



**Little
Novel·Ties**



Blueberries for Sal

Robert McCloskey

A Study Guide
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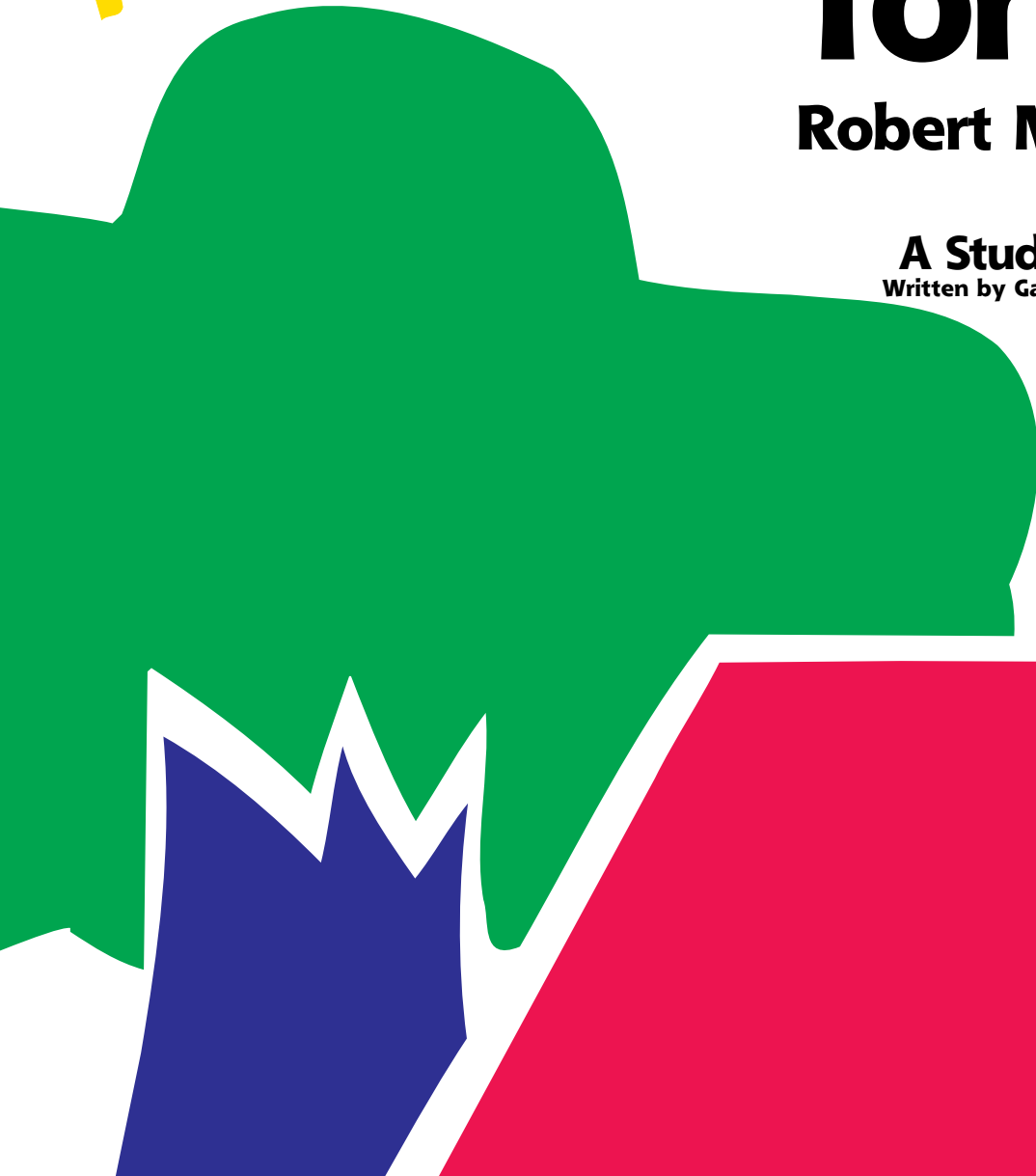


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For the Teacher

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *Blueberries for Sal*. 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 – Action Words

This page presents examples of both vivid and uninteresting action verbs. Children are asked to select the vivid verbs to complete sentences that describe a story character’s actions. Each of the active verbs used in this exercise is found in the story text.

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.

Understanding Pictures – Shading

This activity helps children to become more aware of illustrations and to develop their visual literacy skills. After looking at the way in which McCloskey uses

BEFORE YOU READ



1. Read the title of the book. Then look at the picture on the cover. Who is Sal? What is she doing?
2. Look at the pictures in the book. Does the story take place in the country or in the city? What makes you think this?
3. Sal is about three years old. During the story, she wanders away from her mother. What do you think might happen? Write your ideas and share them with a partner.
4. This story tells about an adventure on a summer day. Draw a picture. Show something that you might do on a summer day.

STORY QUESTIONS



1. Where do Sal and her mother go? What do they plan to do?
2. What does Sal do with the blueberries she picks? What does Mother plan to do with the berries she picks?
3. How does Mother feel when Sal takes a large handful of berries out of Mother's pail? What does she tell Sal to do?
4. Why do Mother Bear and Little Bear come to Blueberry Hill? What does Mother Bear tell Little Bear to do?
5. How do Sal and Little Bear get separated from their mothers? What is the first thing that happens when they try to find them?
6. What big mix-up occurs?
7. How does Mother Bear discover the mix-up? What does she do, and why does she do it?
8. How does Sal's mother discover the mix-up? What does she do, and why does she do it?
9. The story doesn't tell what the mothers say when they find Sal and Little Bear. What do you think each mother says and does?
10. Is this a story that might have happened in real life? Tell why you think as you do.