

NOVEL IDEAS

E. B. WHITE'S

STUART LITTLE



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Novel Ideas

E. B. White's Stuart Little

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USING THE NOVEL STUDY

The novel study can be used in four ways:

- Independent reading at student created paced
- Small group independent reading at student created paced
- Small group reading guided by the teacher
- Whole class reading guided by the teacher

Each chapter or set of chapters has a particular task:

Vocabulary:

Students need to be able to write the definition/meaning of the word in their own words as the word is used in the story. If they are unable to, they need to find the word in the dictionary and match the correct definition with the context that the word is used in the book.

Short response questions:

The questions come in two forms. The first is basic comprehension directly from the story. This is your “Who, What, Where, When, Why and How” question.

The second form is analysis of information and events in the story. The student is required to explain an answer, respond as if they were in the story, or state what they think the character(s) should do.

The remaining sections are key components in studying literature in a detailed and meaningful way. The directions for each part are given within each section.

THE NOVEL STUDY CAN BE PRINTED AND STAPLED AS A PACKET USING THE INTRODUCTION AS THE COVER PAGE.

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ACTIVITY

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STUART LITTLE

BY

E.B. WHITE

Stuart is a mouse born into a human family. Unusual as it sounds, the adventures that Stuart encounters make for an unusually fun story. Being the smallest member of the Little family has its advantages and disadvantages. Read how Stuart overcomes the size issue and learns the meaning of family and friendship.

Name _____

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

1. The word “friendship” means something a little different to everyone. Write a paragraph of what friendship means to you.

2. Being a friend sometimes means doing something extraordinary by giving more than you thought you ever could. This could be time, energy, money, or health. Tell about a time where either you or a friend did something for someone else that was extraordinary.

CHAPTER ONE - "IN THE DRAIN"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Sharp		
Solemnly		
Streamed		
Trifle		

1. How would you feel if your mom came home from the hospital with your new baby brother and it was a mouse?

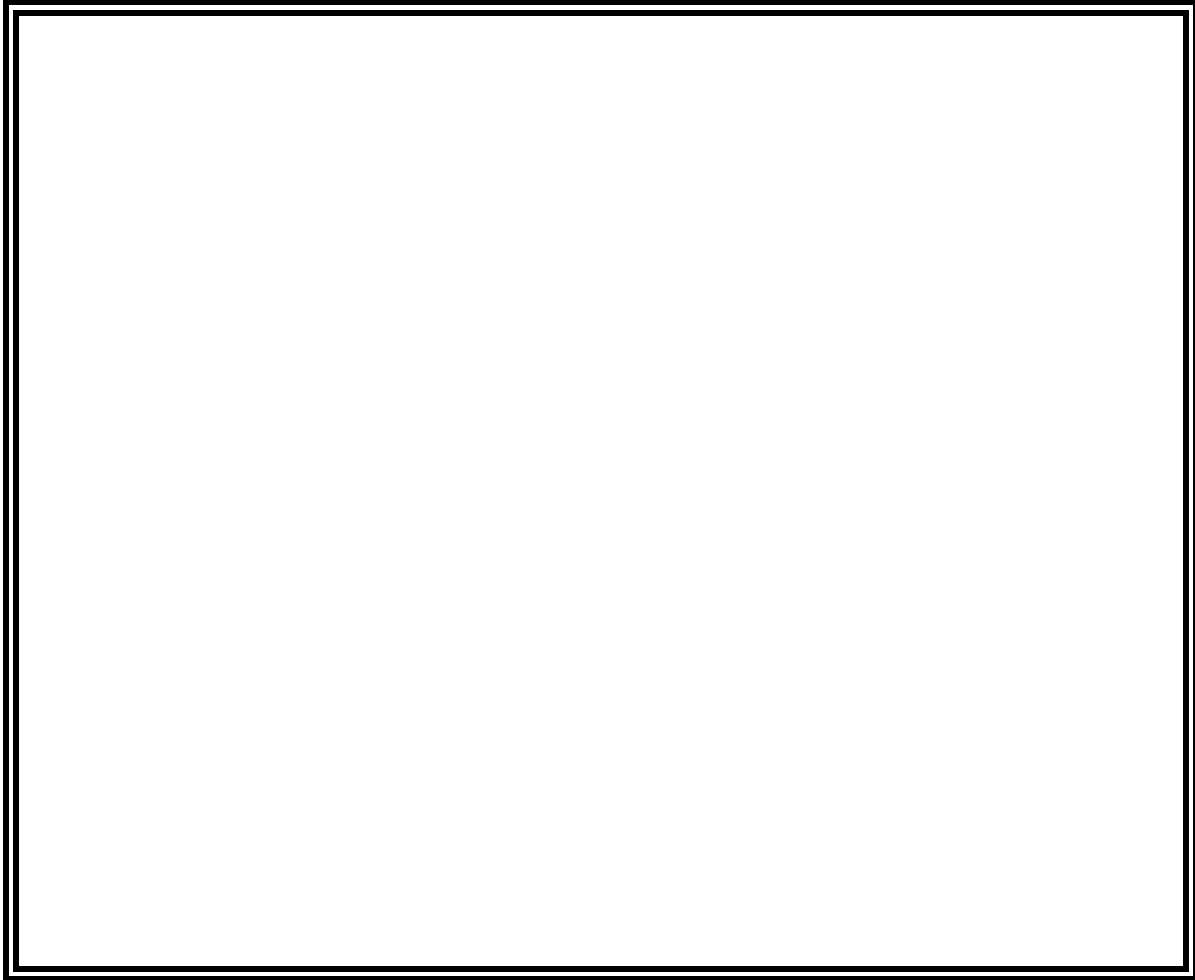
2. What was it about Stuart that worried Mrs. Little enough to call the doctor?

3. What was the doctor's diagnosis and recommended treatment for Stuart?

4. What crisis occurred in the Little home that only Stuart could solve and how did he solve it?

ILLUSTRATING AN EVENT ACTIVITY

Most chapter books are written with very few to no illustrations. Visualizing the events of the story is left to the reader's imagination. On this page, I would like you to illustrate any one of the five problems the Littles were experiencing. Try to do a scene that you feel gave you a clear picture of what was occurring in the story. Underneath your picture write a sentence or two that explains the part of the reading that you drew.



Explanation:

CHAPTER THREE - "WASHING UP" AND CHAPTER FOUR - " EXERCISE"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Abdominal		
Wrapper		
Drawn		
Sill		

1. What did Stuart have to do to turn on the light and to get up to the washbasin?

2. How did Stuart turn on the water and what did the noise cause?

3. Why was Snowbell showing her teeth to Stuart?

4. What happened when Stuart tried to prove how strong he was to Snowbell?

5. Why do you think Snowbell put Stuart's hat and cane by the mouse hole?

CHAPTER FIVE - "RESCUED"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Vigorous		
Wedged		
Disgust		
Exasperated		

1. What were some things that George was doing to annoy Mr. Little?

2. Why was George trying to do the things from question #1?

3. Why were the Littles worried about Stuart being in the walls?

4. What last annoying thing did George do to find Stuart?

5. Reread Stuart's last statement. Why do you think he said that?

6. Have you ever had a time when you were trying to be helpful but annoyed the people around you? What happened?

CHAPTER SIX - "A FAIR BREEZE"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Gait		
Inconvenience		
Tartly		
Berth		
Detestable		
Bon voyage		

1. Why did Stuart have to be so careful while he was walking to Fifth Avenue?

2. How was he able to get on the bus and what did he use for bus fare?

3. What type of ship did Stuart want to sail on?

4. Why did the old man want Stuart to sail on his ship?

5. What were the different ways Stuart suggested to beat the Lillian B. Womrath? Which way did the old man like best?

SEQUENCING OF EVENTS ACTIVITY

In order to be able to correctly summarize the key events in a story, you need to be able to put those events in correct order. Sequencing events is just that, putting events in correct order from start to finish. On this page, use the first six chapters of the book to help you put these main events in order. Use pencil so you can erase if you need to. Good luck!

- Stuart uses a hammer to turn on the water.
- Stuart Little, a mouse, is born to humans.
- Stuart gets caught in the shade.
- The Littles think Stuart is in the mouse hole.
- Stuart helps get the ring from the drain.
- Stuart rides the Wasp across the pond.
- Stuart helps with lost ping-pong balls and stuck piano keys.

Now try putting your day into sequence by listing the main events of your average day.

First...	
Second...	
Third...	
Then...	
Next...	
After that...	
Finally...	

Sequencing is ... _____

CHAPTER SEVEN - "THE SAILBOAT RACE"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Smartly		
Rigging		
Blotting		
Looming		
Tremble		
Yawing		

1. What did LeRoy offer Stuart to sail his boat for him?

2. Why did the policeman fall into the water?

3. What happened to cause Stuart to be washed overboard? How did the crowd react when he got back onboard?

4. What did Stuart mean on page 41 when he said, "Dirty weather ahead..."?

5. What did Stuart have to do when the boat got stuck by the paper bag?

6. After he won and went home, why do you think he didn't tell George what he had done in Central Park?

7. Put these events from chapter seven into the correct sequence. Use numbers and a pencil.

- Stuart drives the Wasp into a floating paper bag.
- The policeman falls into the pond.
- The Lillian B. Womrath gets stuck in the Wasp's rigging.
- Stuart is going to race the Wasp against the Lillian B. Womrath.
- Stuart wins the race.
- A large crowd gathers to watch the race.
- A storm washes Stuart overboard.

In paragraph form, rewrite the order of events from chapter seven. Be sure to use the starter words used in the table on the sequence lesson page.

CHAPTER EIGHT - "MARGALO"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Penetrate		
Nip		
Gargle		
Descended		
Crouched		

1. How did Stuart get stuck in the refrigerator?

2. Everyone was nice to Stuart when he was sick. What does your family do for you when you are sick?

3. If you saw a bird freezing on your windowsill, would you bring it in and take care of it? Why or why not?

4. Why do you think Stuart does not trust Snowbell?

5. How could Stuart be frightened and brave at the same time? Have you ever felt that way? Explain?

CHAPTER NINE - "A NARROW ESCAPE"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Irish Terrier		
Shinny		
Hoisted		
Anxious		
Scow		
Gingerly		

1. What was Stuart doing when he ended up in a garbage can?

2. What were the foods that got on him to make him smell so bad?

3. Who came to save Stuart and how was he rescued?

4. What did Stuart have to drop in order to make himself lighter for Margalo?

5. How did Mrs. Little thank Margalo for saving Stuart's life?

CHARACTER ANALYSIS ACTIVITY

When reading a novel it is very natural for the reader to develop opinions of the characters. You decide which characters you like and dislike, which are funny, and which are sincere. This process is called analyzing characters. A good writer wants the reader to do this. It helps the reader understand the story better and enjoy the story more. It also helps the reader become part of the story in a way because we also compare characters in stories with people we know or have met.

You have really been able to ‘get to know’ Stuart Little in this story. Fill in the chart below about the Stuart’s character traits. When you are done, use one character trait in the chart to write a paragraph about the Stuart’s character. It is important that you include several details from the story to support your choice of trait.

Character Trait	Details to Prove It	Connection To Your Life
1.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Choose one of the following to do a character analysis on (George, Margalo, Snowbell, Mr. or Mrs. Little). Be sure to use a lot of details to support the character traits you feel he/she has.

Character _____

Character Trait	Details To Prove It	Connection To Your Life
1.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Write a paragraph that describes the character.

Character Traits

humble	studious	demanding	brave
intelligent	bossy	courageous	honest
gentle	serious	mischievous	loving
funny	friendly	proud	humorous
adventurous	wild	sad	messy
hard-working	resourceful	timid	neat
stubborn	shy	joyful	loyal
bold	cooperative	gullible	daring
lovable	handsome	dainty	ambitious
caring	busy	quiet	carefree
lazy	curious	selfish	patriotic
witty	unselfish	fun-loving	fighter
generous	successful	determined	confident
responsible	energetic	respectful	helpful
cheerful	considerate	thoughtful	dreamer
imaginative	happy	calm	inventive
disagreeable	mannerly	creative	conceited
rude	independent	leader	mean

CHAPTER TEN - "SPRINGTIME"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Delicatessen		
Permanent		
Offhand		
Obliged		

1. How many friends did Snowbell have in the neighborhood? What types of cats were they?

2. What was the Angora giving Snowbell a hard time about?

3. What did the Angora decide to do to help Snowbell? When was she going to do it?

4. What animal overheard the conversation and what did it do to prevent Margalo from being eaten?

5. How did Margalo respond to the note left to her?

POINT OF VIEW ACTIVITY

Have you ever heard the expression, ‘...walk in someone else’s shoes...’? What that means is looking at a situation or event from someone else’s life. When you read a story, the author is trying to help you imagine what the character is thinking to help you understand why the character did something. Have you ever felt like you wouldn’t have done an event the same way a character did it in a book?

Think about a scene from a movie or television show you have recently watched where a character, or a group of characters, had a point of view that was different than yours for the situation they were in. Fill in the chart below for two separate shows or movies.

Name of the character	What the character did	What you would have done

In chapter ten, Snowbell meets with the Angora cat in the neighborhood. Snowbell attempts to explain to the Angora how he lives with a mouse and a bird. Snowbell and the Angora differ in their views of how a cat should live with a mouse and a bird. In the space below, list all the details that support Snowbell’s point of view for not eating Stuart and Margalo and the Angora’s point of view for why he should eat Stuart.

The animal	Their Point of View	Details That Support This View

POINT OF VIEW CONTINUED...

Directions: Write a letter from Snowbell's point of view, asking for advice on how to deal with the Angora.

- ◆ Tell the person that you are writing to the main problems that you are having with the Angora.
- ◆ Ask for his/her advice on how to deal with the Angora differently. Be specific about the kind of advice that you want.
- ◆ Thank him/her for taking the time to read your letter.
- ◆ Use correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.

Planning Page

Introduction: List the problem(s) you are having.

List what specific advice you are going to ask for in the letter:

Conclusion: Notes on how you would end your letter.

CHAPTER ELEVEN - "THE AUTOMOBILE"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Pariah		
Bureau		
Decayed		
Pincers		
Pounced		

1. Did you honestly think that Snowbell was going to tell the truth? Why?

2. Why do you think Stuart is running away to find Margalo rather than asking the Littles to help him find her?

3. What direction did Dr. Carey tell Stuart to go?

4. Where was the first place Mr. Clydesdale told Stuart to look? Why do you think this place is a good place to look for birds?

5. What happened to the invisible car that Dr. Carey was going to let Stuart borrow?

CHAPTER TWELVE - "THE SCHOOLROOM"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Accessories		
Inclined		
Nimbly		
Arithmetic		
Abomination		
Reminiscently		
Temperament		
Underprivileged		

1. What does a person look like when they look worried?

2. What do you think of when you hear a substitute is going to be in the room?

3. Why didn't Stuart teach the school subjects like he was supposed to?

4. What are some things that are important to you?

5. If you were the Chairman of the World, what is one rule you would come up with and why?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN - "AMES' CROSSING"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Ruinous		
Remarkable		
Prominent		
Confidential		
Blunt		

1. Would Stuart like to live in Ames' Crossing? How can you tell?

2. What is Stuart going to do to impress Harriet Ames? Do you think it will work? Why or why not?

3. Why do you think Stuart began to tremble when he first saw Harriet?

4. Why didn't Stuart say in the letter that he was looking for Margalo rather than say he was on confidential business?

5. Do you think Harriet will meet Stuart by the river?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN - "AN EVENING ON THE RIVER"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Swindled		
Ballasted		
Fidgeting		
Heartbroken		

1. Why was Stuart so embarrassed about the wooden spoons as oars?

2. How many different shirts did Stuart go through? Why did he go through so many shirts?

3. If your plans were ruined, would you react like Stuart or would you try to make the best of a bad situation? Explain.

4. Do you think Stuart will ever see Harriet Ames again or was it a one-time thing? Why do you think so?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN - "HEADING NORTH"

VOCABULARY

Word	Page #	Meaning/Definition
Refreshed		
Forked		
Disappointed		
Undisturbed		

1. Why do think Stuart decided not to contact Harriet Ames?

2. Who was the man sitting on the ditch?

3. Will Stuart ever find Margalo? If yes, then explain why you think so. If no, explain what Stuart should do instead and why.

BOOK SUMMARY

Paragraph #1 – Introduction

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

A statement about the book: _____

Paragraph #2 –

Setting: Where did the story take place? Describe briefly.

Theme: What idea came up during the entire book or what point was the author trying to make?

Paragraph #3 – Main Characters (Briefly tell about each character and what their role in the book was.)

Stuart Little:

George:

Mr. and Mrs. Little:

Snowbell:

Margalo:

Dr. Paul Carey:

Harriet Ames:

Paragraph #4 – #6 - Plot/Main Events: Summarize the important events as they happened

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

Paragraph #7 – Conclusion: Share your personal opinions of the story. What were your likes and dislikes of the story? Would you recommend this story to another reader? Explain.

RUBRIC FOR STUART LITTLE

	Exceptional Writer 4	Strong Writer 3	Developing Writer 2	Beginning Writer 1
Introduction: Includes book title, author, genre, and statement.				
Ideas are fully developed using: Problem/Solution, Theme, Characters, Setting				
Conclusion: Shares thoughts and opinions accurately to story theme.				
Develops the topic in a clear and detailed way.				
Shows organization and it makes sense sequentially.				
Uses descriptive language.				
Piece has a sense of voice.				
Is written for a specific audience.				
Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.				

Name _____

Score: ____/36

ANSWER KEY

CHAPTER ONE - "IN THE DRAIN"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
sharp	2
solemnly	3
streamed	3
trifle	5

1. The answer will be student opinion. Try have the students be positive and creative.
2. He had only gained a third of an ounce.
3. The doctor said that everything was alright and to feed him up.
4. Mrs. Little’s ring fell down the drain. Stuart was the only one who could fit down the drain on a string to get it.

CHAPTER TWO - "HOME PROBLEMS"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Stooping	7
Terrific	9
Belittling	10
Substitute	10
Pantry	11

1. Ping Pong ball falls behind radiator – Stuart can fit under radiator to get it.
Piano key gets stuck – Stuart can fit in piano to unstuck it.
Three Blind Mice Poem – Mrs. Little tore it out of the book.
Twas the night...poem – They replaced the word mouse with louse.
Mouse hole in the pantry – Mr. Little didn’t solve this problem yet.

CHAPTER THREE - "WASHING UP" AND CHAPTER FOUR - " EXERCISE"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Abdominal	13
Wrapper	13
Drawn	18
Sill	18

1. He had to pull a long rope that reached the floor to turn on the light. He had to climb a rope ladder to get to the washbasin.
2. Stuart had to hit the handle with a hammer three times. The noise would wake everyone up and let them know Stuart was awake.
3. He was showing off his teeth to Stuart.
4. He was pulled up into the shade and trapped in it.
5. Student opinion should center on Snowbell not wanting the Littles to find Stuart and think he ran away.

CHAPTER FIVE - "RESCUED"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Vigorous	21
Wedged	21
Disgust	23
Exasperated	25

1. George got tools to rip up the pantry floor and food to lower down the hole to Stuart.
2. He was trying to be helpful
3. Stuart might be wedged in and can't get out.
4. He pulled the shades down because that is what you do if someone has died.
5. Stuart was hinting that Snowbell had something to do with it.
6. Answers will vary for each student.

CHAPTER SIX - "A FAIR BREEZE"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Gait	26
Inconvenience	28
Tartly	30
Berth	32
Detestable	33
Bon voyage	35

1. He had to watch out for dogs.
2. Stuart grabbed the pant cuff of a man and paid with an aluminum dime.
3. He wanted to sail on a clipper.
4. He wanted Stuart to beat the sloop that always beats his ship.
5. He wanted to add more sail or fire on it with his cannons. The old man preferred he just sail straight and true.

SEQUENCING OF EVENTS ACTIVITY

- 4 Stuart uses a hammer to turn on the water.
- 1 Stuart Little, a mouse, is born to humans.
- 5 Stuart gets caught in the shade.
- 6 The Littles think Stuart is in the mouse hole.
- 2 Stuart helps get the ring from the drain.
- 7 Stuart rides the Wasp across the pond.
- 3 Stuart helps with lost ping-pong balls and stuck piano keys.

CHAPTER SEVEN - "THE SAILBOAT RACE"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Smartly	37
Rigging	38
Blotting	41
Looming	43
Tremble	43
Yawing	45

1. He offered \$5 a week, every Thursday afternoon off, and a radio.

2. He was accidentally pushed off by the crowd.
3. The wave caused by the policeman washed him overboard. The crowd cheered him on.
4. He meant the weather was going to get rough to sail in.
5. He had to lower the fore stay sail and cut the paper bag off. He then had to move his fore sail into the wind.
6. The answer will be student opinion.
7. Put these events from chapter seven into the correct sequence. Use numbers and pencil.
 - 5 Stuart drives the Wasp into a floating paper bag.
 - 3 The policeman falls into the pond.
 - 6 The Lillian B. Womrath gets stuck in the Wasp's rigging.
 - 1 Stuart is going to race the Wasp against the Lillian B. Womrath.
 - 7 Stuart wins the race.
 - 2 A large crowd gathers to watch the race.
 - 4 A storm washes Stuart overboard.

CHAPTER EIGHT - "MARGALO"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Penetrate	48
Nip	49
Gargle	51
Descended	54
Crouched	55

1. He slipped into the refrigerator to get cheese and assumed his mother saw him. She didn't and he got stuck.
2. Students should explain how they are taken care of by their family.
3. Student opinion for this answer.
4. Snowbell is a cat and he knows cats will eat birds.
5. They are two emotions that can work together. Students remaining answer will vary.

CHAPTER NINE - "A NARROW ESCAPE"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Irish Terrier	57
Shinny	57
Hoisted	58
Anxious	59
Scow	61
Gingerly	63

1. He was on his way to go ice-skating.
2. He had egg, butter, gravy, orange peel, and banana peel on him.
3. Margalo came to rescue him. She let him hang on to her feet and she carried him back to land.
4. He had to drop his ice skates.
5. She made a tiny cake with seeds on top for Margalo.

CHAPTER TEN - "SPRINGTIME"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Delicatessen	67
Permanent	68
Offhand	69
Obliged	70

1. He had five friends. They were a Maltese, white Persian, tortoise-shell, tiger cat, and Angora.
2. He lives with a bird and a mouse and he hasn't eaten them.
3. He told Snowbell he would eat the bird. He was going to do it the next night when Mr. and Mrs. Little were out.
4. A pigeon overheard the conversation and wrote Margalo a warning note.
5. She flew away.

POINT OF VIEW ACTIVITY

The animal	Their point of view	Details that support this view
The Angora	Cats eat birds and mice.	Students can quote the Angora.
Snowbell	Stuart is part of the family and bird is a guest.	Stuart is a child of the Littles and they allowed Margalo to live there.

CHAPTER ELEVEN - "THE AUTOMOBILE"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Pariah	72
Bureau	73
Decayed	77
Pincers	78
Pounced	80

1. Stuart did not believe him. Students can decide for themselves and explain their answer.
2. Students' answers will vary.
3. He suggested north.
4. He suggested Central Park first. It is the largest part in New York City.
5. Stuart crashed it.

CHAPTER TWELVE - "THE SCHOOLROOM"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Accessories	83
Inclined	84
Nimble	87
Arithmetic	90
Abomination	90
Reminiscently	91
Temperament	92
Underprivileged	94

1. Students should mention facial expressions that show worried. Also pacing, wringing of hands are bodily actions.
2. Students answers will vary.
3. Student had never been to school or knew how to teach.
4. Students can list as many as they can think of.
5. Students' answers will vary.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN - "AMES' CROSSING"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Ruinous	102
Remarkable	103
Prominent	104
Confidential	108
Blunt	109

1. It was the most peaceful and beautiful spot he had ever seen.
2. He decided to write a fancy note to try to impress her. It is the student's opinion as to whether it will work or not.
3. He may have been nervous about meeting someone like him or meeting a girl.
4. He may not have wanted to mention another girl's name to Harriet. He may have been trying to sound important.
5. Student opinions may vary.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN - "AN EVENING ON THE RIVER"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Swindled	113
Ballasted	114
Fidgeting	118
Heartbroken	120

1. They were not real oars. They were ice cream spoons.
2. He had three different shirts on. He was very nervous.
3. Student's answers will vary.
4. Students need to make a prediction.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN - "HEADING NORTH"

VOCABULARY Have students put meaning/definitions in own words

Word	Page #
Refreshed	126
Forked	126
Disappointed	129
Undisturbed	131

1. He knew he had to leave and look for Margalo.
2. He was a telephone repairman.
3. Students will make a prediction of what could happen if the book continued.