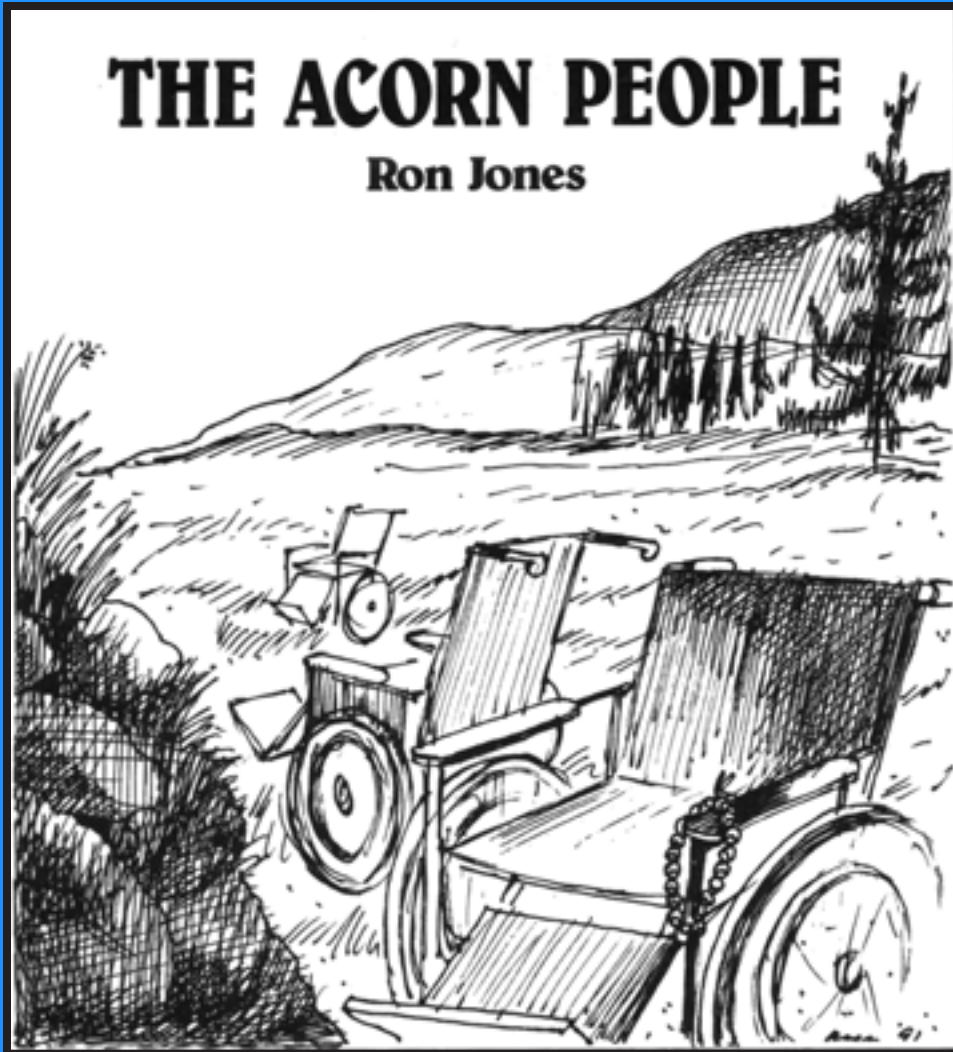


**Novel·Ties**

# **THE ACORN PEOPLE**

**Ron Jones**



## **A Study Guide**

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**LEARNING LINKS**

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with *The Acorn People*. 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.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks. The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

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.

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## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the publisher's blurb on the cover. Why do you think the author chose the title, *The Acorn People*?
2. With members of your class, discuss all that you know about summer camp. According to your knowledge and experience, who might attend camp, what kinds of activities are pursued at camp, and what makes camp experiences special for young people? If you have been to camp, did you make any special friends, or have any particularly memorable experiences?
3. Make an informal survey of your school to find out if there are any special facilities for people with handicaps. How could your school be made more accessible to children who use a wheelchair or children who are blind or deaf?
4. **Science Connection:** Read the Background Information on page five of this study guide and do some additional research on physical disabilities and diseases, such as blindness, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, polio, and spina bifida. What progress has been made by medical science in the prevention and treatment of each?
5. Have a classroom discussion in which each person has the opportunity to talk about his or her involvement with a personal physical handicap or the handicap of another individual.
6. Read about famous people who have had to overcome severe physical disabilities in order to succeed, such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Ray Charles, and Ludwig van Beethoven, who composed some of the world's greatest music after becoming deaf.
7. People with severe chronic physical problems have been called "disabled," "handicapped," and most recently "physically challenged." Have you ever attended or participated in a Special Olympics - a sports competition for physically handicapped individuals? What did you notice about the spirit of its participants and supporters? Why do you think athletic competition has become so important for people with disabilities?
8. **Response Journal:** Write your thoughts and feelings at the end of each of your reading sessions. Comment on the characters and their actions. When you come to the end of the book, notice whether your opinions about people and events evolved as you read.

**Pre-Reading Activities and Discussion Questions (cont.)**

10. In *The Acorn People*, we meet five very different campers, each with a different physical problem and a different personality. As you read the book and get to know the campers, complete the following chart.

<b>Camper</b>	<b>Physical Disability</b>	<b>Character Traits &amp; Special Talents</b>
Benny B.		
Spider		
Thomas Stewart		
Martin		
Aaron Gerwalski (Arid)		