

## **HIGH INTEREST - LOW VOCABULARY NOVELS**

### **OVERVIEW**

A series of five exciting and interesting titles provide a framework for this new approach to reading. Comprehension is the main focus, with multiple choice questions designed to ensure students understand what they are reading. The titles include:

- 1) Good Grief ... Third Grade
- 2) Too Many Murphys
- 3) Fourth Grade is a Jinx
- 4) Fifth Grade: Here Comes Trouble
- 5) Valentine's Day Can Be Murder

The high interest - low vocabulary format of these novels is perfect for reluctant readers and is sure to keep students motivated to read. For the teacher, flexibility is key, with students being assigned novels to read individually, in small groups or as a class.

### **SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES**

A number of possible strategies describing how these units might be used in the classroom is given. These include:

- 1) Whole Class Instruction
- 2) Individualized Approach
- 3) Small Group Instruction
- 4) Listening Skills Test

A possible reward system to help motivate student reading is also given.

### **STORY SUMMARIES**

A synopsis and bibliographic information for each of the novels has been included for teacher reference.

### **ANSWER KEY**

Answer keys for each novel are provided.

## Chapter 2

1. Why did Marsha talk so loudly on the bus?  
\_\_\_\_(a) All the children on the bus were noisy.  
\_\_\_\_(b) Marsha wanted everyone to hear her when she was bragging.  
\_\_\_\_(c) She thought Collette wasn't listening to her.
2. Why did Collette lie about the Irish cookies?  
\_\_\_\_(a) She was always making up stories.  
\_\_\_\_(b) Collette was afraid Marsha would tell everyone that Mrs. Murphy wasn't going to bake something good for the bake sale.  
\_\_\_\_(c) Collette thought she could fool Marsha if she put some green icing on bought cookies.
3. When Marsha said that she would come over to watch Mrs. Murphy bake, Collette said she couldn't because it was going to be a special time just for her and her mother. This shows that Collette  
\_\_\_\_(a) Is good at quick thinking.  
\_\_\_\_(b) Likes to brag.



## Chapter 3

1. What is the legend about the Blarney Stone?  
\_\_\_\_(a) It was used to kill a giant.  
\_\_\_\_(b) It once turned a prince into a frog.  
\_\_\_\_(c) Anyone who kisses the stone will be given the ability to talk about anything.
2. Why did Collette's mother say the cookies should be green?  
\_\_\_\_(a) She knew Collette had told Marsha that the cookies would have green icing.  
\_\_\_\_(b) Ireland is called the Emerald Isle.  
\_\_\_\_(c) Stevie drank all the red food colouring.
3. Why were the cookies as hard as rocks?  
\_\_\_\_(a) Stevie put in extra flour when Collette and Mrs. Murphy weren't looking.  
\_\_\_\_(b) The recipe said the cookies were supposed to be little Blarney Stones.  
\_\_\_\_(c) Collette put in too much oatmeal.

## Chapter 9

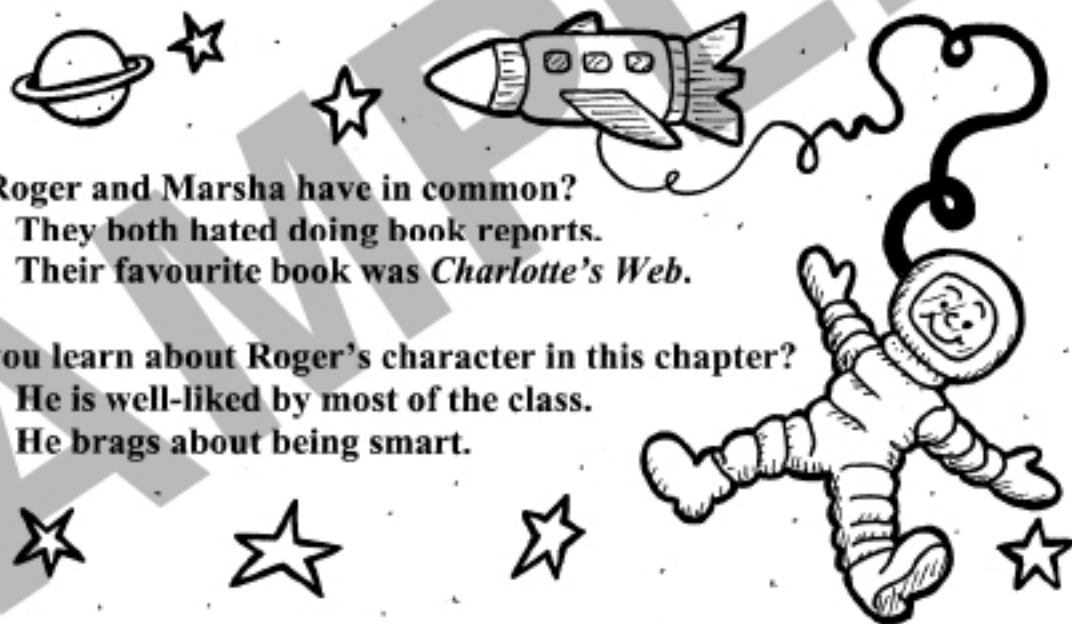
1. Marsha wasn't telling the truth when she said she had read *Gone With the Wind*, because she had read only a few pages. What happened after she said this?  
\_\_\_\_ (a) Miss Murtland was really impressed and thought Marsha must be very smart.  
\_\_\_\_ (b) Miss Murtland didn't seem to believe her and Marsha was embarrassed.
2. Marsha wanted to say something nasty to Roger but didn't. How did she feel after that?  
\_\_\_\_ (a) She felt proud of herself for not saying something mean.  
\_\_\_\_ (b) She felt angry because she had not said what she thought. ★

## Chapter 10

1. What did Roger and Marsha have in common?  
\_\_\_\_ (a) They both hated doing book reports.  
\_\_\_\_ (b) Their favourite book was *Charlotte's Web*.
2. What did you learn about Roger's character in this chapter?  
\_\_\_\_ (a) He is well-liked by most of the class.  
\_\_\_\_ (b) He brags about being smart.

## Chapter 11

1. Marsha is a very competitive person. That means she always wants to win or be first. How does this chapter show that Marsha wants to win?  
\_\_\_\_ (a) She worried that Miss Murtland might like Roger better than her.  
\_\_\_\_ (b) She decided that she would ask her mother to help her take really good pictures of the city, so that her part of the report would be better than Roger's.  
\_\_\_\_ (c) She decided to do a science report about rabbits because she knew more about them than Roger did.



## Chapter 5

1. Who bugged Collette at recess time because of her mother? It was

☐ (a) Marsha.  
☐ (b) Lorraine.  
☐ (c) Jimmy.  
☐ (d) Jeff.

2. Who brought an apple for the teacher? It was

☐ (a) Marsha.  
☐ (b) Lorraine.  
☐ (c) Jimmy.  
☐ (d) Roger.



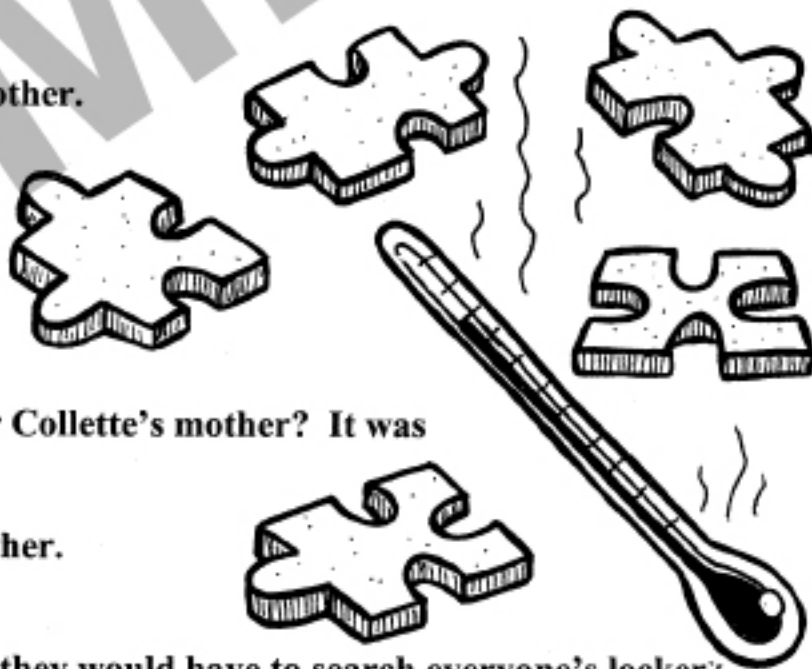
## Chapter 6

1. What is Collette afraid her mother will do? She is afraid her mother will

☐ (a) Make her miss Sarah's party if she doesn't do her homework.  
☐ (b) Go to work as a nurse instead of staying home.  
☐ (c) Tell stories about their family.

2. Who got sick? It was

☐ (a) Collette's mother.  
☐ (b) Collette.  
☐ (c) Sarah.  
☐ (d) Marsha.



## Chapter 7

1. Who brought flowers for Collette's mother? It was

☐ (a) Roger.  
☐ (b) Marsha.  
☐ (c) Collette's father.  
☐ (d) Collette.

2. Why did the teacher say they would have to search everyone's locker?

☐ (a) Marsha's expensive watch was missing.  
☐ (b) Money was missing.  
☐ (c) Someone had brought matches to school, so the principal wanted to check if someone was smoking.