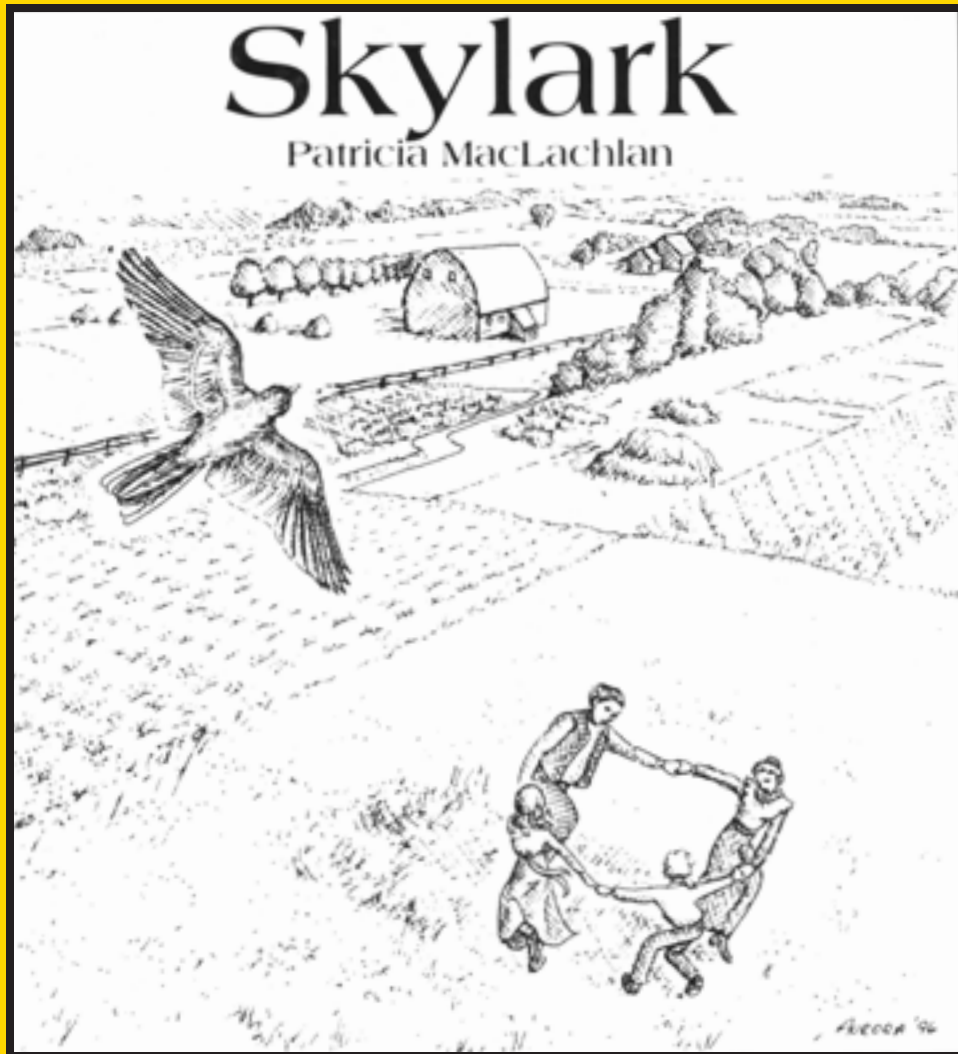


Novel•Ties



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 *Skylark*. 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.)

Chapter	Title
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
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10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

Chapter 1 (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. What does Papa really mean when he says, “Our names were written in this land”?
2. Why do you think Caleb worries that Sarah was born in Maine rather than on the prairie?

Literary Device: Point of View

Point of view in literature refers to the person telling the story. It could be the author as narrator, or one of the characters in the story. From whose point of view is this story told? How do you know?

Social Studies Connection:

Do some research to learn about the early days of photography. You might read Pam Conford’s book, *Prairie Visions*, an illustrated biography of Solomon Butcher, a photographer who took pictures of the prairie. Find out why Anna and her family had to pose for a long time.

Writing Activity:

Imagine that you are sending a copy of Joshua’s photo to the aunts in Maine. Write a letter to go along with the photo in which you describe the family and the place they live.