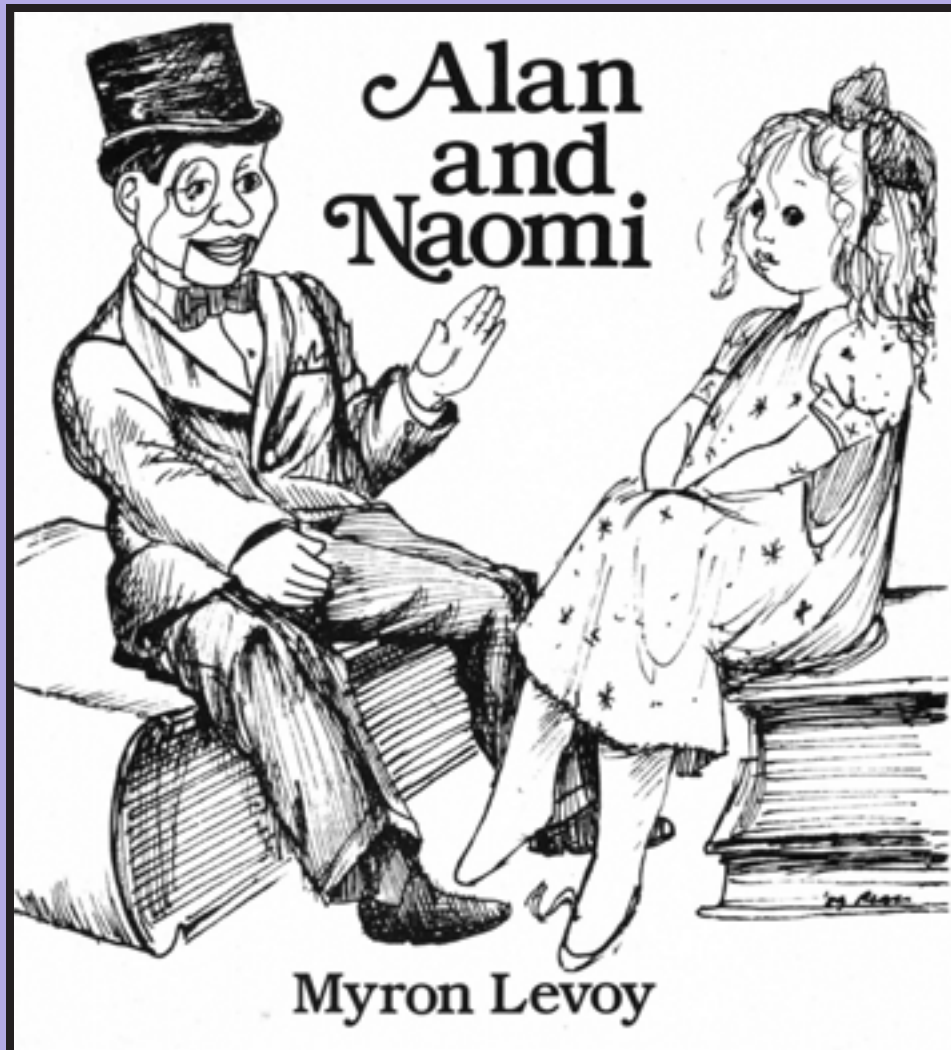


# Novel·Ties



## 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 a specific novel. Used together, the books and the guide provide an exciting supplement to the basal reader in your classroom. 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.

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.

Use of NOVEL-TIES for reading development should begin with distribution of the novel and a folder to each child. After students have had a chance to look through the book, the pre-reading activity should be distributed. Each page of the study guide can be duplicated and students can answer directly on these sheets or on additional paper. All work should be kept in the students' folders until the novel is completed.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### **The French Resistance**

In June of 1940, Hitler's dream of German domination of Europe came a step closer to reality when Germany occupied almost two-thirds of France. The French then formed a government at Vichy, under Marshall Petain, who openly co-operated with the German conquerors. While the Nazi war machine seemed to roll on with little opposition, the beginnings of resistance to Germany's occupation began. Individual acts of sabotage occurred: telephone wires were secretly cut so that communication among the Germans was hampered, railroad workers helped derail supplies, posters glorifying Germany were marked with Jewish stars, defying Hitler's virulent anti-semitism.

Slowly, individual acts of protest became organized into underground resistance groups aimed at thwarting Germany's war effort. The organizations, with names such as The Crusade, the Alliance, and Noah's Ark, created a secret network of Frenchmen who plotted against their German conquerors. They worked alongside British and American intelligence agencies, giving them vital information about the enemy. For example, one Resistance worker, known as "the Shrimp," repaired German lifeboat jackets and knew when submarine maneuvers were being planned.

These Frenchmen lived under constant danger because their activities, if revealed, would inevitably lead to their capture and death. Such horrifying retribution as Myron Levoy describes in *Alan and Naomi* kept Resistance members in fear, but sabotaging Hitler was more important. More terrifying than German punishment to these Frenchmen was the thought of Nazi dominance of their beloved homeland.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Naomi and her mother fled France during World War II. Research Hitler's rise to power in Germany and his strategy to exterminate the Jews throughout Europe. This genocide is now called the Holocaust.
2. Germany occupied three-fifths of France during World War II and established a government at Vichy that was allied to the German cause. Not all the French, however, accepted the Vichy government. The Frenchmen who attempted to resist the German onslaught and organized secret societies were known as the free French or the Resistance. The Germans, of course, did everything they could to destroy this movement. Who led the Resistance movement? What were some of its activities?
3. America at the time of World War II (1941-1945) was a place vastly different from the America of today. Find out about the styles, fads, and entertainment of the 1940's. You may have relatives who remember this time. Try to interview someone who lived through this period of history and share these memories with the class.
4. One of the most popular forms of entertainment during the 1940's was the radio program hosted by the ventriloquist, Edgar Bergen, and his doll Charlie McCarthy. If possible, find pictures of the two. Find out what other shows were popular at this time and compile a list of movie stars and entertainers who were well-known during World War II.
5. Naomi has a serious psychotic disorder. Find out about mental illness and the methods of treatment used. What facilities are available for treatment in your community?