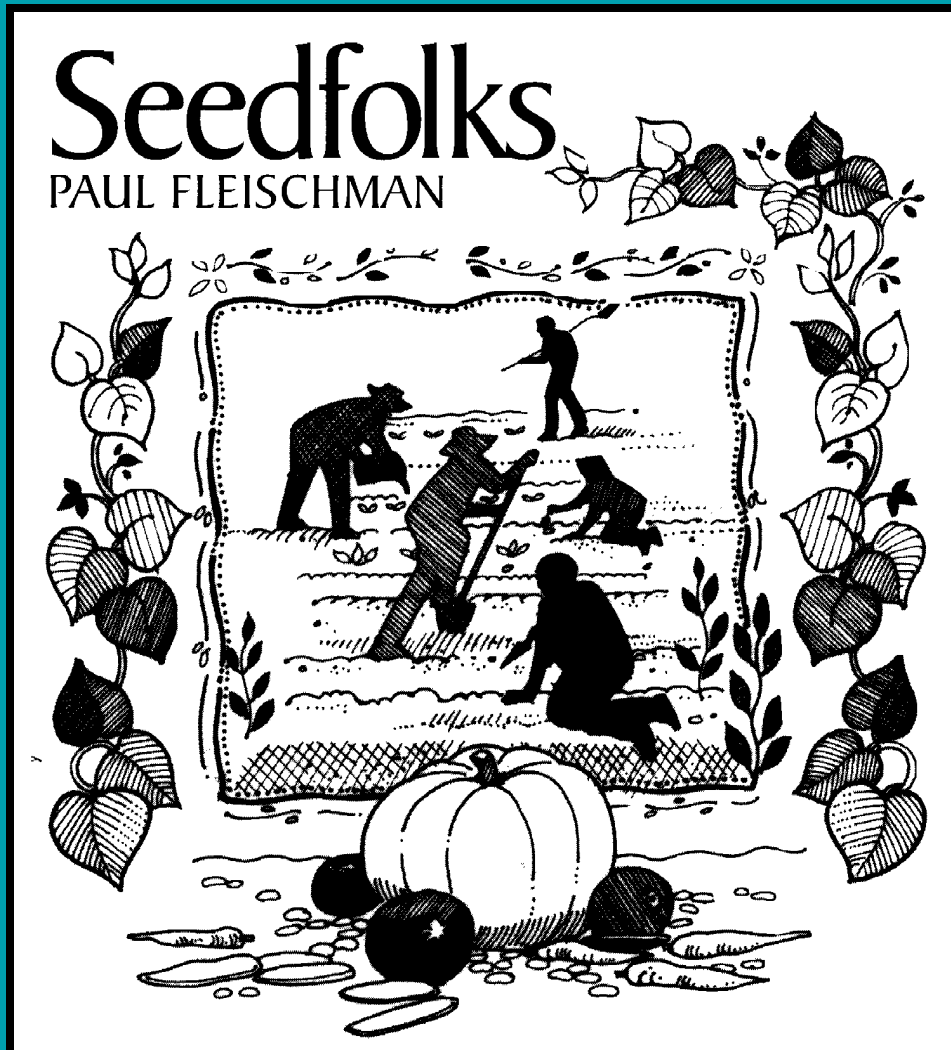


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Seedfolks* 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 at its own 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.

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KIM, ANA

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. stern | a. empty; unused |
| 2. altar | b. grow vigorously; make steady progress |
| 3. vacant | c. with distrust |
| 4. thrive | d. strict; unsympathetic |
| 5. suspiciously | e. elevated structure used for religious ceremonies |

-
1. My brother and I hoped a family with children our ages would move into the _____ house next door.
 2. Many kinds of plants _____ in the hot, moist rain forest.
 3. In some cultures, people place food and gifts around a(n) _____ to honor someone who has died.
 4. The judge wore a(n) _____ expression when he read the guilty verdict.
 5. My teacher looked _____ at me when I said I had lost my homework.

Read to find out why Kim plants seeds.

Questions:

1. Why did Kim stand before the family altar? How did this make her feel?
2. What evidence revealed that Kim and Ana lived in a poor neighborhood?
3. Why did Kim suffer from the cold in April?
4. Why did Kim plant the lima bean seeds in the vacant lot? Why did she choose this time for her project?
5. What has happened to Ana's neighborhood since she was a child? Why did Ana stay in her old neighborhood?
6. Why did Ana dig up Kim's bean seeds? How did she feel when she realized what she had done?

Questions for Discussion:

1. How do you imagine Kim feels about her life in this strange new city?
2. Why do you think Ana bought binoculars?
3. Do you think Kim and Ana will meet?

Kim, Ana (cont.)

Literary Devices:

- I. *Personification*—Personification is a literary device in which an author grants human qualities to nonhuman objects. For example:

An icy wind teetered trash cans and turned my cheeks to marble.

What is being personified?

What does this reveal about the narrator's feelings?

- II. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

It's [Ana's neighborhood] like a cheap hotel—you stay until you've got enough money to leave.

What is being compared?

Why is this an apt comparison?

Literary Element: Characterization

Fill in notes about Kim and Ana on the character chart that appears on page five of this study guide. Compare your notes with those of your classmates.

Social Studies Connection:

On a world map, locate Vietnam. Do some research to learn how people live and work in rural Vietnam. Then compare the lifestyle of a person from the Vietnamese countryside with that of a city dweller in the United States. Bring some photographs of Vietnam into class.

Writing Activity:

Kim misses her father, and her feelings of grief and loss motivate her actions to do something special. Is there someone in your life who has inspired you to do something you have never done before? Write about this person and his or her influence on you.

WENDELL, GONZALO

Vocabulary: Use the context to help you determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then check your definition with a dictionary definition.

1. If you move while you take a snapshot, it will not be in focus.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

2. Making a gesture that signified “stop,” I hoped to prevent my friend from crossing a busy street against the light.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

3. If you forget to add fresh water to the flowers in the vase, they will wilt and then die.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

4. The clothing, food, and customs of teenagers living in the city seemed weird to the girl who had always lived in the country.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

5. Use a trowel to plant seeds in the backyard.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

Read to find out how the garden affected Tío Juan.

Questions:

1. Why were Ana and Wendell important to one another?
2. Why did Ana and Wendell try so hard to save Kim’s bean plants?
3. How did the idea of a garden affect Wendell’s personal life?
4. What did Gonzalo mean when he said, “The older you are, the younger you get when you move to the United States”?
5. How did Gonzalo’s mother show that she understood Tío Juan’s needs?
6. What caused Tío Juan to change “from a baby back into a man”?

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