

Novel·Ties

Frog and Toad Together

Arnold Lobel



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 a specific novel, 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 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 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 (cont.)

4. **Pair / Share:** Good friends stay together even when things do not go their way. Work with a partner to take turns telling each other about the following situations:

- You try to be brave, even though you are scared inside.
- You are eating something so delicious, you just can't stop.
- You are afraid your friend might go away.
- You want something good to happen and it is very hard to wait.
- Your day just doesn't go the way you planned.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

Arnold Lobel is well known for the books he wrote and illustrated. He won many awards for both his stories and his pictures. Although he began his career as an illustrator for other authors, he found that he enjoyed writing his own stories as well.

Arnold Lobel wrote and illustrated many books for children, including other stories about Frog and Toad. He was inspired to write these books during the summers he spent in Vermont with his wife and children. His children loved to play with the frogs and toads they found in the ponds. They couldn't keep the frogs, but the toads made such wonderful pets that they took them back home to New York and hibernated them during the winter. The next summer, they brought the toads back to the same place where they found them.

A List (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Which of the following activities do you think would be helpful on a list? Which activities are too silly to put on a list?
 - wake up in the morning
 - eat breakfast
 - get dressed
 - take lunch money to school
 - buy a birthday card for a friend
 - go home after school
 - music lesson this afternoon at 4:00
2. In what ways did Toad's list help him? In what ways did the list make things harder for him?
3. What mistake do you think Toad made about the reasons for lists?

Sequencing Activity:

Toad got his day all mixed up. Help him put it back into order. Cut the sentences apart on the dotted lines. Paste them on another piece of paper in the correct order.

Frog and Toad went right to sleep.

Toad wrote a list of all the things he wanted to do one day.

Toad woke up.

Toad ate breakfast.

The wind blew Toad's list out of his hand.

It got dark outside.

Frog tried to help Toad catch his list.

Frog and Toad went out for a walk.