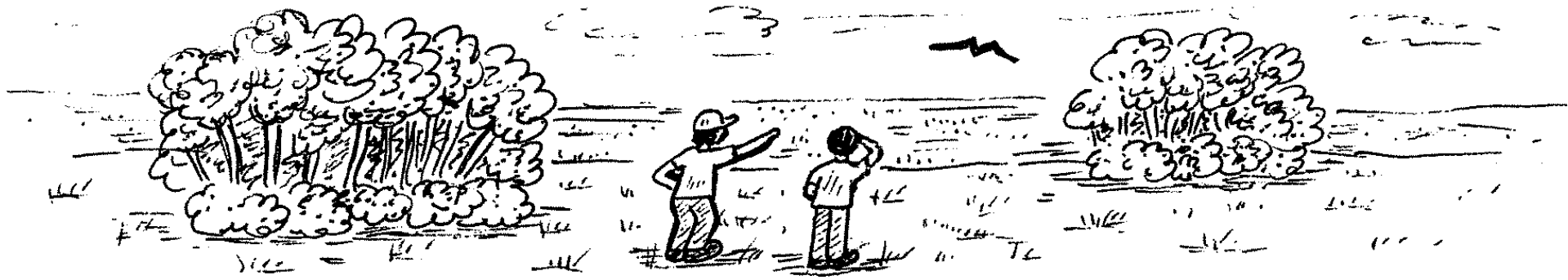


# Owls In The Family: A Novel Study

## Introduction

*Owls in the Family*, by Farley Mowat, is set on the shores of the South Saskatchewan River. It is a timeless story about two boys exploring their environment after a long prairie winter. The smell of the thawing wheat fields and the warming earth draws them to wide open spaces like gophers scampering out of their burrows. They are on a mission to find an owl's nest. Through their initial quest they will learn precious lessons about animals and people.



## A Novel Approach

Engaging Students through the activities of a novel study can be one of the most exhilarating and rewarding experiences of teaching. In order to reach the students, the teacher must become an active participant in the process. Finding a novel that students will identify with and enjoy is the first step. Finding the necessary time to plan and prepare the components which make the novel study a success is the next step. Choosing the right ingredients to draw the students into the story even before they open the book, and keeping them motivated far beyond the final page is the key.

For all these reasons, this study guide was created. Its aim is to communicate to students the teacher's enthusiasm and love of reading. It is designed to save precious preparation time while focusing on the students' opinions, abilities and creativity.

## Novel Study Format

Each chapter is approached in a similar manner.

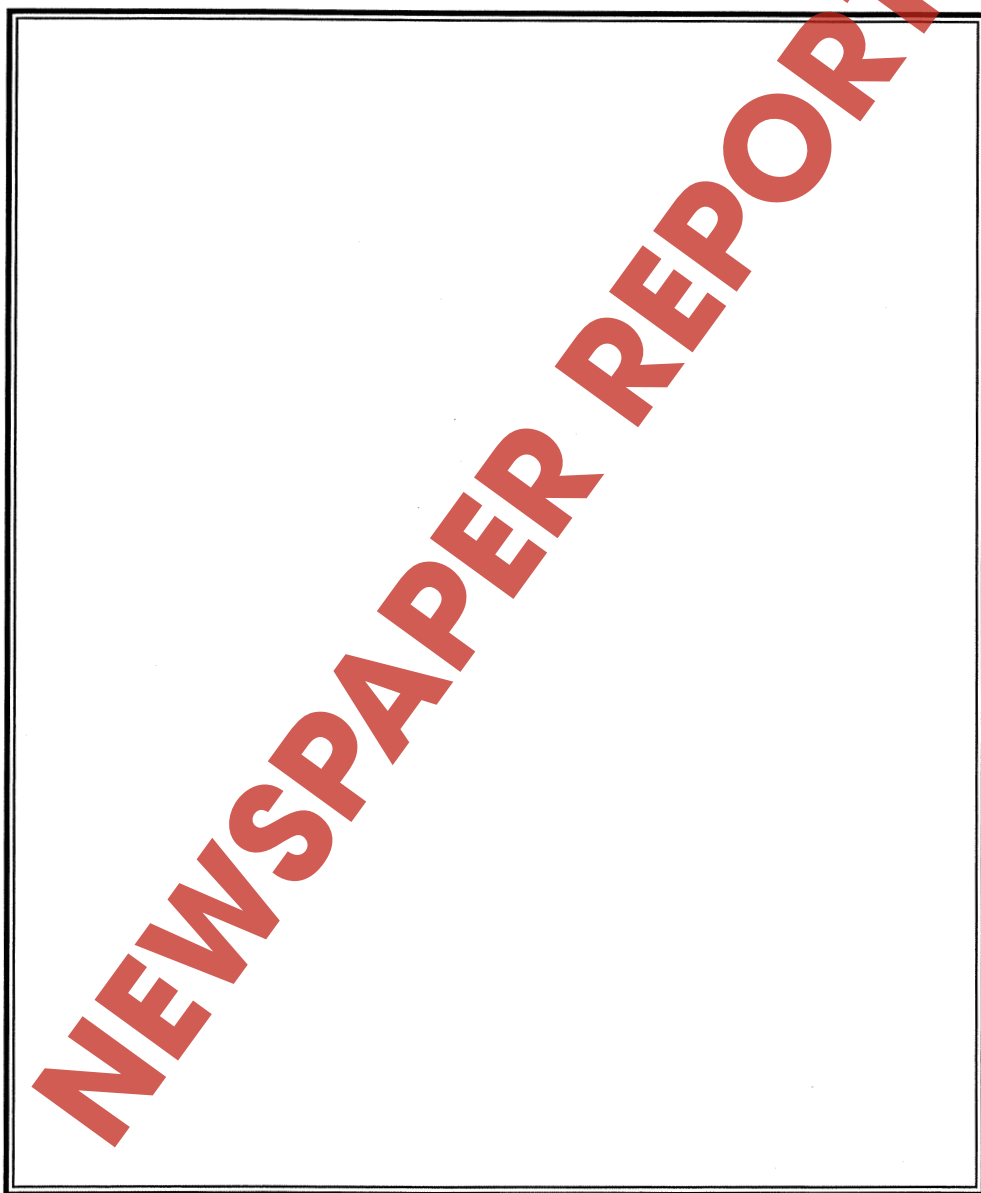
1. **Suggested Teaching Strategies** - For each chapter, one or more activities is suggested which are completed before the chapter is read. These activities are designed to heighten student interest and help motivate students prior to reading the chapter.





## Chapter 6 - Reporter

**Instructions:** Prepare a newspaper article as if you were a reporter for a local newspaper. Describe the parade and the final events that afternoon. Include a coloured picture in the space provided.



## Chapter 10 - Camping Commotion

**Instructions:** Describe a camping trip you have been on. How did it turn out? Include a picture in the box at the bottom of the page. (If you have never been camping, illustrate the inside of Billy's caravan and describe how you would feel about going on a camping trip with him)



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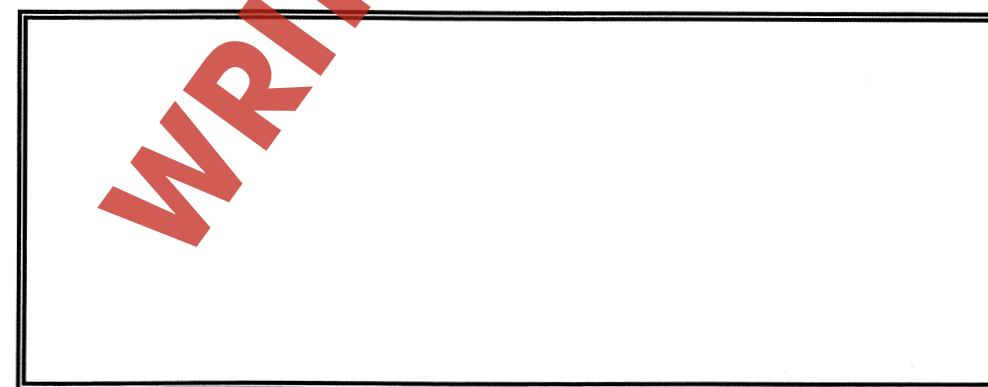
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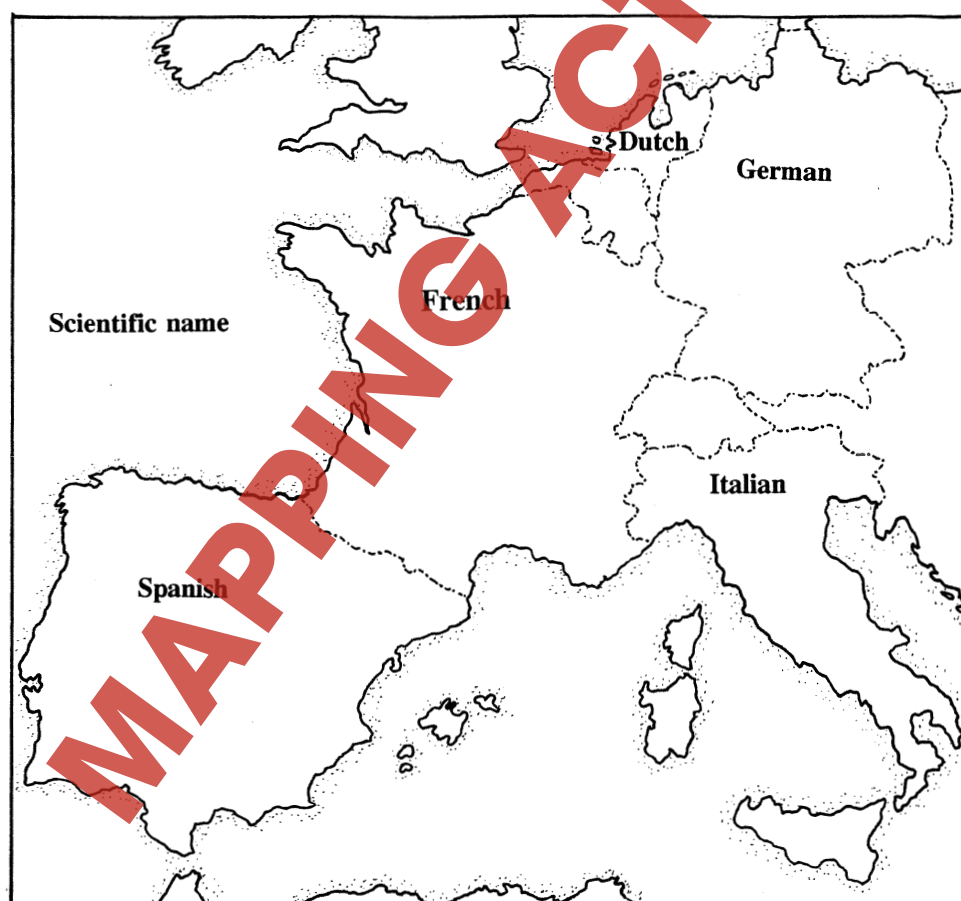
## Chapter 11- Country Names

**Instructions:** Owls have names that sound like their call in different countries. Write the name for owl under the correct language on the map. (The choices are: German, Dutch, Spanish, Scientific Name, Italian) Then colour the map the correct colour. Colour the remaining land brown and the water blue.

1. Bubo: (colour pink)
2. Uhu: (colour yellow)
3. Oehoe: (colour green)
4. Gufo: (colour orange)
5. Buho: (colour red)



**Bonus:** The French word for owl is \_\_\_\_\_ (colour purple)



## EVALUATION

Assignment	Mark
Ch. 1 Prairie Portraits	/10
Ch. 1 Similes and Metaphors	/8
Ch. 1 Owly Words	/8
Ch. 2 Hooting It Up	/10
Ch. 2 Billy's Prairie Map	/10
Ch. 2 Prairie Words	/8
Ch. 3 Ruffled Feathers	/10
Ch. 3 My Hero	/10
Ch. 3 Winging It	/8
Ch. 4 Owls Jot Notes	/10
Ch. 4 Identity Factcard	/10
Ch. 4 Billy's Brave Battle	/10
Ch. 4 Colourful Feathers	/10
Ch. 5 Contrasting Words	/8
Ch. 5 Birds Of A Feather	/10
Ch. 5 Spooky Stuff	/10
Ch. 6 Pet Parade Advertisement	/10
Ch. 6 Newspaper Reporter	/10
Ch. 6 Catchy Phrases	/8
Ch. 7/8/9 Wol And Friends	/10
Ch. 7/8/9 Unusual	/10
Ch. 10 Camping Commotion	/10
Ch. 10 Calls of the Wild	/10
Ch. 11 The Last Word	/10
Ch. 11 Country Names	/10
Ch. 11 You Be The Judge	/10
Concluding Activities	a) / b) / c) / d) /
<b>Total</b>	_____



## Chapter 3 - Winging It!



**Instructions:** The great horned owl is compared to a tiger because it is a fierce, silent hunter. Its feathers are like stripes which help it blend into the shadows of the forest. The feather tufts on its head are like ears and its face is like an angry cat. Now, hunt for the missing words in Chapter 3 to see if you are a sharp hunter of words.

1. **H** \_\_\_\_\_ In the forest its \_\_\_\_\_ cries echo through the dark.

2. **O** \_\_\_\_\_ The great horned owl's feathers can be grayish-white, and barred with brown and \_\_\_\_\_.

### G R E A T

3. **N** \_\_\_\_\_ This great owl will \_\_\_\_\_ in forested areas, caves, cliffs or old barns.

4. **E** \_\_\_\_\_ The female owl may lay 2 or 3 \_\_\_\_\_ as early as the end of January.

5. **D** \_\_\_\_\_ The owls are very fierce when they must \_\_\_\_\_ their babies.

6. **O** \_\_\_\_\_ The owlets do not open their eyes until they are ten days \_\_\_\_\_.

7. **W** \_\_\_\_\_ The great horned owl in flight has a \_\_\_\_\_ of more than 1.5 metres.

8. **L** \_\_\_\_\_ The owl's eyes are extremely sensitive to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Questions For Discussion: Chapter 3

- Why is Billy so restless?
- What is Billy fantasizing about? What do you think of his methods?
- How does the author tell you that Billy cares very much about animals?
- In what state did the boys find the nest after the storm.
- Does the author give you more facts about the owl?
- How do the boys save the owlet's life?
- How does the owl react to their help and care?
- Do you know some other famous owls?

### Answers

Billy is still in school and all he can think of are the owls. Billy is thinking of all the ways he can get the owls down from their nest. Answers will vary. Billy covers his dog's head with his quilt, when Mutts howls at the storm, to calm him down, which shows he cares about animals. The nest was smashed to pieces, and all that was left was a stick or two in the crotch where the nest had been. The old owl was gone; but on the ground near the foot of the tree were two young owls - and they were cold and dead. Great horned owls begin to lay their eggs in March when it is still winter on the prairie. The eggs are laid a few days apart, but from the time the first one is laid, the mother begins to start "setting". If she waited until she had a full clutch of eggs, the early ones could be chilled and would never hatch. The first egg that's laid hatches first, and that young owl gets a four- or five-day head start on the next one who, in turn, gets a head start on the next one. The boys cover him with a shirt take him out into the sunshine where he can dry off and warm up, and give him some food. The owl starts to follow the boys as they walk away. He later climbs onto Billy's lap. Answers will vary.

### Booklet Activities

- Shuffled Feathers** - Students identify three types of conflict in the chapter.
- My Hero** - Students complete a character sketch of the main character, Billy.
- Winging It** - Students solve an interesting, vocabulary-building word puzzle.

### Answers

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| 1. Haunting   | 2. Ochre |
| 3. Nest       | 4. Eggs  |
| 5. Defend     | 6. Old   |
| 7. Wingspread | 8. Light |

