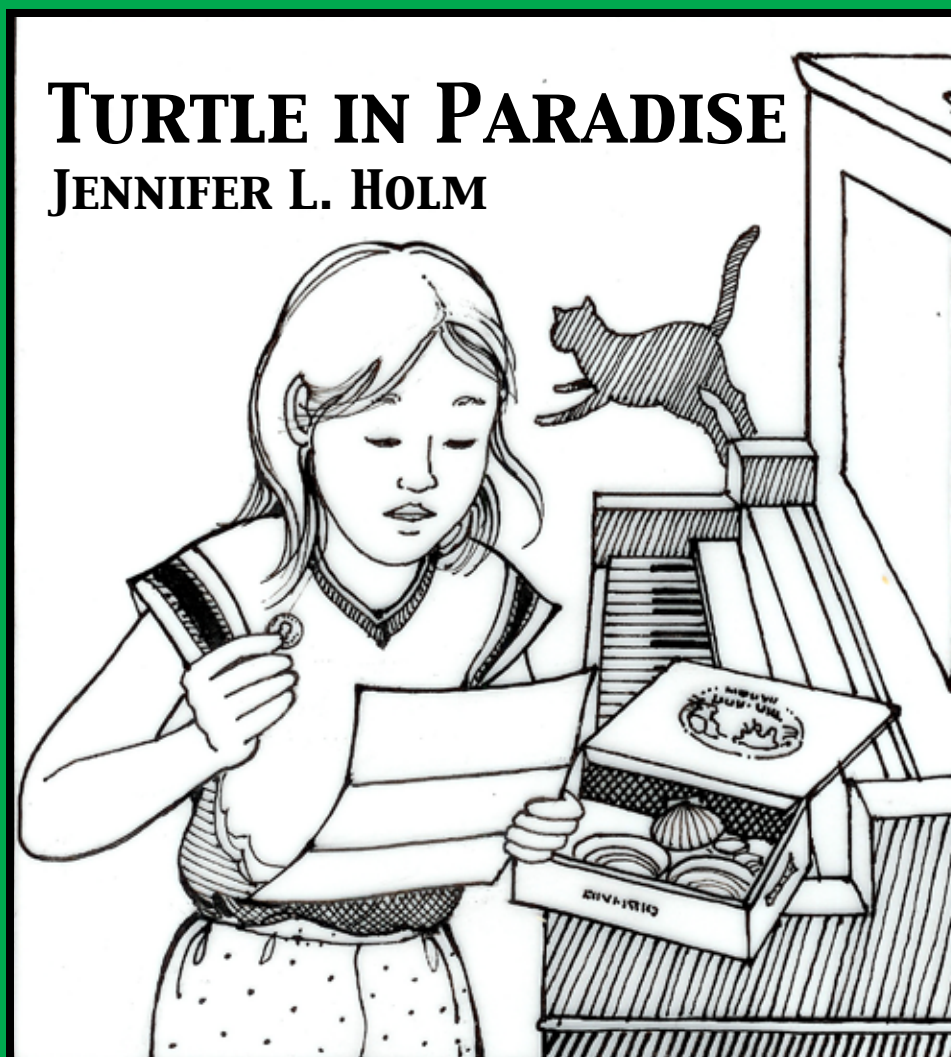


# Novel·Ties

## TURTLE IN PARADISE

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## A Study Guide

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the book *Turtle in Paradise* 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 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.

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**CHAPTERS 1 – 3**

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. chortles    | a. slyly                                       |
| 2. mansion     | b. confidence                                  |
| 3. abide       | c. greatly annoyed                             |
| 4. furtively   | d. large house                                 |
| 5. exasperated | e. feeling of disappointment at being hindered |
| 6. forlorn     | f. laughs in a loud gleeful way                |
| 7. authority   | g. put up with                                 |
| 8. frustration | h. lonely and sad                              |

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1. “We’re the best team in the league,” the coach said with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My father \_\_\_\_\_ every time he sees his favorite comedy.
3. The baby cried in \_\_\_\_\_ when he couldn’t reach his toy.
4. No teacher can \_\_\_\_\_ lazy students who fail to do their homework.
5. After inheriting a great deal of money, the family moved from a small apartment into a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The mother was \_\_\_\_\_ by her child’s constant whining.
7. The soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ crawled through the night to avoid being seen by the enemy.
8. The little boy looked \_\_\_\_\_ after his mother left him at school for the very first time.

Read to find out why Turtle goes to Key West.

**Questions:**

1. How does the boy in the rusty pickup truck prove Turtle’s point that kids are rotten?
2. Why does Turtle believe that Archie is different from her mother’s other boyfriends?
3. Why does Turtle dislike Shirley Temple?
4. Why couldn’t Turtle stay with her mother in New Jersey?
5. Why is Turtle disappointed in Key West when she just arrives?

## Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)

6. Why is Aunt Minnie distressed to find out that Turtle has come to live with her?
7. How does the presence of Turtle and Smokey cause a commotion in Aunt Minnie's house?
8. How does the Diaper Gang do business?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think it was a good idea for Turtle's mother to send her away to live with relatives? What other arrangements might she have made?
2. Going along with Turtle's idea that eye color tells about a person, what might your eye color say about you?
3. Why do you think that Turtle sees the world differently from the way her mother does? Which character is most like you?
4. Why do you think that Beans is mean to Turtle? Do you think that the two cousins could ever become friends?

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Point of View*—In literature, the point of view refers to the person telling the story. It can be narrated in the first person by a character in the book or in the third person by the author.

From whose point of view is this story written?

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Why do you think the author chose this point of view?

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- II. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words "like" or "as." For example:

Mama's always falling in love, and the fellas she picks are like dandelions.

What is being compared in this simile?

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Why is this an apt comparison?

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## Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)

### Literary Element: Setting

In literature, the setting is the time and place in which the story occurs. Details about the setting make the story come to life. Setting is especially important in a historical novel such as this one.

What is the setting of this novel?

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What details about the setting make the characters' times and lifestyles seem real?

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### Little Orphan Annie:

Go to the Internet and search for a "Little Orphan Annie cartoon." Select one of the sites that will show you examples of this comic strip that was very popular during the Great Depression.

### Music Connections:

1. Go online and search YouTube to hear several versions of "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," the favorite song of Turtle's mother. Find the words to this song and share them with your classmates. What type of person might pick this as her favorite song?
2. Go online and search YouTube for the video "Shirley Temple: Singing and Dancing (1936–1938)." You will see excerpts of Shirley Temple films. Do you enjoy her performances, or do you agree with Turtle?

### Architecture Connection:

Go to the Internet and search for "Bellewood, Model #3304" to see the house of Mama's dreams. Do you think it is a luxurious house? Why do you think Mama would like this house?

### Writing Activity:

Imagine you are Aunt Minnie. In a journal entry, write your feelings about having Turtle stay with you and tell how you expect her visit to affect your family.