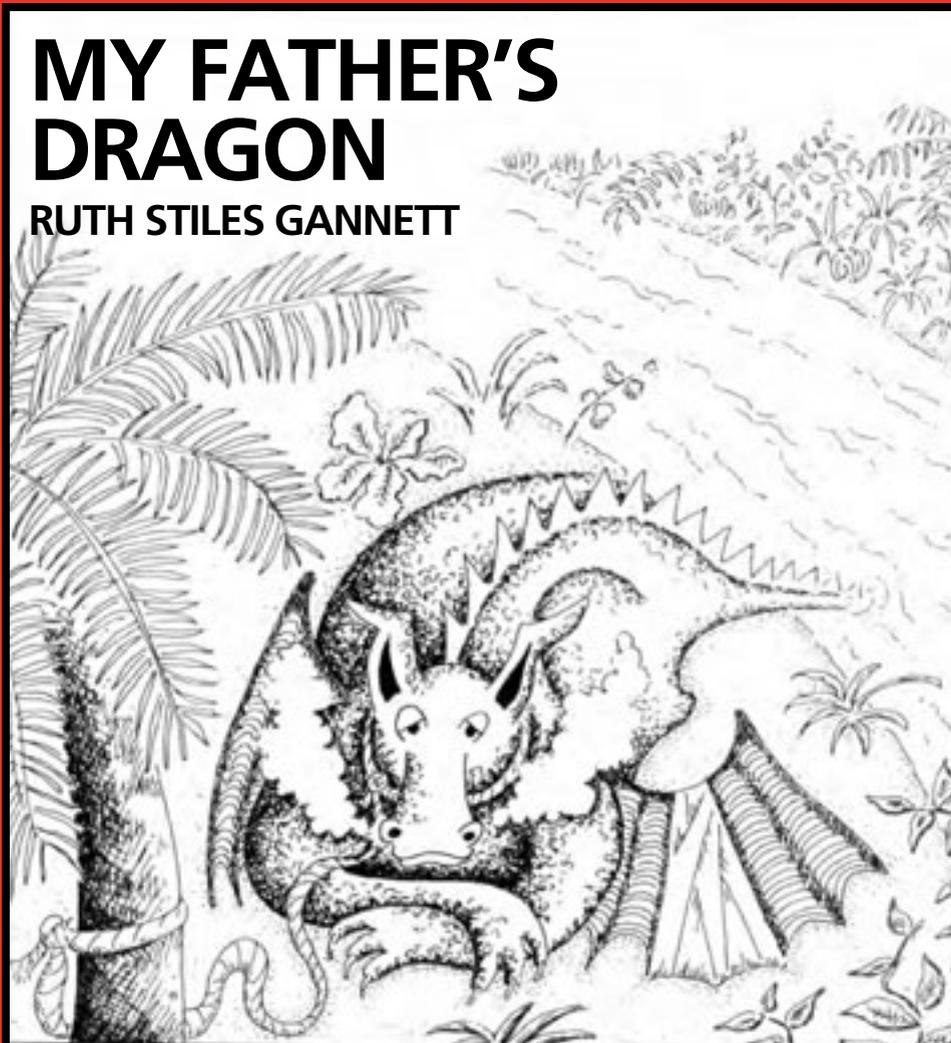


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

Written By Jacqueline Hacinli

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *My Father's Dragon* 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.

STORY MAP—MY FATHER'S DRAGON

Father runs away to rescue the dragon so he can learn to fly.

Problem

Solution



Father _____

Chapters 1, 2 (cont.)

Questions:

1. Why is Father's mother upset about the cat he brings home? What does she do about it?
2. Why does the cat tell Father about the dragon?
3. Why did the animals of Wild Island tame a dragon?
4. How does the cat feel about the way dragon is being treated by the other animals?
5. Why does Father decide to run away?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think it is a good idea to befriend stray animals?
2. What real animals are kept to do work for humans? Do you think this is fair?
3. How do you feel about the dragon on Wild Island? Why do you feel that way?

Literary Device: Point of View

Point of view in a book refers to the voice telling the story. It could be the author or one of the characters. Who is telling this story?

Who is "my father"?

Who is "my father's mother"?

Writing Activity:

Pretend that you could fly. Write a paragraph telling where you would go, what you would do there, and how you would feel.