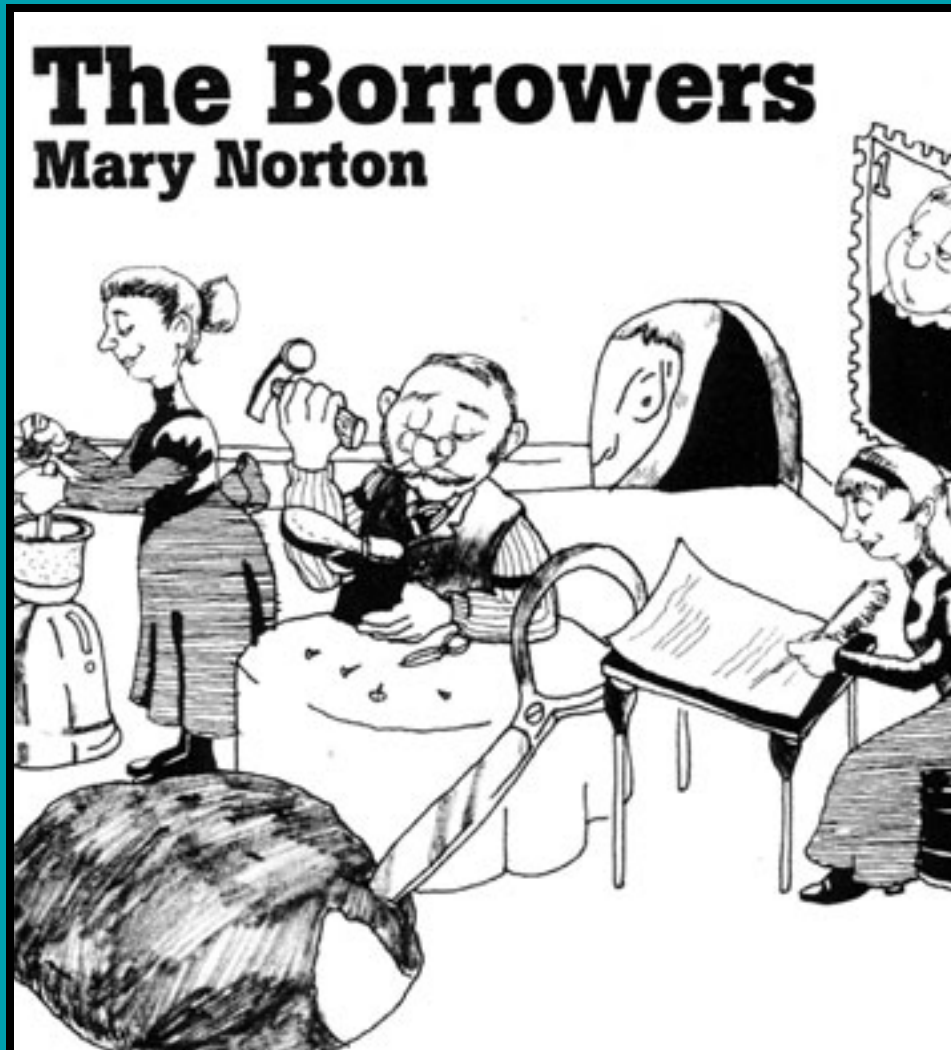


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with *The Borrowers*. 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 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.

CHAPTER 1

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. crochet | a. shocked |
| 2. hassock | b. high ranking officer in the military |
| 3. startled | c. small bit |
| 4. safeguard | d. infectious childhood disease |
| 5. colonel | e. type of needlework using yarn to make looped stitches |
| 6. rheumatic fever | f. woman responsible for care and supervision of children |
| 7. governess | g. padded cushion or low stool |
| 8. trifle | h. protect |

.....

- I could tell that my mother was more than a _____ annoyed with me when I broke her treasured teapot from Ireland.
- Kate sat quietly on the _____, listening to the amazing story of an enchanted princess and an evil wizard.
- The _____ led his fearless troops across the blazing desert to fight an important battle.
- The queen placed her diamond necklace in a safe deposit box to _____ it against theft.
- When we were young children, we had a loving _____ who took care of us and taught us to play many games.
- Because Johnny suffered from _____, he could not run and play with the other children and had to spend time in the country.
- When Sara jumped out at me as I was carrying a glass of juice to the kitchen, I was so _____ that I screamed and dropped the glass.
- Ginger found she had just enough green yarn left from her last project to _____ a scarf for her mother.

Read to find out why Kate suspected that Borrowers were at work.

CHAPTER 2

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

1. As he tiptoed slowly through the old, deserted house, Joey's foot crashed through the rotten floor boards and the joists which had supported them.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

2. After reminding the children to stay absolutely quiet and still, the woman explained, "I simply cannot abide any screaming and running in my house."

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

3. After the huge meal, the servants carried all the dirty dishes to the scullery.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

4. In our woodworking class, the instructor taught us to coat our finished projects with lacquer to protect them over time.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

5. On Sunday after church services, my father spoke with the vicar to tell him what a nice sermon he had given and invite him to our house for dinner.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

6. We exclaimed in awe as the magician completely inverted the cup full of water before our eyes without spilling a drop.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

Read to learn more about the Borrowers' life at home.