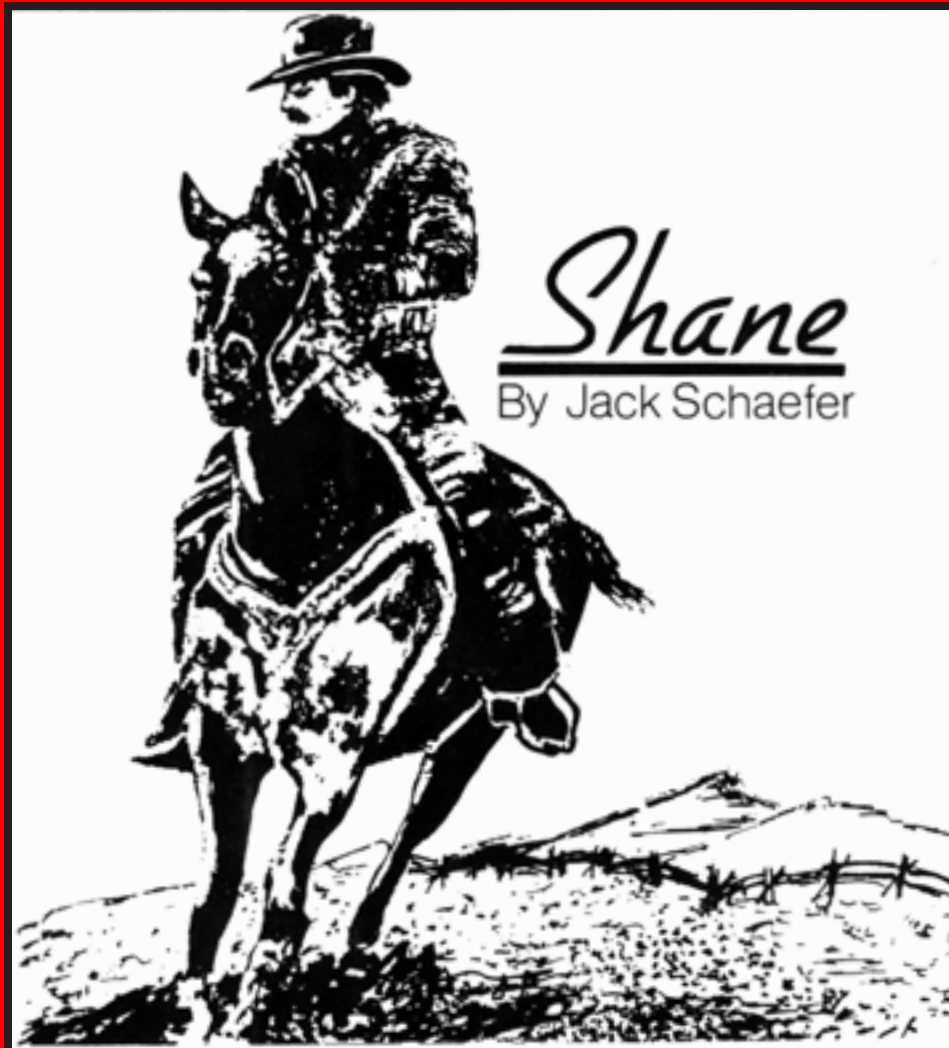


# Novel·Ties



## 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 *Shane*. 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

1. Do some research on the history of Wyoming. Find out what tribes of Native Americans lived there before the white settlers came. When was it first opened for settlement? When did it gain statehood?
2. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, Congress granted 160 acres of land to anyone willing to live on it and cultivate it for five years. Find out which lands were first opened to public settlement under this act. By 1890, only one third of the homesteaders had fulfilled the residency requirement. What do you think was the reason for the high failure rate?
3. In a cooperative learning group, discuss the television and film Westerns with which you are familiar. Have one group member assume the role of recorder as individuals respond to these questions:
  - How are all Westerns alike?
  - How are they different?
  - What are the qualities of their heroes?
  - What are the qualities of their villains?

As you read *Shane*, keep a record of how this novel fits the expected formula for the Western. Be alert for ways that *Shane* departs from and goes beyond the traditional mold.

4. Like many folk tales, the typically American genre of the Western deals with clearly defined issues of right and wrong, good and evil. Discuss with your classmates the kinds of behaviors that are punished and rewarded in the world of the Western. What are the lessons they teach?
5. Compare the Western with today's space exploration adventure stories, such as *Star Trek* or *Star Wars* movies. What do the two genres have in common? How do they differ? Do you think the traditional Western will continue to have appeal, or will it be replaced by the sci-fi space adventures?
6. The classic definition of a hero is someone who performs feats of great bravery and who is revered by his followers. Keep this in mind as you read about Shane, a typically American rendering of the classical hero. In what ways is he like the heroes of legend, and how does he differ from the classical mold?

## WORDS OF THE OLD WEST

Below you will find a list of jumbled words, each of which has something to do with the old West. Use the clues which follow each string of letters to help you unscramble the words.

1. ALSOS \_\_\_\_\_  
Used to tie up loose ends
2. ECPWOKO \_\_\_\_\_  
Another word for cowboy
3. LANILENCOB \_\_\_\_\_  
President who signed the Homestead Act in 1862 (two words)
4. ATREBR \_\_\_\_\_  
System of give and take
5. UNSWOND \_\_\_\_\_  
Gunfighter's favorite meeting time
6. GTACHOSAEC \_\_\_\_\_  
Frontier transportation
7. NOSOLA \_\_\_\_\_  
Scene of countless showdowns
8. FHEFSRI \_\_\_\_\_  
Law enforcement official
9. LDAAANDL \_\_\_\_\_  
Person who played Shane in the 1953 movie (two words)
10. WGCOAHUNKC \_\_\_\_\_  
Old-fashioned frontier diner (two words)