

Novel·Ties

The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein

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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 *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein* 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

1. If you could change your name to that of a story book character, what name would you choose? Why would you choose this name? Compare your response to those of your classmates.
2. Ali Baba Bernstein knew exactly how old he was. Figure out your exact age, and put it on the following chart. Then count the time until your next birthday.

<p>My date of birth _____ . On today's date of _____ my age is _____ years, _____ months, and _____ days. There are _____ months and _____ days until my next birthday.</p>
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3. Become familiar with the stories of “Ali Baba,” “Sheherazade,” and “Sinbad” from *The Arabian Nights*.
4. Are there any people named David Bernstein in the telephone directory for your town? Look in your directory to find out how many people there are with your family name and how many there are with exactly the same first and last name as you. Compare your findings with those of your classmates.
5. Do you have an active imagination? If you *don't* live in New York City, imagine what it would be like to live there. Where would you live? Where would you go to school? Where would you play after school? Who would be your neighbors? If you *do* live in New York City, imagine how your life would be different in a small town or village.
6. Ali Baba Bernstein is superstitious. Take a survey of your class to compile a list of superstitions. Then make a chart such as the one below to show how many people believe in these superstitions.

Class Survey		
Superstition	Yes	No
black cat crossing your path – bad luck		
walking under a ladder – bad luck		

Chapter 1 (cont.)

Name Game:

There are 28 first names besides David in *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein*. Use this chart to keep track of all the first names you will find. Be sure to include everyone who is mentioned. After you read the book, play a game with a friend to see who can remember each character's last name, if it is given, and his or her identity.

First Name	Last Name	Identification
1. Vasco	DaGama	explorer
2. Zubin		
3. Wolfgang		
4. Melanie		
5. Sam		
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