NOVEL IDEAS

MARY POPE OSBORNE’S

THE

MAGIC TREE HOUSE SERIES

BOOK #1 DINOSAURS BEFORE DARK

Crystal and Thomas Rende
USING THE NOVEL STUDY

The novel study can be used in four ways:

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

Each novel study has the following key literacy elements:

**Vocabulary:**
The students will increase their vocabulary with worksheets that are designed to have students rewrite the words, alphabetize the words, and unscramble the words.

**Usage:**
The students will better understand the meaning of the new vocabulary by seeing the word used in sentences and identifying the correct spelling, creating a sentence and illustrating the use of the word, and filling a cloze story.

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

**Sequencing:**
The student is required to take a list of events in the story and reorder them in a sequence that correctly follows the story.

**Creative Writing:**
The student will take what they have learned from the story and apply it to a creative writing piece. The directions for the creative writing piece are set up in a bulleted format (common to most state standardized tests) to encourage students to organize their writing better.

THE NOVEL STUDY CAN BE PRINTED AND STAPLED AS A PACKET USING THE INTRODUCTION AS THE COVER PAGE.
Jack and his sister Annie find a tree house near their home that they had never seen before. Even though Jack doesn’t think it is a good idea, they climb into the tree house. Before they realize it, they are taken to the time of the dinosaurs. How did they get there and, even more importantly, how will they get back home?
Name _________________________

Directions: Rewrite the following words.

backpack  

bookmark  

bright  

dinosaur  

disappeared  

engraved  

farther  

fuzzy  

hilltop  

impossible
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>largest</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medallion</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nudged</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>photograph</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pretend</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scooped</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stampede</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standing</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tilted</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wobbly</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: On the lines provided, rewrite the following words in alphabetical order.

pretend  standing  disappeared
bookmark  photograph  impossible
fuzzy  tilted  largest
nudged  hilltop  medallion
engraved  farther  backpack
scooped  stampede  bright
wobbly  dinosaur

1. __________  2. __________  3. __________
4. __________  5. __________  6. __________
7. __________  8. __________  9. __________
10. __________  11. __________  12. __________
13. __________  14. __________  15. __________
16. __________  17. __________  18. __________
19. __________  20. __________
Directions: Unscramble the words to make the vocabulary words in the word list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD LIST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>backpack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>engraved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>largest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scooped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bookmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medallion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stampede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fuzzy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nudged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dinosaur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hilltop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>photograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tilted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disappeared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impossible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pretend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wobbly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yesterday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. kcckapab
2. egsrtla
3. bloywb
4. gtihrb
5. emapestd
6. docopse
7. hrafret
8. vdeegnra
9. ldlominae
10. ltpliho
11. gdudne
12. teitdl
13. zyuzf
14. sisblpmie
15. kmkoaoorb
16. peapaesiddr
17. sonarudi
18. dtsnangi
19. ptopoharg
20. edntper
Name _________________________

Directions: Underline the correct spelling of each word.

1. I left my (bakpack, backpack) in school.
2. The (bookmark, boockmarck) was on page one hundred.
3. The sun was very (bright, brit) yesterday.
4. The T-rex is a very big (dinocaur, dinosaur).
5. A rabbit (disappeared, disapeared) in the magician’s hat.
6. My name was (ingraved, engraved) on my bracelet.
7. Stephen hit the ball (ferther, farther) than Mitchell.
8. Mary’s bear was soft and (fuzzy, fuszy).
9. Our house is on a (hiltop, hilltop).
10. It is not (impossible, impossible) to hit a homerun.
11. Farmer Pete had the (largest, largest) pumpkin in the contest.
12. Andre won a (medalion, medallion) for first place.
13. I (nudged, nugged) my friend with my shoulder.
14. We smiled for our class (fotograph, photograph).
15. Anderson likes to (preten, pretend) he is on the moon.
16. My mother (scooped, skooped) a lot of ice cream for me.
17. The buffalo were rushing on a (stampeed, stampede) across the open land.
18. Lisa was (standing, standen) on the corner waiting for her school bus.
19. The tree (tilted, telted) towards the left.
20. My legs were (wobly, wobbly) after I rode the roller coaster.
Name _________________________

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

**CHAPTER ONE**

1. Who saw the tree house first? Where was it?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What was in the tree house that Jack loved?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

**CHAPTER TWO**

1. What type of book did Anne want to look at?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What did Jack do to make the Pteranodon appear?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

**CHAPTER THREE**

1. How could the kids tell they weren’t in their neighborhood anymore?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. How many millions of years ago did the Pteranodon live?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
CHAPTER FOUR

1. Describe how the Pteranodon’s skin felt when they touched it.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do you think Anne called the Pteranodon Henry?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

CHAPTER FIVE

1. What were the two notes Jack wrote about the Triceratops?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2. What did Jack find in the grass? What was special about it?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

CHAPTER SIX

1. If you were Anne would you go near the dinosaur nests? Why or why not?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2. What type of dinosaur was protecting the nests? Where do you think the rest of them were?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER SEVEN

1. Why did Jack have to go back to the hill?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What was in the way of Jack getting back to the tree house?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. Why couldn’t Jack hide on the other side of the hill?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. How do you think Jack is going to get away from the Tyrannosaurus rex?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CHAPTER NINE

1. How did Jack feel riding on the back of Henry?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. How did the Jack and Anne get back home?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER TEN

1. How long were they gone from their own time?


2. When were the two going to visit the tree house again?


3. If you had just done what Jack and Anne did, would you try the tree house again?


Name _________________________

Directions: Draw a picture of the four dinosaurs from the story. Then, write a sentence using the dinosaur’s name in it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pteranodon</th>
<th>Triceratops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anatosaurus</th>
<th>Tyrannosaurus rex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Use the shapes to put the letter of the events in correct order.

a. Jack finds a medallion.
b. Jack and Anne discover a tree house.
c. A Tyrannosaurus rex chases Jack.
d. The Pteranodon saves Jack.
e. Jack and Anne return home safely.
f. Anne finds several dinosaur nests.
g. Jack and Anne travel back in time.
h. A Pteranodon flies by the tree house.
Name _________________________

**WORD LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>backpack</th>
<th>bookmark</th>
<th>bright</th>
<th>dinosaur</th>
<th>disappeared</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>engraved</td>
<td>farther</td>
<td>fuzzy</td>
<td>hilltop</td>
<td>impossible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>largest</td>
<td>medallion</td>
<td>nudged</td>
<td>photograph</td>
<td>pretend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scooped</td>
<td>stampede</td>
<td>standing</td>
<td>tilted</td>
<td>wobbly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word for each sentence. Not all of the words will be used. No word will be used twice.

Jack and Anne traveled back in time to the age of the dinosaurs. Jack brought his __________ to keep his books in. Anne thought the Pteranodon felt __________ when she touched it. It was almost __________ to believe they had gone back in time.

While they were there, Jack found a gold __________ in the grass. It had an “M” __________ on it. He put it in his pocket.

Anne found several dinosaur nests high on a __________. An Anatosaurus was protecting them. The T-rex came and scared it. Now several Anatosauruses were protecting the nests. Jack was afraid of starting a __________ of Anatosauruses.

When the T-rex ran, the ground felt __________ and hard to walk on. The trees __________ to the left as it passed. The T-rex had the __________ teeth they had ever seen.

When Jack and Anne made it safely to the tree house, they opened to the __________ that saved their place in the book. In seconds they were back home. No one was going to believe what had happened to them.
Name _________________________

1. Write a sentence using the word **hilltop**.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

2. Write a sentence using the word **nudged**.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

3. Write a sentence using the word **scooped**.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

4. Write a sentence using the words **pretend** and **disappeared**.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

5. Write a sentence using the words **impossible** and **largest**.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

6. Write a paragraph using the words **medallion**, **engraved**, **bookmark**, **bright**, and **backpack**.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________
Name _________________________

**BOOK SUMMARY**

Title: ___________________________________________________________________

Author: ___________________________________________________________________

Illustrator: ___________________________________________________________________

List the main characters: ___________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Setting: ___________________________________________________________________

Illustrate your favorite scene from the story. Tell which scene it is on the bottom.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Write a paragraph describing what you liked about the story.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Name _________________________

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write a story about going to the prehistoric past. Explain how you get there and back home. Tell about the different dinosaurs you encounter. Describe how the world looks. Be sure to include:

- The name of the dinosaurs from the book
- What is different about the world compared to now
- What events happen
- Use your imagination and have fun
- Check punctuation, sentencing, and spelling
- Write the final draft on lined paper

**ROUGH DRAFT**

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER ONE
1. Anne saw the tree house. It was in the woods near their house.
2. There were books in the tree house. Jack loves books.

CHAPTER TWO
1. Anne wanted to look at the book with the castle on it.
2. Jack wished he could see the Pteranodon.

CHAPTER THREE
1. The ground was covered in ferns. Their was a winding stream, a sloping hill, and volcanoes.
2. The Pteranodon lived 65 million years ago.

CHAPTER FOUR
1. He felt soft and fuzzy.
2. The Pteranodon felt like their dog Henry.

CHAPTER FIVE
1. Eats flowers and eats slowly.
2. Jack found a gold medallion with the letter “M” engraved on it.

CHAPTER SIX
1. Answers will vary with each student.
2. It was an Anatosaurus. The rest may have been looking for food.

CHAPTER SEVEN
1. He forgot his backpack with his notebook and the book about home.
2. A tyrannosaurus rex was in the way.
CHAPTER EIGHT
1. He was afraid it would scare the Anatosauruses and start a stampede.
2. Answers will vary with each student.

CHAPTER NINE
1. He felt like a bird and as light as a feather.
2. Jack pointed at the picture and wished they were home.

CHAPTER TEN
1. There was no change in time from when they left.
2. They planned on visiting it the next day.
3. Answers will vary with each student.

PAGE #15
1. b
2. h
3. g
4. a
5. f
6. c
7. d
8. e

PAGE #16 – words are listed in order of appearance in story
1. backpack
2. fuzzy
3. impossible
4. medallion
5. engraved
6. hilltop
7. stampede
8. wobbly
9. tilted
10. largest
11. bookmark