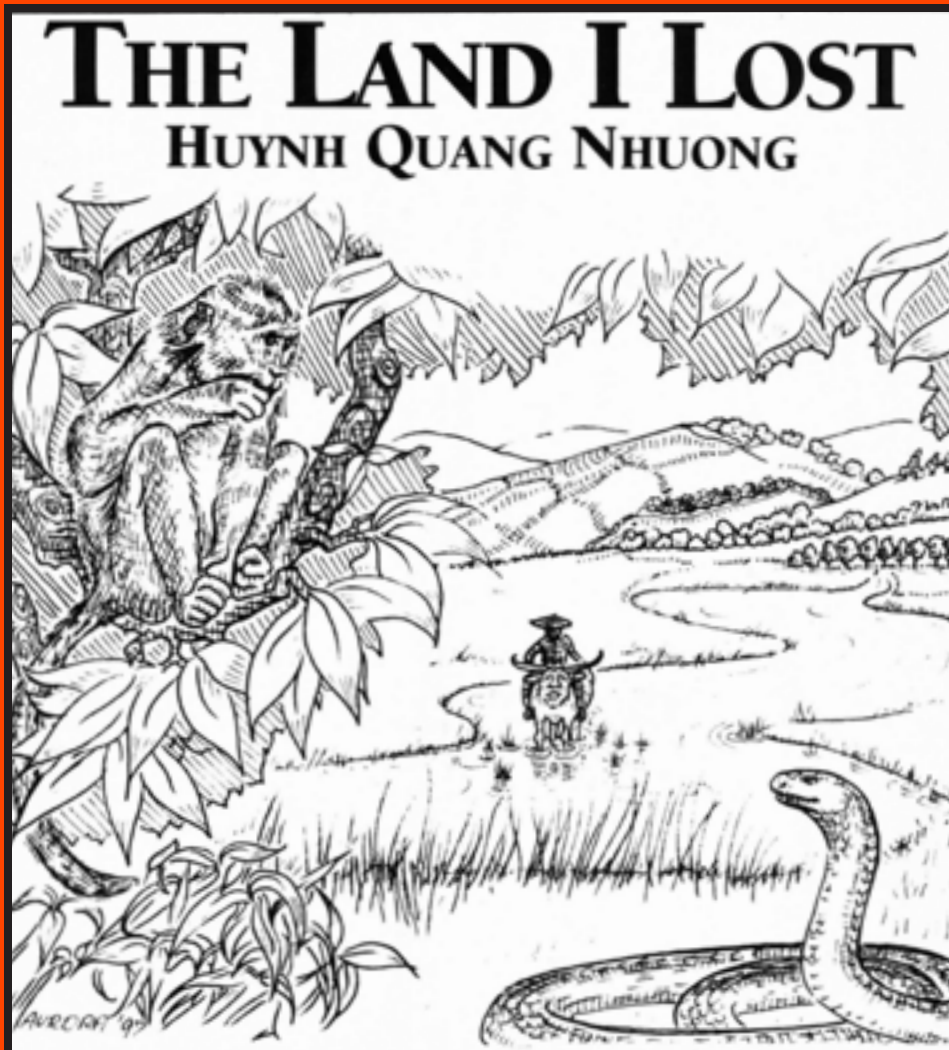


Novel·Ties



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 Land I Lost*. 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 on 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 guided reading 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 or group of chapters; 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 will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Vietnam

Vietnam, a country of tropical lowlands, hills, and densely forested highlands, is located in Southeast Asia. The climate is tropical with two seasons: hot, wet summers and mild, dry winters. About the size of Japan, it is the most densely populated country in Southeast Asia, with a population of approximately seventy million people. The economy is largely agricultural, with rice as the main crop. About two thirds of the inhabitants live in rural settings; one third in cities and towns.

Independent for many centuries, Vietnam came under French control in the late 1800s. After World War II, a resistance movement called the Viet Minh, under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, launched an effort to evict the French and reassert independence. In 1954, after nine years of fighting, the French were defeated. Both sides signed a truce agreeing to temporarily divide the country at the 17th parallel, with the North under Viet Minh control and the South under French control; elections to reunite the country were to be held within two years.

Alarmed at the likelihood of the Viet Minh winning the election and establishing a pro-Communist country in Southeast Asia, the United States helped bring to power a government in South Vietnam that refused to participate in the elections. Backed by a heavy American investment of soldiers, arms, and money, South Vietnam engaged in a civil war to wrest control from the North. Over the next two decades, millions of people lost their lives, and many more millions were displaced, especially in South Vietnam.

In 1975 South Vietnam admitted defeat and the United States withdrew its forces. Because the United States was so deeply involved in the day-to-day operations of the South Vietnamese government and military, it offered asylum to several hundred thousand South Vietnamese citizens and armed forces personnel who could not safely remain in Vietnam.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

7. In *The Land I Lost*, you will learn about animals Nhuong and the people in his village encounter. Fill in the following chart as you read the book.

Animal	Physical Characteristics	Temperament
water buffalo		
tiger		
wild hog		
python		
crocodile		
otter		
white catfish		
golden eel		
horse snake		
two-steps snake		
hogfish		
monkey		
squirrel		