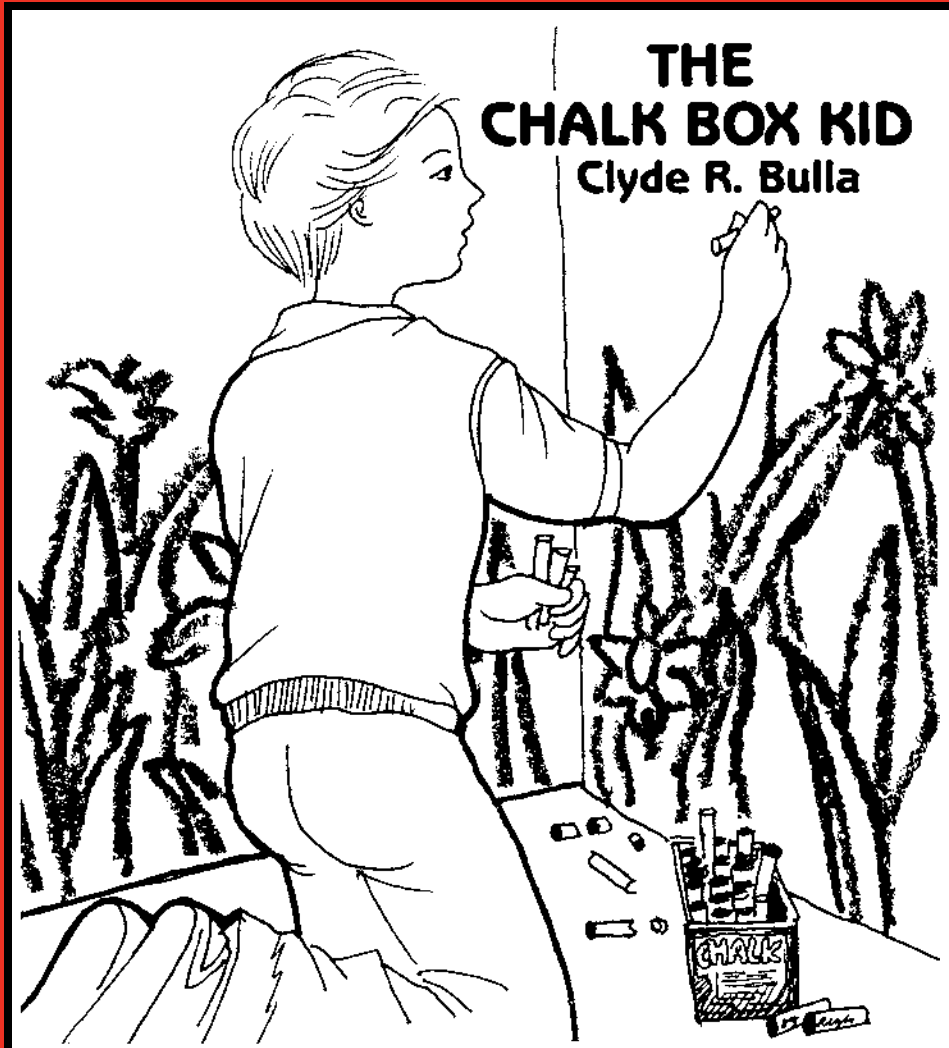


Novel·Ties



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.

4. In this book, you will read about a boy who uses his imagination to create his own special place. Use your imagination to create a special place of your own. Write about that place. Then, make a picture or diorama to show how it might look.
5. As you read *The Chalk Box Kid*, fill in the following story map.

Story Map

Title	
Author	
Main character	
Other characters	
Gregory's problems	Solutions to Gregory's problems
Story Ending	

Chapter 1 (cont.)

Questions:

1. Why was Gregory sad on his ninth birthday?
2. Why did Gregory's parents move to a new house?
3. Why did Gregory feel disappointed when he saw the new house?
4. What made Gregory decide "it was the best birthday he had ever had"?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Gregory's parents should have kept their son with them on moving day?
2. Do you think Gregory had a right to feel sad on his birthday?
3. Do you think it is better to have a room of your own or to share a room?

Writing Activity:

Write about your last birthday. Tell how old you were on that day and whether or not you celebrated the occasion. Also, tell whether anything made you very happy or very sad on that day.