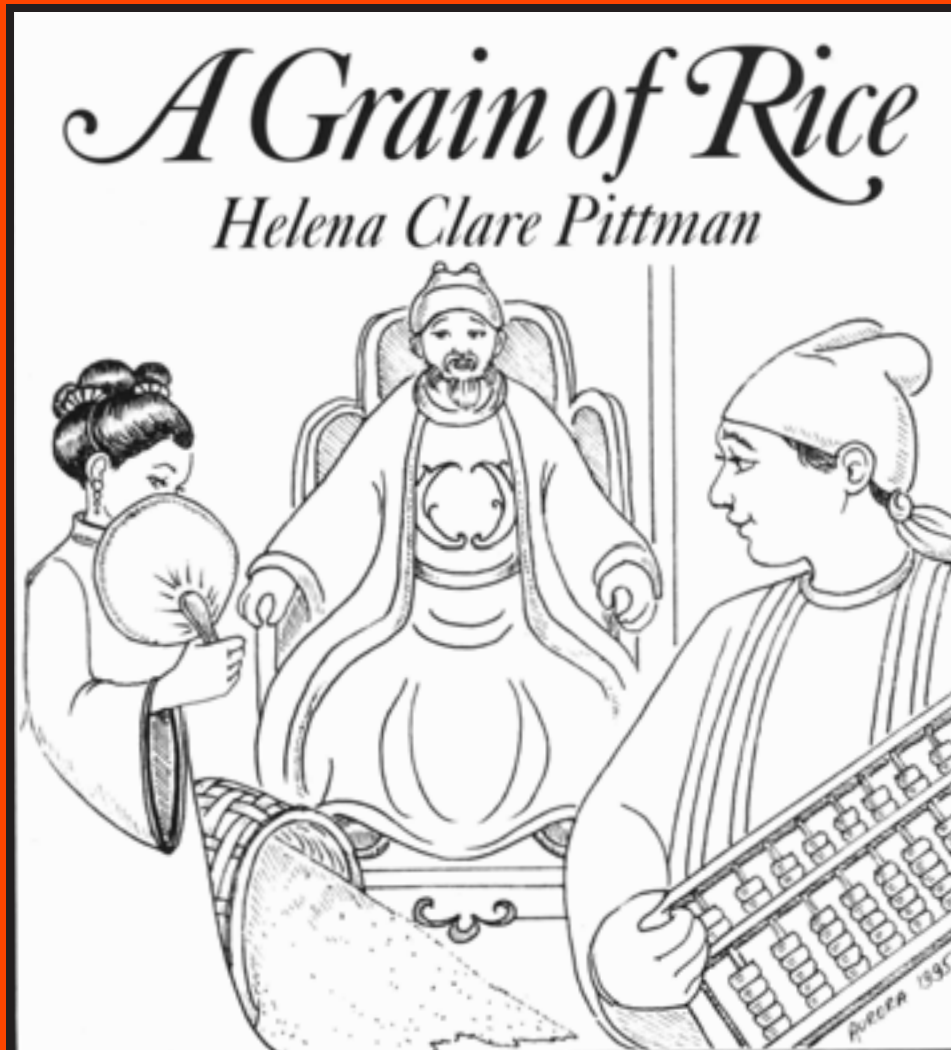


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *A Grain of Rice* 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.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

9. **Math Connection:** In this tale, Pong Lo asks for a grain of rice to be doubled every day for one-hundred days. Without making any calculation, estimate how many grains of rice you think Pong Lo will have at the end of one-hundred days.

Pretend that someone offers to give you one penny doubled every day for two weeks. Use the chart below to calculate how much money you would have at the end of two weeks.

Day	Amount of Money	Day	Amount of Money
1		8	
2		9	
3		10	
4		11	
5		12	
6		13	
7		14	
Total after 1st week_____ Total after 2nd week_____			

Pages 1 – 10 (cont.)

6. What qualities help Pong lo succeed in his job in the storeroom?
7. How is Pong Lo rewarded for the hard work he does cleaning the storeroom? How is Pong Lo able to succeed in this new job?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What qualities do you think the Emperor should seek in a person who is to be a match for his daughter?
2. What do you find out about the Emperor's power? What do you learn about the value of a peasant's life in China long ago?
3. Do you think Pong Lo is foolish to ask the Emperor for his daughter's hand in marriage? Why or why not?

Literary Device: Simile

A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words "like" or "as." For example:

Her touch was like the brush of silk stirring in a summer breeze.

What is being compared?

What is the effect of this comparison?

Social Studies Connection:

A Grain of Rice takes place in China. Locate this country on an atlas or a globe. On what continent is China located? What is the capital city of China? In what part of the country is the capital located? Use an encyclopedia or look on the Internet to learn about China's history and culture.

Writing Activity:

The Emperor gives Pong Lo the job of cleaning the storeroom. Pong Lo doesn't just wash the storeroom floor. He polishes it with a special wax until it glimmers. Think of a job that you might have. How could you do that job so well that others would notice? Write about your job and how you might do it.