



**Little
Novel•Ties**

Miss Rumphius

Barbara Cooney

A Study Guide
Written by Garrett Christopher



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For the Teacher

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *Miss Rumphius*. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your whole language reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author and illustrator; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary; visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that link the story to other curriculum areas.

Suggestions For Using Activities

Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read

These activities are designed to activate children's prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group, or with the entire class.

Word Study – Sound-Alike Words

This page presents examples and brief instructional material about homophones — words that sound alike but have different spellings and different meanings. Children are asked to find homophone pairs in sentences and discuss their meanings with a partner.

Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions

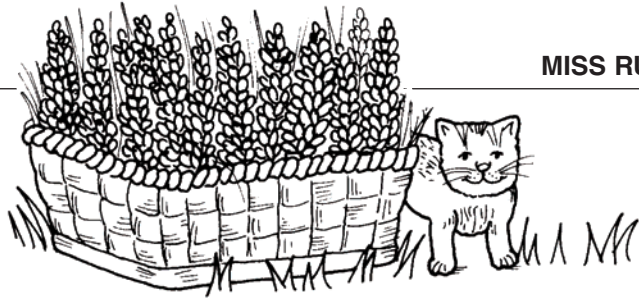
The story questions include a number of literal, inferential, and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The picture questions help children draw inferences from the illustrations.

BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the title of the book. Then look at the picture on the cover. Who is Miss Rumphius? What else do you see on the cover?
2. Read the first paragraph of the story. Then look back at the picture on the cover. Can you guess the identity of the Lupine Lady? What makes you think this?
3. When she was young, the Lupine Lady had three goals in life. What are some of your goals? Make a list. Then share it with a partner.
4. Often people do things to make a place beautiful. Draw two pictures. In the first picture, show a place as it is right now. In the second picture, show how you would change the place to make it more beautiful.



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STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who tells this story? How does she know the story of the Lupine Lady?
2. What did you learn about Alice's childhood?
3. What two things did Alice hope to do when she grew up? What did her grandfather add to her list?
4. How did Miss Rumphius reach her first goal? Tell about some of the things she did.
5. Why did Miss Rumphius decide it was time to live by the sea? Why wasn't she perfectly happy in her new home?
6. What did Miss Rumphius do to make her yard more beautiful? What did she want to do during the summer? Why couldn't she do it?
7. What surprising discovery did Miss Rumphius make on her walk over the nearby hill? How did the lupines get to the other side of the hill?
8. What was Miss Rumphius' wonderful idea? How did she carry it out?
9. Why did the neighbors change their minds about Miss Rumphius? Why did this change take place? What new name did people give to Miss Rumphius?
10. Which goal do you think made Miss Rumphius the happiest? In your opinion, is this an important goal? Tell why you think as you do.