

Novel Inquiries

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

Book 1, Grade 5-6

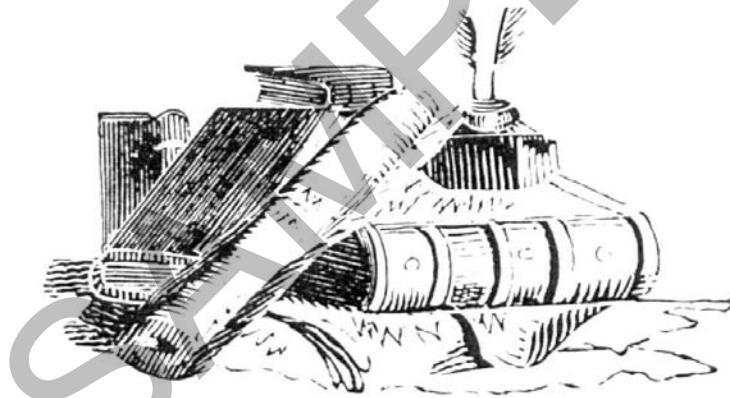
Ancient Civilizations

The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Tirzah by Lucille Travis

Hittite Warrior by Joanne Williamson

The Children's Homer by Padraic Colum



***“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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The Golden Goblet

By Eloise Jarvis McGraw

A. Introduction

1. Before Reading

This story takes place in Ancient Egypt. Before beginning to read the story, look up the following Egyptian terms. Being familiar with these terms will help you to understand the events of the story better.

| | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| shenti | neb | ba | ka |
| papyrus | amulets | khefts | ushabti |

Here is a list of the gods of Egypt mentioned in the story. You may want to look up the role each of them played in the religion of the time period in which this story is set.

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|-----|
| Amon | Ibis | Osiris | Set |
| Anubis | Nuit | | |

You may also want to read a book about how mummies are made and tombs prepared, such as *Mummies* by Aliko.

Find a map of Egypt and locate the city of Thebes, which is where the story takes place. Check in issues of National Geographic or an atlas of world history to see how the city straddled the Nile River. Refer to this map as you read the story.

2. While Reading the Story

Because the boy in this story lived in Ancient Egypt he believes in the Egyptian gods. His actions in the story are based on his beliefs, which were commonly held by people in his culture. While you're reading, think of how different the story might be if he did not have such strong beliefs.

After reading each chapter, go over the questions for reflection before reading the next chapter. Keep a *reading log* as you read in which you will record your response to the story. You may include any of the following:

- explanations for any of your answers to the chapter questions
- questions that come to your mind as you read
- your observations about the characters
- your ideas about the way the story is going
- considerations of how the character's religion influences his actions
- explanations of any connections to your life which come to your mind while reading.

Make an entry in your reading log after every chapter. You may use the space provided on the following pages or your own notebook for your entries.

B. Vocabulary

Chapter 1

crucible

annealing

ingot

beneficently

illustrious

porter

ingratiatingly

sibilant

Chapter 2

guttural

elongated

irresolute

jocularly

temerity

contemptuous

vindictively

C. Chapter Questions and Reading Log Entries

Chapter 1

1. Who is Gebu and why does he have control over Ranofer?
2. Why is Ranofer upset with his job?
3. Do you think Ranofer is right about Ibni and the wineskin?
If he is not right, how do you think the gold is being stolen from the shop?

Give your reasons for thinking this.
4. How would you describe Ranofer's personality?

Reading Log Entry

D. Questions for Reflection at the End of the Story

A series of questions and writing activities is provided in the guide.

Example #1 from story that illustrates main idea. Explain what happens or what the character says.

Example #2 from the story that illustrates main idea. Explain what happens or what the character says.

Example #3 from story that illustrates main idea. Explain what happens or what the character says.

Example #4 from the story that illustrates main idea. Explain what happens or what the character says.

Writing

Now you are ready to write your first draft. The first time you write it, try not to be too concerned about spelling or grammar. Just get your ideas down on paper in a logical order.

1. Begin your essay by briefly describing the story and your character's role in it.
Then write your main idea about the character.
2. In the next few paragraphs show, that your idea about the character is true by giving examples from the story. Explain *how* the example proves your point. This section should take two or three paragraphs, depending on the number of examples you have. Start a new paragraph each time you give a new example.
3. Close your essay by restating your main idea in a way that summarizes you're your observation of the character and how that observation is based on the evidence in the story.

Revising

Leave your paper alone for a day or two. When you reread it, try to see it as an objective reader might. Make any changes that come to your mind as you look at it from a fresh perspective.

Then, read your essay out loud to someone and discuss what is good and what needs improvement. Make additions or deletions, change the wording to improve clarity, or whatever else it takes to improve the essay. Check sentence structure and transitions between paragraphs. (Some good transitions for this type of paper: “*A good example of this,*” “*Another example,*” “*Another time.*”)

Editing

Once you’re sure about your ideas, read your paper again. This time look for spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors.

You are now ready to write a final draft of your essay. Try drawing a picture of the character to go with your essay.

SAMPLE

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

Margot Davidson

Teacher's Guide



Book 1

Grade 5-6

Ancient Civilizations

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For the Teacher

I. Introduction

- A. Three Ways to Use Novels
- B. Reading for Themes or Meaning
- C. Vocabulary
- D. Getting Through the Novel
- E. Writing Prompts
- F. Integrating with History Program

II. Individual Guides

- A. *Golden Goblet* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
 1. Synopsis
 2. Directing Student Activities
 3. Guiding the Discussion (answer guide)
 4. Sample Student Essay
- B. *Tirzah* by Lucille Travis
 1. Synopsis
 2. Directing Student Activities
 3. Guiding the Discussion (answer guide)
- C. *Hittite Warrior* by Joanne Williamson
 1. Synopsis
 2. Directing Student Activities
 3. Guiding the Discussion (answer guide)
 4. Sample Student Log Entry
- D. *The Children's Homer* by Padraic Colum
 1. Synopsis
 2. Directing Student Activities
 3. Guiding the Discussion (answer guide)

III. Questions for End of the Literature Study

IV. Appendix

- A. Sample Summary
- B. Sample Autobiographical Narrative
- C. Guide to Evaluating Writing