

Novel Inquiries

A set of guides for four novels integrating
composition and critical thinking

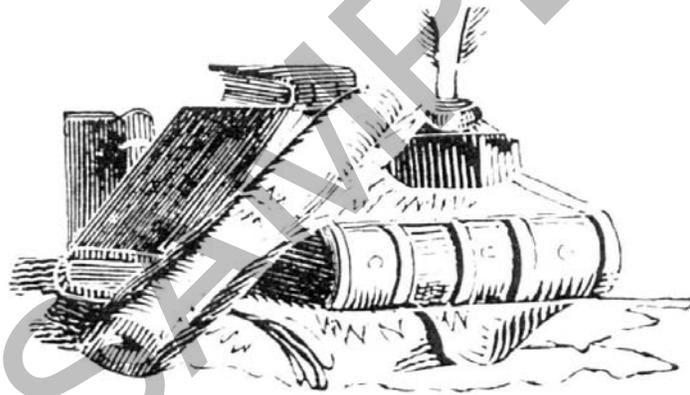
Book 2 - Ancient Civilizations, Grade 7-9

Mara, Daughter of the Nile by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Warrior Scarlet by Rosemary Sutcliff

The Tale of Troy by Joanne Williamson

Caesar's Gallic War by Olivia Coolidge



***“Literature is to mankind in some sort what autobiography
is to the individual; it is his life and remains.”***

Cardinal Newman: *Idea of a University*

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STUDENT GUIDE

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Mara, Daughter of the Nile by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

A. Before reading the story

This story is set in ancient Egypt at the time of the reign of Hatshepsut, the only woman pharaoh of Egypt. Before you begin to read you will want to find out about Hatshepsut and about her half brother, Thutmose, who ruled after her. (There is a family tree of the pharaohs of Ancient Egypt in the April 2001 issue of *National Geographic*.)

1. Look for the following information:
 - a. How Hatshepsut and Thutmose are related
 - b. How Hatshepsut, a woman, came to be the Pharaoh
 - c. The clothing and jewelry important to the ancient Egyptians
 - d. The importance of the amulets that the Egyptians wore
 - e. How the Ancient Egyptians buried their dead
 - f. Why the burial site was considered sacred
 - g. The punishment for robbing tombs

Some of this information may be found on-line at the web sites of various archaeological museums. Here is one to try:

www.upenn.edu/museum/Exhibits/egyptintro.html

At this site, you will find information about the everyday life in Ancient Egypt, vocabulary words, and artwork. There is a picture on this website of a statue of Thutmose III, the Thutmose of this story.

More pre-reading ideas are included in the guide.

B. While reading the story

Mara is a slave girl and throughout the story she never forgets it. While you are reading think about how this fact affects the story.

1. Questions for reflection and instructions for journal entries are provided in the guide

SAMPLE

Chapter Questions/Journal Entries

Part I

Chapter 1

1. What kind of person is Sheftu?
2. Can he be trusted?
3. What kind of person is Mara?
4. What do you suppose are her character traits, good and bad?

Journal Entry:

SAMPLE

Reading Progress Report Part IV

- I. Summarize the action of the story so far**
- II. Describe your ideas about the story so far, such as**
 - a. your opinion of the characters or story line,**
 - b. any connections to your life or other stories**
 - c. any idea that stands out in your mind as being important**
- III. Predict what will happen next in the story**
 - a. give your prediction, be as specific as possible**
 - b. explain what factors in the part you have read lead you to this prediction**

SAMPLE

C. Questions for discussion at the end of the story

1. About the character Mara: How did Mara change over the course of the story? What caused the changes in her? What role did Sheftu play in those changes? What role did Inanni play? Is there anyone else who played a part in changing her? How has the fact that Mara was a slave influenced her character? What in her character gave her the strength to sacrifice her own life to save others?
2. Deleted in sample
3. Deleted in sample
4. In **Connecting with History: A Guide to Salvation History**, the theme for the Egypt section is “Trust in Divine Providence.” If you are using this history guide, consider whether this theme is found in the story Mara, Daughter of the Nile. Is Mara a religious person? What evidence can you point to in the story to show whether she is or isn’t? How would her life be different if she trusted in a divine being caring for her life?
5. Deleted in sample

Writing: Begin your essay by naming and briefly summarizing the story. You may “narrow your topic” by first explaining several main ideas of the story. Then write your theme statement. *Detailed instructions are included in the guide.*

Revising:

Editing:

You are now ready to write a final draft of your essay.

Before you hand your final draft in to your teacher, complete the **Student’s Personal Writing Evaluation**.

SAMPLE

3. Creative writing, Speech

Detailed instructions are included in the guide

SAMPLE

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By Margot Davidson

Teacher's Guide



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