

# Novel·Ties

Narrative of the Life of  
**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**  
An American Slave *Written by Himself*



## 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 *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. 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 book appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each book, 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 book 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 or chapter unit 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.

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

Major Events in the Life of Frederick Douglass	Year	Important Events in America
Frederick Douglass born.	1818	
	1820	Missouri Compromise
	1825	
	1830	Andrew Jackson elected President
	1831	Wm. Lloyd Garrison begins publication of the <i>Liberator</i> , an abolitionist newspaper.
Hired out to _____	1834	
Escaped from slavery. Married Anna Murray.	1838	
Published _____	1845	
	1849	Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery.
	1857	Dred Scott case
	1861	Civil War begins
	1863	Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation.
	1865	End of Civil War 13th Amendment passed
	1868	14th Amendment passed
	1870	15th Amendment passed
	1881	Tennessee passed first of Jim Crow laws.
Frederick Douglass dies.	1895	
	1896	Plessy v. Ferguson passed

## CHAPTERS I, II

**Vocabulary:** Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its synonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | <u>A</u>       | <u>B</u>      |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. accurate    | a. cruelty    |
| 2. authentic   | b. begin      |
| 3. impertinent | c. disjointed |
| 4. commence    | d. genuine    |
| 5. descendants | e. hardship   |
| 6. privation   | f. offspring  |
| 7. barbarity   | g. exact      |
| 8. incoherent  | h. fresh      |

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1. The young child was sent to his room because of the \_\_\_\_\_ remarks he made to his parents.
2. Having seen a film about slavery, I was appalled at the \_\_\_\_\_ of many of the slave masters.
3. The basketball player's speech became \_\_\_\_\_ after being knocked to the floor during a game.
4. It is important to make sure that the painting you plan to buy at auction is \_\_\_\_\_ and not a copy.
5. The catalog informed us when the math course was going to \_\_\_\_\_ and when it would end.
6. After years of \_\_\_\_\_ in a prison camp, the released soldier looked forward to a comfortable life once again.
7. My grandfather decided to share his wealth with all of his \_\_\_\_\_ before he died.
8. In a math exam, you not only must have a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ answer, but you need to show your work as well.