

**Novel·Ties**

# **The Big Balloon Race**

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## **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 the book *The Big Balloon Race*. 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.

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## Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

3. Hydrogen is a gas that is lighter than air. What would happen if you let go of a toy balloon filled with hydrogen?

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What happens when all the hydrogen leaks out of a balloon?

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4. Do you like races? Most people do. Fill in these sentences to tell what happens to you in a real or imagined race.

Once I was in a \_\_\_\_\_ race. I was running against \_\_\_\_\_. The finish line was \_\_\_\_\_. During the race, I \_\_\_\_\_. In the end, \_\_\_\_\_.

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5. Choose one of these scenes. Think about a time you were in a similar situation. Tell a friend about it. Or act out the scene with a friend.
- You wanted to do something very much, but adults said you were too young.
  - You did something that you weren't supposed to do, and you caused a problem for someone.
  - You thought of a good way to solve a problem.
  - You did something that made your parents very proud of you.

## Chapter 1 (cont.)

### Questions:

1. Why is Ariel's home called Balloon Farm?
2. What is about to happen on the day the story begins?
3. Why doesn't Carlotta want Ariel to ride with her?
4. Who will Carlotta race against? Why will this be a close race?
5. How does Ariel happen to be in the balloon when it takes off?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you think Carlotta the Great will do when she finds Ariel in the balloon?
2. Why might having Ariel in the balloon be a problem?

### Social Studies Connections:

1. The story takes place in 1882, more than one hundred years ago. How was everyday life different then? Look at the pictures in the book for clues. Then fill in the chart with details.

	1880s	Today
Houses		
Travel		
Clothes		