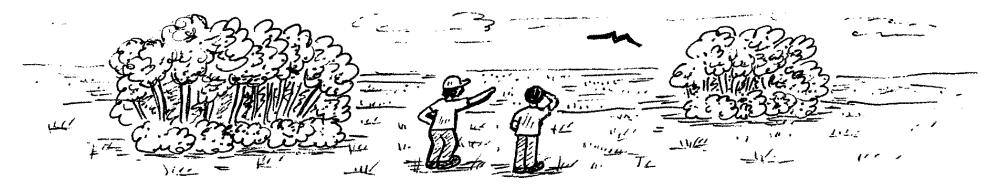
Owls In The Family: A Novel Study

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 4 - Owl Jot Notes

Instructions: Taking good jot notes will help you prepare for a better research project. Follow the steps below to make jot notes about an owl of your choice.

Step One: Take down the facts that you understand and that interest you.

Step Two: Write this information in your own words.

Step Three: Use point form. Do not write using complete sentences.

Step Four: Take down enough information to be able to reread and understand your notes two

weeks later.

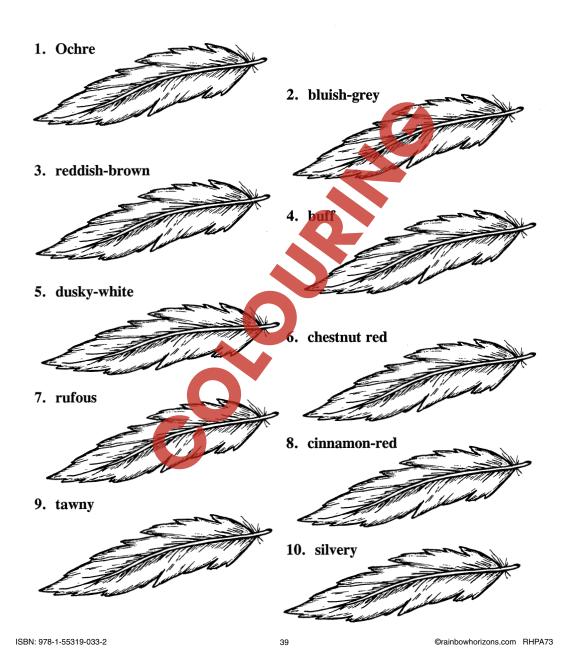
Step Five: Make sure you jot down the information about the sources you used and the page numbers. You may want to go back to check some facts or might need to include this information in a hibliography

Owl Jot Notes

Owl Jot Notes

Chapter 4 - Colourful Feathers

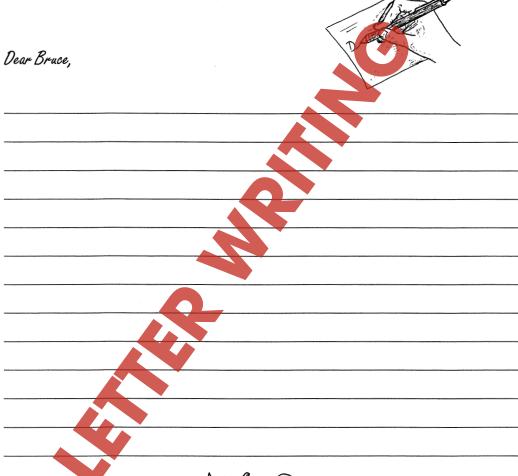
Instructions: Owls have many different colours of feathers. Colour each feather the correct colour.



Chapter 11 - The Last Word

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Instructions: Pretend that you are Billy. Write a letter to Bruce, asking him to take the owls because you are moving to Toronto.





Owls - Spooky Stuff!!!

Owls have been the object of fear and superstitions for centuries. People believed that they had magical powers which helped them catch their prey without making a sound. Their fixed stare gave their eyes human qualities and their strange cry was believed to be an omen of death or disaster.

In France, the barn owl was linked to witchcraft and was often nailed to the barn door to ward off bad luck.



In China, the hooting of the owl sounds like "dig your own grave," which frightened peasants. For this reason, owls were often killed if they came too close to the house.

In India, if an owl perched on the roof of a house, the roof was burned before anyone could enter the house.

Its name meant "the one that shines," because of its eyes. When the temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom and the patron of the city, was built, an owl came to perch on one of the columns. The owl was linked to her and began to represent wisdom. Its emblem was stamped on the four drachma coin used by the ancient Greeks.



The Prairie Natives believe that the owl has the power to protect against the night. Because it is a nocturnal animal, it symbolizes sadness, darkness, solitude, retreat and melancholy.



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Inspired by: The Wonderful World of Animals, Owls, Elin Kelsey, Grolier Ltd, Montreal, 1986.

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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.



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Chapter 11- Country Names

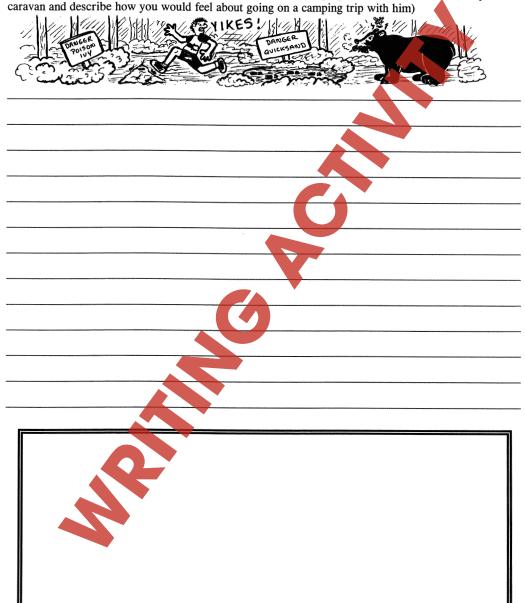
Instructions: Owls have names that sound like their call in different countries. Write the name for owl under the correct language on the map. (The choices are: German, Dutch, Spanish, Scientific Name, Italian) Then colour the map the correct colour. Colour the remaining land brown and the water blue.

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



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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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 OWL	
Ch. 11 Country Names	/10 EXPERT	
Ch. 11 You Be The Judge	/10	,
)
Concluding Activities a)		
b)		
c)	W Court	
d)		
Total		

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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 grayishwhite, and barred with brown and
C	GREAT	
3.	<u>N</u>	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.	<u>D</u>	The owls are very fierce when they must their babies.

6.	O	The owlets do not open their eyes until they are ter days

s For Discussion: Chapter 3

'hy is Billy so restless?

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

Answers

illy is still in school and all he can think of are the owls.

illy is thinking of all the ways he can get the owls down from their nest. Answers ill vary.

illy covers his dog's head with his quilt, when Mutt howls at the storm, to calm m down, which shows he cares about animals.

was smashed to pieces, and all that was left was a stick or two in the crotch here the nest had been. The old owl was gone; but on the ground near the foot the tree were two young owls - and they were cold and dead.

orned owls begin to lay their eggs in March when it is still winter on the prairie. ne eggs are laid a few days apart, but from the time the first one is laid, the mother is to start "setting". If she waited until she had a full clutch of eggs, the early ones ould be chilled and would never hatch. The first egg that's laid hatches first, and that rung owl gets a four- or five-day head start on the next one who, in turn, gets a head art on the next one.

cover him with a shirt take him out into the sunshine where he can dry off up, and give him some food.

e starts to follow the boys as they walk away. He later climbs onto Billy's lap. aswers will vary.

Booklet Activities

uffled Feathers - Students identify three types of conflict in the chapter.

y Hero - Students complete a character sketch of the main character, Billy.

inging It - Students solve an interesting, vocabulary-building word puzzle.

swers Haunting

2. Ochre

Nest Defend Wingspread 4. Eggs6. Old8. Light

