

Overview:

This guide is intended for use with ***Babbling Brook Society*** to facilitate student understanding. To complement student learning, a field trip to Polar Caves Park and Quincy Bog Natural Area is ideal. However, it is *not* required, as literature is capable of “transporting” a reader. Imaginations are free to travel, and fantasy fiction is a creative way to spark engaged learning.

Summarization

Summarizing teaches students how to discern the most important ideas in a text, how to ignore irrelevant information. By summarizing each chapter, central ideas emerge.

Vocabulary Acquisition

Students are more likely to remember words if they identify challenging words themselves. They also need an opportunity to share and discuss the word with the class or a partner.

Prediction

Predicting involves more than just guessing what happens next. Students should find evidence to support their hunch and in so doing, they will reread, skim, draw conclusions and better comprehend the text.

Student Companion Booklet Procedure:

Reproduce the Student Booklet Template, allowing one half page for each of the eighteen chapters. Page one should be reproduced as front and back (9 copies) for 18 chapters. Page two is the outer booklet page (1 copy).

Read chapter one together. Students complete the first page of their booklet. Encourage student originality. Pair share or share as a class. For each chapter of the novella, have students complete a page in their own companion booklet.

Culminating Activity:

If a field trip is planned, students may free-write observations from the day and use their observations to

- add paragraphs to any part of the story
- write a lyric poem
- rewrite a portion of the story from another perspective
- resolve a conflict differently

Cereal Box Book Report (available by searching on line) and make sure you recycle the boxes afterwards!

Another suggestion is to guide students with writing and providing text based evidence to support the thematic statements. Topics might include: climate change, habitats, friendship, manners, sustainability.

EXAMPLES of thematic statements:

- *Proper manners go hand in hand with a happier, safer society.*
- *We should take good care to protect all habitats on Earth.*
- *A true friend is one who can be trusted.*