

Novel·Ties

Homeless Bird

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A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	1
Pre-Reading Activities	2 - 3
Chapter 1	4 - 7
Chapters 2, 3	8 - 10
Chapter 4	11 - 14
Chapters 5, 6	15 - 17
Chapter 7	18 - 19
Chapter 8	20 - 21
Chapter 9	22 - 23
Chapter 10	24 - 25
Chapter 11	26 - 28
Cloze Activity	29
Post-Reading Activities	30 - 31
Suggestions For Further Reading	32
Answer Key	33 - 34

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with a specific novel. 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.

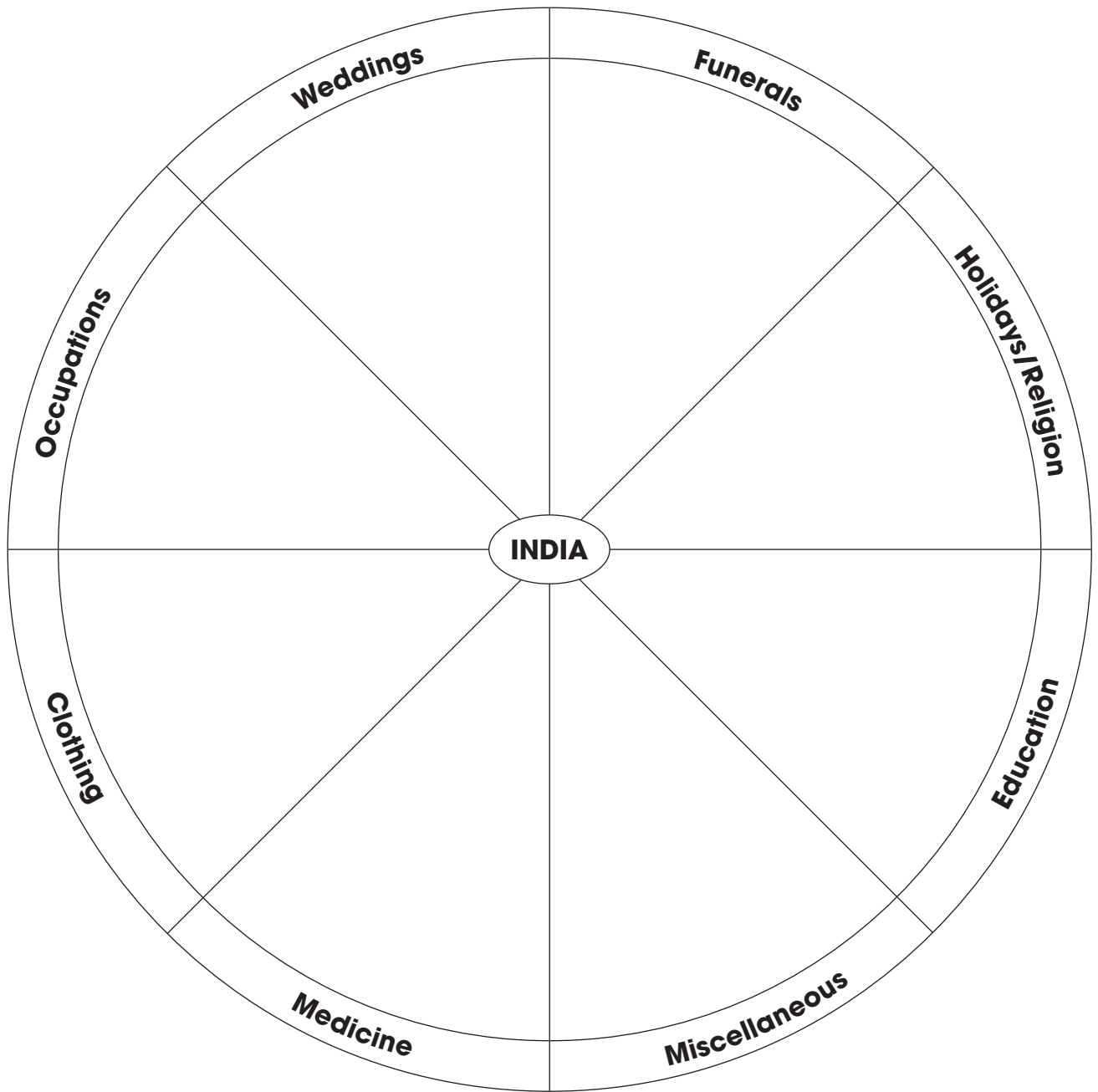
In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel on its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for guided reading 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 or group of chapters; 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 will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

7. While you read the story of Koly in *Homeless Bird*, you will also learn about the customs and traditions of rural India. Fill in the chart below with information from the book.



Chapter 1 (cont.)

Questions:

1. Why did Koly's mother begin planning for her thirteen-year-old daughter's marriage?
2. How did Koly feel about getting married?
3. Why didn't Maa send Koly to school?
4. How did Koly's parents earn money to support their family?
5. How did Koly and her family prepare for the wedding?
6. Why did Maa and Baap feel that the events leading up to the wedding ceremony were not auspicious?
7. Why was Koly shocked when she saw Hari for the first time?
8. Why did Koly decide to defy her new mother-in-law right after the wedding ceremony?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think Koly did not rebel against her lack of education and her arranged marriage?
2. Do you think Koly's parents could have arranged a better marriage?
3. How do you feel about the status of women and girls in rural India?
4. Why do you think Koly refuses to do anything that would bring dishonor on her family? Do you think this sense of duty is shared by most of the young people you know?
5. What do you think Koly meant when she said that the Mehtas were not honest with her and her parents?