

# Novel·Ties

## Amber Brown Goes Fourth

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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 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 student's 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**

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think the book will be about? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Because *Amber Brown Goes Fourth* is the third book in a series, the author makes the assumption that most readers are familiar with the characters. If you have not read any of the earlier *Amber* books, ask someone who has to give you a brief synopsis. Or you may visit Paula Danziger's official website, which can be found at <http://www.scholastic.com/titles/paula/writer.htm> to learn more about Amber.
3. In this story, the central character deals with some important changes in her life. Her parents are getting a divorce, her best friend has moved, and she has a new teacher. Think about a time when you faced an important change in your life. What was the change? How did it make you feel? What was the most challenging thing about adjusting to this change?
4. Have you ever had trouble making friends? What feelings and emotions did you have? On each of five cards or slips of paper, write a word or phrase that comes to mind when you think of making new friends. Then work with two classmates and discuss your words. Sort your cards so that there are no duplications and share them with the class. Be ready to tell how these words relate to the topic of making friends.
5. In this story, Amber struggles to make a new best friend. Think back to a time when you made a new friend. Where and how did you meet? What activity did you enjoy doing together? How long did it take your friendship to develop? Were there any things that you did or said that you wished you could do over again in a different way?
6. Sometimes authors provide titles for their chapters. The titles may be a main idea, the name of a character or place, or a "catchy" phrase to capture the readers' interest. Since the author did not write chapter titles, create your own after reading each chapter. Record these titles on the chart on the following page.

7. As you read *Amber Brown Goes Fourth*, fill in the following story map.

### STORY MAP

**Title**

**Author**

**Main character**

**Other characters**

**Problems Amber Faces**

**Solutions to Amber's Problems**



**In the end, Amber learns that**