

Novel·Ties

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Gold Coins

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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 book *Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Gold Coins* 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 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. Part of this mystery involves some rare and valuable gold coins. Speak to a coin collector. It could be a professional coin dealer, a parent, or an older student who knows about coins. Find out the following:

- Why do people collect and sell coins?
- Why are some coins more valuable than others?
- What should you look for when examining coins? (date, mint mark, condition, material, etc.)
- How can you start a simple and inexpensive coin collection?

5. Have you read any of the other books in the “Cam Jansen” series? If so, discuss some of these issues with your classmates:

- What books in the series have you read?
- What is Cam’s special talent?
- Who are Cam’s friends?

Based on the title and the cover picture, what do you think this story will be about?

Chapter 1 (cont.)

4. Cam said that she needed a real camera because she couldn't put her mental pictures in an album.

Which of the following might you put in an album?

- a. baseball cards
- b. stickers
- c. birthday cards
- d. toy train collection
- e. photographs

Questions:

1. Why did Eric stop to rest on the way to the science fair?
2. How did Cam get her nickname?
3. How did other people react to Eric's project? Why do you think they reacted this way?
4. Why did Eric want Cam to take his picture with her real camera?

Question for Discussion:

Why do you think the man didn't apologize for knocking Cam's camera out of her hands?

Writing / Memory Activity:

Use your mental camera to study the illustration which shows Cam taking Eric's picture. Write a description of everything that you see. Save your description. It may be important later on in the story.