

Literature Inspired



What is Total Language Plus? TLP is a literature inspired, language arts program that focuses on thinking and communicating skills, designed for grades three through twelve. It features integrated lessons with the goals of developing godly character and a biblical perspective. Our novel studies cover:

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|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Spelling | ✓ Comprehension | ✓ Grammar and punctuation | ✓ Writing |
| ✓ Vocabulary | ✓ Listening | ✓ Analytical and critical thinking | ✓ Field trips/projects |

How does the program work? As students read, they complete worksheets on comprehension, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar, and choose from writing and discussion topics. Numerous enrichment ideas (including field trip suggestions and hands-on activities) are suggested. For example, when reading *My Side of the Mountain*, children are encouraged to make a willow whistle following Sam's instructions. In *The Trumpeter of Krakow*, touring the fire department and researching different architectural styles are suggested. Combining study areas discourages fragmented learning. Rather than working in "grammar" mode or "spelling" mode, lessons are integrated. For example, while learning a new vocabulary word, the student also learns its various parts of speech and spelling. Movement and rhythm activities are included in the novel studies for third and fourth grade.

Writing and discussion topics, based on events and characters in the story, promote active reading, and reflective thinking. Understanding the "why" in a story helps us understand the "whys" of life, therefore thought-provoking questions inspire reluctant writers to have something to say and provide prolific writers with many options. The third and fourth grade level includes specific writing instruction; the fifth through eighth grade level focuses on opportunities to practice writing skills; the high school level guides provide writing instruction appropriate for higher level thinking and communicating.

Vocabulary/spelling words are taken from the novel being read with a variety of activities (at least four for each unit) stressing *mastery* of the words. Context clues are used to introduce vocabulary words. New spelling words are presented, not only with rules and syllabication, but visualization strategies as well. Drilling new and review words is accomplished through games and puzzles. There are no boring, fill-in-the-blank worksheets; activities utilize discovery-style learning techniques.

Short dictations reinforce Bible truths (that relate to the story) and provide opportunities to improve listening and memorization skills, practice penmanship, and discover weaknesses in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Dictations model proper sentence structure and well-written paragraphs, helping students apply their developing grammar skills. Copy work is substituted for the dictations in the third and fourth grade guides to prepare students for the more difficult work in the higher level books. Foundational grammar rules are taught in third and fourth grade, while fifth through eighth grade grammar utilizes the effective application approach. High school level study guides combine application with advanced grammar instruction.

How complete is the program? The program contains in-depth comprehension, spelling, and vocabulary lessons for all levels. We take an application approach to grammar beginning in fifth grade; therefore, if your student cannot identify the parts of speech, or understand how to write a sentence, you will need a remedial supplement. Third and fourth grades include writing and grammar instruction. TLP is all most students need for a comprehensive language arts program.

How much teacher preparation is involved? Depending on the enrichment activities chosen, limited preparation time is necessary. Lessons are designed for students to complete a majority of the work on their own and lesson planning is simplified by using the "planning grid" included with each novel study. Can you hand your children the worksheets and check back with them at completion? NO! Or rather we should say, "Please don't." No curriculum, however well designed or planned, should take the place of the teacher as an encourager, director, and mentor. Third and fourth grade study guides include a number of learning games and movement activities that are best done with an adult participant.

How many novel studies should be completed in a year? We recommend using one study guide plus one focus guide per quarter. The speed with which the novel studies are completed depends on your particular situation. Doing language arts four days a week, one hour each day, allows us to complete one unit per week—some of the time. Generally, a six-unit study will take nine weeks to complete; an eight-unit study will take twelve weeks and so on.

Do students get bored by "dragging out" the novel? Our program is designed to develop thinking, communicating students. We do not dissect every passage nor analyze every situation, but we do insist that students think about what they are reading and communicate their thoughts, thereby helping them develop strong character and a biblical world view. Reading without thinking is simply entertainment, of no educational advantage. Reading four to six books a year while slowing down to think facilitates learning skills not possible otherwise.

How are the titles chosen? Novel studies are based on books that have met rigid requirements. Most are Newbery Medal or Honor books, are frequently checked out from the library, and are listed in books recommending quality literature for children. They contain sufficient depth to justify an investment of time and exemplify excellent writing skills.

Regardless of the author's viewpoint, every novel study takes a Christian perspective, not by teaching our particular doctrine, but by asking students to respond to characters and events through thought-provoking questions that require depth of thinking and reasons for their conclusions. A student is often challenged to find scriptures to back up his views. Some books are offered because their characters are inspiring (*Amos Fortune*); some teach a particular writing skill (*Pippi Longstocking* allows us to teach tall tales); some for their controversial topics (*The Giver*, *A Wrinkle in Time*); and some because children love to read them (*Charlotte's Web*).

Many of the books are not written by Christian authors and contain controversial elements. We believe that all of the books offered are valuable for Christian study, but realize that there are differing opinions. We have noted which titles generate the most concern, but every book we offer has been challenged by someone. Not every book is suitable for every age level or every student. Unsure if a book is appropriate? Read it yourself first.

How do I choose the right novel study? Consider reading, development, and maturity levels when choosing a novel study. Some books deal with mature topics that reading level alone does not indicate. Also be aware that a young student's eyesight may not be fully developed and the small print can prove frustrating. A third consideration is the student's ability to think abstractly. Abstract thinking requires a degree of development rarely found in students below fifth grade. Choose books based on your child's development, not simply reading level. If in doubt, begin either right at or a step below what you believe his development level is. Then, the next study should be a step higher and so on.

What if we have already read the books? Good for you! You understand the importance of good literature and have done a remarkable job exposing your children to quality books. We often recommend that a child's first study guide be on a book he has already read. TLP will be a new system for him, and reading a familiar book can limit possible frustration as he adjusts to the new system. Remember that recreational reading is not the same as education, so re-reading a book can actually be to your child's advantage, especially if the book was read to him or read a few years ago. Will your child watch a movie he has already seen? Will he play a game he has already played? Will he put a puzzle together again or rebuild a Lego pattern? Sometimes the second time is better! Re-reading a book is not a problem.

Will TLP work in multi-level settings? Absolutely! It was designed in a multi-grade-level home school. Minor adjustments are easily made without detracting from the benefits for students of differing abilities or grade levels. For example, when we read a book at a lower level, advanced students are required to do more writing assignments. When we choose a higher level study, then less advanced students do fewer writing assignments and we read aloud more. It is easy to adjust the number of spelling words or shorten dictations, depending on the needs of individual students.

What do students need besides a study guide and novel? Each student needs flashcards (either make your own or purchase index cards), colored markers (for use with the flashcards), lined notebook paper and a dictionary. Older students will benefit from a thesaurus and a grammar handbook.

A compact **Teacher's Manual** breaks down the how's and why's of each subject, provides a sample lesson plan, and offers more suggestions for teaching language arts. It also includes a short section on writing helps and spelling rules. The answer keys are in the back of each study guide, so the purpose of this manual is to offer supplemental teaching suggestions, explain how to use TLP, and clarify why lessons are structured as they are. Regardless of how well a curriculum is written, or how accurate its philosophies, it remains mediocre at best if it is not flexible enough to be used effectively by a variety of users. Flexibility is built into this program and it is successful with minor adjustments for a wide range of students.

Are the materials reproducible? The materials are protected by copyright; however, novel studies may be photocopied by home-schooling parents for simultaneous use with their own children. This permission does not extend to schools, relatives, or friends. It is a violation of the copyright to reproduce in any manner any portion of a study guide or focus guide and then *give away or resell either the study guide or the copy*. To do so is both illegal and unethical.

Does TLP work with other programs? Fans of *Konos*, *Charlotte Mason*, a *Classical* approach, and *Sonlight* use TLP with their regular studies. It works well with each of those philosophies as numerous home schooling moms can attest. Users of quality writing programs such as *Excellence in Writing* and *Writing Strands* also find TLP a good match. We can even help you match a TLP study with your *Konos* character unit or *Sonlight* studies. Of course, TLP also works well with traditional approaches, and other programs not included in this list.

Focus Guides: Designed to complement TLP study guides, the focus guides emphasize specific writing skills and/or character traits. Each is still based upon a novel, and each continues with TLP's tradition of thought-provoking questions, but instead of vocabulary, spelling, and grammar lessons, they specialize in detailed writing instruction. Focus guides are designed to be completed in about three weeks.

Quick Guide for Grade Level Options

These groupings are only suggestions. Reading level is subjective and skills vary significantly within each grade level; therefore, choose groupings that work best for your situation. Most of the groupings below include a fantasy, a biographical work, an historical fiction, and an adventure story. Other options are equally valid.

<p>3rd grade: Courage of Sarah Noble The Whipping Boy Sign of the Beaver</p> <p>4th Grade: Charlotte's Web Shiloh Pippi Longstocking</p>	<p>5th grade: Charlotte's Web Cricket in Times Square Caddie Woodlawn Wheel on the School</p> <p>OR</p> <p>My Side of the Mountain Amos Fortune Free Man Lion, Witch, Wardrobe Adam of the Road</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</p>	<p>6th grade: Twenty-One Balloons Where the Red Fern Grows Carry On Mr. Bowditch Rifles for Watie</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Twenty One Balloons Witch of Blackbird Pond Carry On Mr. Bowditch Julie of the Wolves</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: The Phantom Tollbooth, Ben and Me</p>	<p>7th Grade: Johnny Tremain A Wrinkle in Time Light in the Forest The Giver</p> <p>OR</p> <p>King of the Wind The Incredible Journey The Hobbit Words by Heart</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: Out of the Dust, Crispin: The Cross of Lead</p>
<p>8th Grade: Anne of Green Gables The Hobbit The Bronze Bow Call of the Wild</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The Incredible Journey The Giver The Bronze Bow Treasure Island</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: Island of the Blue Dolphins, The Door in the Wall</p>	<p>9th Grade: The Hiding Place Swiss Family Robinson The High King Trumpeter of Krakow</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The Yearling Treasure Island Trumpeter of Krakow Around the World in 80 Days</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: Dragon's Blood</p>	<p>10th Grade: Around the World Pride and Prejudice The Scarlet Pimpernel To Kill a Mockingbird</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The Hiding Place Treasure Island The Yearling Trumpeter of Krakow</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: Animal Farm</p>	<p>11th Grade: American Literature: Nonfiction Short Stories Poetry The Scarlet Letter</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: The Good Earth</p> <p>12th Grade: Oliver Twist Jane Eyre Lord of the Flies</p> <p>FOCUS GUIDE: The Screwtape Letters</p>

Suggestions for Grades 3 and 4

These novel studies include motion and rhythm activities to enhance blood flow to the brain, which benefits learning. Each title has a particular grammar/writing focus. Spelling rules are covered, while maintaining a focus on visualization strategies. Newcomers to TLP should begin right at or a step below their reading level. New fifth graders may benefit from beginning with *Charlotte* or *Pippi*. If you have a 3rd or 4th grader new to our program we recommend beginning with *The Courage of Sarah Noble* and then moving to *The Whipping Boy*.



Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Study Guide \$34.95, Novel \$9.99

The barnyard is a wonderful place to live, but Wilbur's days are numbered unless his friends can save him. Charlotte has a plan, but will it work?

Book Summary (184 pages)

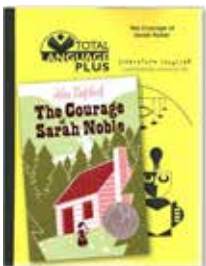
Category: Fantasy
Theme: Friendship
Setting: Farm

Novel Study Highlights (8 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Grammar/Writing: Prepositions/story starters
Biblical Focus: True friendship, love

Related Studies: Farm animals and farm procedures, insects, state and county fair

Barbara's Notes: Even if you have enjoyed this book as a read-aloud, it is a timeless classic and worth re-reading. This study guide is designed for the second half of 4th grade or the beginning of 5th grade. (Grades 3, 4, 5)



The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh

Study Guide \$34.95, Novel \$5.99

As Sarah travels through the wilderness with her father, she needs to keep up her courage. Will she give way to fear when her father leaves her alone to build the house?

Book Summary (54 pages)

Category: Historical; biographical
Theme: Courage
Setting: Connecticut wilderness, 1707

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Grammar/Writing: Complete sentences
Biblical Focus: Courage, trust in God

Related Studies:

US history, Native American tribes, settlers

Barbara's Notes: This true story is the easiest study guide we offer and appropriate for children ready to read their first chapter book. Boys and girls alike will relate to Sarah's struggle to be brave. (Grades 3, 4)



Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren

Study Guide \$34.95, Novel \$7.99

Tommy and Anika have no idea of the adventures in store when Pippi becomes their new neighbor.

Book Summary (160 pages)

Category: Tall tale
Theme: Friendship
Setting: Small village in Sweden

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Grammar/Writing: Verb agreement/tall tales
Biblical Focus: Psalm 139

Related Studies:

World Geography, Swedish culture

Barbara's Notes: Readers will marvel at Pippi's strength and laugh at her antics. Students write their own tall tale with step-by-step help. (Grades 4, 5)



Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Study Guide \$34.95, Novel \$8.99

Judd Travers is mean to his dogs, so Marty hides a shy beagle to protect it, but what will happen to his family when hot-tempered Judd discovers what Marty has done?

Book Summary (137 pages)

Category: Adventure
Theme: Values, understanding
Setting: West Virginia

Novel Study Highlights (8 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Grammar/Writing: Subject-verb agreement
Biblical Focus: Obedience, truth

Related Studies:

Postal Service, Veterinary medicine

Barbara's Notes: This is a rare story of family values with strong appeal for both girls and boys. Warning: Judd (the bad guy) uses occasional foul language. (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)



The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

Study Guide \$34.95, Novel \$7.99

Too many months have passed and Matt's family still hasn't returned. Should he join the Beaver tribe heading north, or try to survive the coming winter alone?

Book Summary (135 pages)

Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Family
Setting: Maine, 1768

Novel Study Highlights (8 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Light-Medium
Grammar/Writing: Paragraphs, possessives
Biblical Focus: Peaceful living

Related Studies:

Penobscot Indians, Maine history

Barbara's Notes: I like how the author portrays Matt's weaknesses as well as his strengths. The story has plenty of adventure, but remains gentle enough for sensitive readers. (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)



The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

Study Guide \$34.95, Novel \$6.99

Jemmy dreams of returning to the streets, away from the castle and Prince Brat, but when the two boys are held hostage by notorious outlaws, they must trust each other. . .or else!

Book Summary (89 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Trust
Setting: Middle Ages

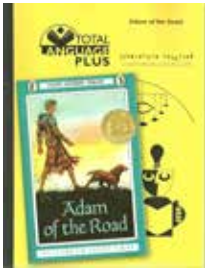
Novel Study Highlights (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Grammar/Writing: Adverbs, adjectives
Biblical Focus: Obedience, avoiding evil

Related Studies: Kings, kingdoms, castles, social issues

Barbara's Notes: This "rollicking adventure" is better written than most literature at this level. We are treated to similes and metaphors masterfully woven into the action. Perfect for multilevel use. (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Suggestions for Grades 5 and 6

Some 4th graders do well with these choices, but we recommend choosing a first study for 3rd or 4th graders from the previous section. If your 6th or 7th grader is a reluctant reader, or if you are new to this type of study, choosing from this level may be wise. Titles are listed alphabetically, not in order of difficulty.



Adam of the Road by Elizabeth Janet Gray

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99

Adam loves the life of the minstrel, wandering the open roads of thirteenth-century England with his father—that is until they are separated and Adam must find his own way.

Book Summary (317 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Confidence in self
Setting: England, 1292s

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Critical Thinking: Medium
Biblical Focus: God's watchful care, integrity

Related Studies: Medieval England, music, fairs, castles, story-telling, law enforcement, Catholicism

Barbara's Notes: We are entertained and inspired as we accompany Adam on his adventures. It is a great addition to your studies of 13th century England. (Grades 5, 6, 7)



Amos Fortune Free Man by Elizabeth Yates

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

When a young African prince is sold into slavery, his life is changed forever. At what cost will he regain his freedom?

Book Summary (181 pages)
Category: Biography
Theme: Selflessness, perseverance
Setting: Africa, New Hampshire, 1700s

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Med. to Dif.
Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif.
Biblical Focus: Christian living

Related Studies: Slavery, Quakers, Revolutionary War, early American culture

Barbara's Notes: This true story challenges the most mature among us to evaluate our Christian walk. Read it as a family and experience its power. (Grades 5, 6)



Ben and Me by Robert Lawson

Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$7.99

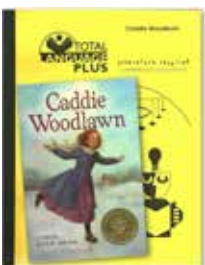
When the mouse Amos finds himself in Benjamin Franklin's bedroom, Ben's life is changed forever. According to the story, Amos is responsible for most of the inventor's ideas, and for keeping Ben out of trouble!

Focus: Imagination; expressing ideas and opinions

Grade Level: 4th – 6th
Novel: 297 pages

Critical Thinking: Difficult
FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

Barbara's Notes: Such a fun way to learn about Ben Franklin! I heartily recommend this for any study of early US history.



Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

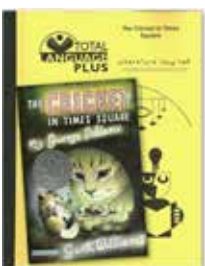
Caddie would rather plow a field than help in the kitchen and is the proud owner of an Indian scalp belt! What will she do when the settlement is threatened with a massacre?

Book Summary (275 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Growing up
Setting: Wisconsin, 1860

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Critical Thinking: Medium
Biblical Focus: Obedience

Related Studies: American history, Native Americans

Barbara's Notes: Caddie Woodlawn is based on a real character and real events. It is an excellent choice for strong 5th grade readers. (Grades 5, 6)



The Cricket in Times Square by George Seldon

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

A displaced cricket befriends a mouse, a cat and a boy whose family runs a newsstand in a subway station. But how will he ever return to his country home?

Book Summary (151 pages)
Category: Fantasy
Theme: Friendship
Setting: New York subway

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Med. to Dif.
Critical Thinking: Light
Biblical Focus: Trust in God

Related Studies: Music, Chinese culture, family-run business, relocating

Barbara's Notes: The study is a good choice to use after completing *Charlotte's Web* or *Pippi Longstocking*. It is a favorite among both boys and girls. (Grades 4, 5)



The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli

Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$6.99

Now that Robin's legs are useless, he will never serve the king as a knight like his father planned. But Brother Luke says "Thou hast only to follow the wall far enough and there will be a door in it." Will Robin be a disappointment to his father or can he find his "door"?

Focus: Perseverance; research paper
Grade Level: 6th – 8th

Novel: 121 pages
Critical Thinking: Medium

FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

Barbara's Notes: I love the message in this story and the admirable characters we meet. What person (child or adult) doesn't benefit from lessons on perseverance? This guide includes scripture application and step-by-step help for writing essays.



From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$8.99

Claudia didn't mean to worry anyone when she ran away, but now she cannot return home until she solves the statue's mystery. Does Mrs. Frankweiler have the answers?

Focus: Letter writing
Grade Level: 4th – 6th

Novel: 162 pages
Critical Thinking: Light

FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

Barbara's Notes: Because the entire novel is actually a letter it allows us to present letter writing in a unique format. The focus guide also includes "Thinking Deeper" questions to help get the most from the story. Focus Guide written by Jessica McMillan.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99

Always winter, but never Christmas: that's the state of Narnia under the rule of the evil white witch. Four children want to help, but only Aslan has the power to free them all.

Book Summary (186 pages)
Category: Fantasy
Theme: Good conquers evil
Setting: England, Narnia

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Light to Med.
Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif.
Biblical Focus: Abstinence from sin

Related Studies: Greek/Roman mythology, C. S. Lewis's life, Jesus' life, death, resurrection

Barbara's Notes: Amazing allegory? Delightful fantasy? Either focus makes this a must-read. (Grades 4, 5, 6)



The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pene du Bois

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

Professor Sherman sets out in a hot air balloon in search of peace and quiet. What he finds is high-adventure: erupting volcanoes, amazing inventions, and hair-breadth escapes!

Book Summary (180 pages)
Category: Adventure, Fantasy
Theme: Science and imagination
Setting: USA, Krakatoa

Novel Study Highlights (5 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Critical Thinking: Medium
Biblical Focus: God's power; folly of idleness

Related Studies: World geography, governments, natural disasters, inventors, travel

Barbara's Notes: What a fun story! An amusing, refreshingly different fantasy. (Grades 5, 6, 7)



The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel —

When Lina wonders why storks don't come to Shora, the whole community joins in her efforts to bring them back. Will their plans work?

Book Summary (275 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Planning, cooperation
Setting: Holland

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Critical Thinking: Medium
Biblical Focus: Search for the kingdom

Related Studies: Storks, Holland, commercial fishing, tides, wheels, disabilities, communities

Barbara's Notes: This story explores the value of individuals in a community. It is extremely well-written and deserves the honors it has won. (Grades 5, 6)



My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

This is an account of Sam's adventures as he lives alone on his grandfather's mountain for a year. Sam lives in the trunk of a tree, catches and trains a falcon, and makes his own clothing.

Book Summary (177 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Companionship
Setting: Catskill Mountains

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Med. to Dif.
Critical Thinking: Light
Biblical Focus: Creation

Related Studies: Nature, survival, outdoor living

Barbara's Notes: Boys and girls alike enjoy this story. The book is much better than the movie. This is a good choice for students who have finished the lower level guides or 5th graders new to TLP. (Grades 4, 5, 6)



Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**

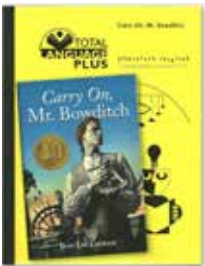
After working and saving for two years, Billy's dream of owning two coonhounds comes true. Through his experiences with the dogs, Billy learns about life, death, and prayer.

Book Summary (249 pages) Category: Adventure Theme: Love for family, dogs Setting: Ozarks	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Answered prayer	Related Studies: US geography, animal training, hunting, family values
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Barbara's Notes: This is more than a book about a boy and his dogs. It contains adventure with a family focus, plus spiritual principles. (Grades 5, 6, 7)

Suggestions for Grades 6, 7, and 8

If your 6th grade students are new to TLP, or if your 6th or 7th grade students struggle with reading, comprehension, or thinking skills, we recommend choosing your first novel study from the previous grouping. Studies in this section offer more depth, therefore require higher developed thinking. Some 5th graders who have done well in the previous group may benefit from choices in this group. Look under "Barbara's Notes" for suitability suggestions. Titles are listed alphabetically.



Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**

Nathaniel's hope of attending Harvard ended when his father apprenticed him to a chandlery. Can he find a way to follow his dreams?

Book Summary (251 pages) Category: Historical fiction Theme: Perseverance, love of learning Setting: America, 1775-1850	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium Critical Thinking: Medium Biblical Focus: Trust	Related Studies: Astronomy, navigation, sailing, surveying, Latin, business ventures
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Barbara's Notes: Life was hard and unfair for Nathaniel but he didn't let it beat him. This true, inspirational story motivates us to do our best. (Grades 6, 7, 8)

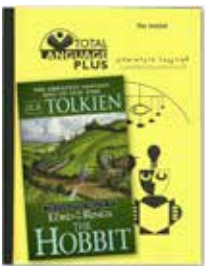


Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi **Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$7.99**

Alone in the world after the death of his mother, Crispin must flee the only home he has ever known to save his life. As he leaves, the good priest drops hints about his identity, causing Crispin to question everything he thought he knew.

Focus: Descriptive writing; identity Grade Level: 6th – 8th	Novel: 297 pages Critical Thinking: Difficult	FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks
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Barbara's Notes: We didn't need another title for the Middle Ages, but this novel is just too well-written not to offer. Adventure, mystery, intrigue: it has it all.

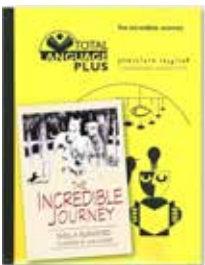


The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**

Bilbo wants to be left alone in quiet comfort, but the wizard Gandalf has other ideas. Can Bilbo survive orcs and a dragon? Will he return to the peaceful shire?

Book Summary (305 pages) Category: Classic, fantasy Theme: Courage Setting: Middle Earth	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif. Biblical Focus: Greed and wickedness	Related Studies: Mining, riddles, poetry, military, forest fires, insects
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Barbara's Notes: A classic tale of good and evil, this prelude to *The Lord of the Rings* treats readers to a rich, imaginative world. Excellent! (Grades 6, 7, 8)



The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**

Three house pets face incredible odds as they make their way west towards home. Separately, they would perish, but together they outwit and outfight the dangers they face.

Book Summary (145 pages) Category: Classic, adventure Theme: Loyalty, perseverance Setting: Canadian wilderness	Novel Study Highlights (6 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif. Biblical Focus: God cares, loyalty	Related Studies: Wildlife, survival, Canada geography, mining, logging
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Barbara's Notes: Finally a dog story in which no animals die! This is an appropriate choice for animal lovers and readers looking for exciting adventure. (Grades 6, 7, 8)



Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$8.99

Karana didn't want to miss the boat which took away the rest of her tribe, but how could she leave her brother behind? This story is based on the life of the "Lost Woman of San Nicolas."

Focus: Survival; similes and metaphors
Grade Level: 5th – 8th

Novel: 181 pages
Critical Thinking: Medium

FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

Barbara's Notes: If your student struggles with writing, the instruction in this focus guide may be the help he or she needs.



Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

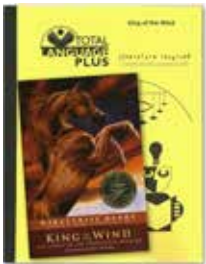
After leaving an intolerable situation in her adoptive home, Julie struggles in the frozen wilderness, dependent upon a pack of wolves for her survival.

Book Summary (170 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Accepting change
Setting: North slope of Alaska

Novel Study Highlights (5 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Light to Med.
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: God cares, a time for everything

Related Studies: Eskimo culture, biomes, astronomy, marriage, divorce, adoption

Barbara's Notes: Exceptional writing, plenty of adventure, excellent handling of touchy subjects; however, it is on our "Controversial Books" list. (Grades 6, 7, 8)



King of the Wind by Marguerite Henry

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99

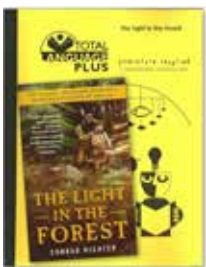
Will Sham's great speed ever earn him the honor he deserves? If the stable boy Agba has his way, Sham will be known as the greatest horse ever. Based on a true story.

Book Summary (174 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Perseverance, loyalty
Setting: Morocco, France, England

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Med. to Dif.
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: Service

Related Studies: Horses, horse racing, Islam, geography of Morocco, France, England, King Louis XV

Barbara's Notes: Even readers who are not "horse-crazy" will get caught up in this high adventure tale. (Grades 6, 7, 8)



The Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter

Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.50

True Son is forced to return to his family from whom he was stolen. Can he learn to love them as he does his Indian father or will his rebellious attitude ruin everything?

Book Summary (117 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Rebellion
Setting: Pennsylvania wilderness

Novel Study Highlights (5 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Light to Med.
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: Peaceful living

Related Studies: Native Americans, US history

Barbara's Notes: I chose this story because of its "untidy" ending and the focus on True Son's rebellious attitude. Not a "feel good" story. (Grades 6, 7, 8)



The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$8.99

When a mysterious tollbooth appears in Milo's bedroom, he drives through only because he has nothing better to do. On the other side he encounters situations and places he's never dreamed existed. How will his experiences change him for life in the real world?

Focus: "Rhyme and Reason";
5-step writing process
Grade Level: 6th – 8th

Novel: 256 pages
Critical Thinking: Med.-Dif.

FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

Barbara's Notes: I enjoy offering titles with humor and especially those that relate an important message through the humor. The focus guide teaches a 5-step writing process and includes scripture application and a smidgen of map reading.



Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$7.99

Billie Jo's life is changed forever by a terrible accident; she can't play "hot" piano anymore, and it feels as if she has lost her father's love. Will she find a way to survive or give way to hopelessness?

Focus: Poetry
Grade Level: 6th – 8th

Novel: 227 pages
Critical Thinking: Difficult

FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

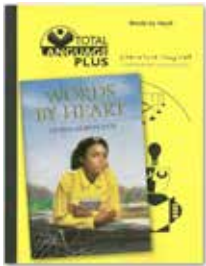
Barbara's Notes: Out of the Dust is captivating and an extraordinary tool for teaching poetry. Readers get so caught up on the actual story, they can forget it is a series of poems. The focus guide teaches poetic terms while providing opportunities for critical thinking.

**Rifles for Watie** by Harold Keith**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**

Sixteen year-old Jeff is loyal to the Union cause—until he is trapped behind enemy lines and befriended by the Rebels.

Book Summary (332 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Ugliness of war
Setting: Kansas, 1860s**Novel Study Highlights** (8 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif.
Biblical Focus: Christian perseverance**Related Studies:** Civil War, Cherokee Indians*Barbara's Notes:* Many customers have asked for a study based on the Civil War. I like this one best because it details several viewpoints, exposing us to the complex issues surrounding the war. (Grades 6, 7, 8)**The Witch of Blackbird Pond** by Elizabeth George Speare**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**

After living a carefree life in Barbados, Kit comes to live with stern Puritan relatives. She befriends a Quaker woman suspected of witchcraft, and faces accusations against herself.

Book Summary (249 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Prejudice
Setting: Connecticut, late 1600s**Novel Study Highlights** (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Critical Thinking: Medium
Biblical Focus: Contentment, judging**Related Studies:** Quakers, Puritans, Connecticut history, geography, Pre-Revolutionary War*Barbara's Notes:* There is *no witchcraft* in this story. It is about what happens when we fear those who are different from ourselves and how easy it is to jump to conclusions. It's about prejudice and forgiveness. (Grades 6, 7, 8)**Words by Heart** by Ouida Sebestyen**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$6.99**

Lena wins the memory verse contest, but it isn't enough. She wants respect, equality, and justice. What she gets is far different, and much more important.

Book Summary (162 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Love, forgiveness, mercy
Setting: Bethel Springs, 1900**Novel Study Highlights** (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Light
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: Forgiveness, mercy**Related Studies:** Civil rights, American history, farming*Barbara's Notes:* For readers who want a Christian book, this is one of the best! It is for more mature students--there are some heavy issues dealt with and a small amount of objectionable language. (Grades 7, 8)**A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L'Engle**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$6.99**

When Meg's scientist father disappears, she searches for him accompanied by a friend and her little brother, but the rescue attempt puts them all in mortal danger.

Book Summary (211 pages)
Category: Fantasy
Theme: Love conquers evil
Setting: Murray home, Camazotz**Novel Study Highlights** (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Critical Thinking: Medium
Biblical Focus: Love, opposing evil**Related Studies:** Outer space, space travel, constellations, other religions*Barbara's Notes:* A great fantasy, this is one of our most controversial books. It provides opportunities to scripturally deal with witchcraft, fortune-telling, and pantheism. Please preview. (Grades 6, 7, 8)

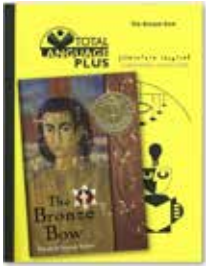
Suggestions for Grades 7, 8, and 9

Titles from the previous grouping are also appropriate for this age group. More time may be needed to get the most out of these character-building and thought-provoking books. Students at this level should be responding with well-developed essays to the Personally Thinking questions; these discussion/writing topics become more important as the students gain maturity.

**Anne of Green Gables** by Lucy Maud Montgomery**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**

Nothing is the same at Green Gables after the Cuthberts adopt Anne. Her imagination and knack for making comical errors make life interesting. Was it Providence that brought her to Matthew and Marilla?

Book Summary (308 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Love, forgiveness
Setting: Prince Edward Island**Novel Study Highlights** (7 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif.
Biblical Focus: Christian virtues**Related Studies:** Orphanages, Canadian geography, history, politics*Barbara's Notes:* We are excited to offer this book, especially for girls, because it's so much fun to read. I read it aloud to my girls, but even Dad listened in. (Grades 7, 8, 9)



The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**
Driven by hatred for the Romans, Daniel vows to see their destruction, but he doubts his path when he listens to a teacher from Nazareth.

Book Summary (254 pages) Category: Historical fiction Theme: Forgiveness, love Setting: Palestine, 30-33 AD	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Knowing Jesus	Related Studies: Roman Empire, Old Testament prophecies, Old World geography, Jewish traditions
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Barbara's Notes: This book is a must-read! We watch Daniel mature from living a life of revenge to feeling that just to know Jesus is life-fulfilling. (Grades 7, 8, 9)



The Call of the Wild by Jack London **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$6.99**
Buck is stolen from his home in California and sent to the harsh Klondike. He is owned by different masters, working as a sled dog, until he joins a wolf pack and returns to the wild.

Book Summary (124 pages) Category: Adventure Theme: Survival, cling to good Setting: Klondike, gold rush	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif. Biblical Focus: Hate evil	Related Studies: Gold rush, postal service, dog breeds, sled dogs
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Barbara's Notes: Inferences to evolution abound in this story, providing opportunities to teach mature students discernment and careful reading. (Grades 7, 8)



Dragon's Blood by Jane Yolen **Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$7.99**
Fifteen year old Jakkin dreams of purchasing his freedom. His only hope is to win gold in the dragon fighting pits. What will happen if Master Sarkkhan discovers his plan?

Focus: Creating a story-world; redemption Grade Level: 7th – 9th	Novel: 292 pages Critical Thinking: Medium	FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks
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Barbara's Notes: The Pit Dragon Chronicles, of which *Dragon's Blood* is the first volume, is an enduring favorite in our household. Nevertheless, it contains controversial elements so we recommend it at 7th grade and above.



The Giver by Lois Lowry **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$9.99**
Jonas has been chosen for an honor rarely given in his perfect community where there are no choices, no fear, no pain. He will receive truth - and nothing will ever be the same.

Book Summary (108 pages) Category: Fantasy Theme: Truth Setting: The Community	Novel Study Highlights (6 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Light to Med. Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Free will, honesty	Related Studies: Abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, communities, families, educational systems
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Barbara's Notes: This story is particularly well suited for students who are not strong readers, but desire mature subject matter. Warning: Controversial! (Grades 7, 8, 9)



The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**
Corrie and Betsy are sent to a concentration camp for helping the Jews. Starvation and hard labor become their way of life. Is forgiveness possible?

Book Summary (239 pages) Category: Nonfiction Theme: Jesus saves, forgiveness Setting: Holland, concentration camps	Novel Study Highlights (6 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: God provides	Related Studies: WWII, Holland history and geography, Nazi Germany, Jewish persecution
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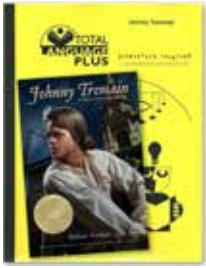
Barbara's Notes: This true story of faith is best suited for mature readers. Its spiritual lessons can transform the life of older students. Please wait until at least 8th grade. (Grades 8, 9, 10)



The High King by Lloyd Alexander **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**
When Dyrnwyn falls into the evil Arawn's hands, Taran and his friends seek to retrieve it. Success will be impossible unless they can solve the riddle given to them by Hen Wen.

Book Summary (304 pages) Category: Fantasy Theme: Good over evil Setting: Prydain	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Light to Med. Critical Thinking: Med. to Dif. Biblical Focus: Christian victory	Related Studies: Feudal system, Middle Ages, war strategies
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Barbara's Notes: This action-packed fantasy is the last in a series about Taran and his friends. Readers who enjoy Tolkien will like this series. This title is on our controversial list. (Grades 8, 9, 10)

**Johnny Tremain** by Esther Forbes**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**

As a silversmith apprentice, Johnny is the pride of his master's shop, but an accident forces him to leave his old life and find a new way on his own.

Book Summary (256 pages)

Category: Historical fiction

Theme: Pride

Setting: Boston, Revolutionary War

Novel Study Highlights (7 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Med. to Dif.

Critical Thinking: Medium

Biblical Focus: Obedience, humility

Related Studies:

Revolutionary War, Boston Tea Party, Whigs and Tories, printing

Barbara's Notes: This story lets us experience the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington, and understand the trials of the poor, working class. (Grades 7, 8, 9)**The Swiss Family Robinson** by Johann David Wyss**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**

A shipwrecked family prospers by using the resources around them and working together. Now they must find a way to survive a mysterious wild creature—and pirates!

Book Summary (292 pages)

Category: Adventure

Theme: Family relationships

Setting: Uninhabited island

Novel Study Highlights (8 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult

Critical Thinking: Difficult

Biblical Focus: Praise

Related Studies: Nature, explorers, inventions*Barbara's Notes:* Readers enjoy this story, but mature students may challenge it as unrealistic. Some books do not follow the same chapters. We use the novel published by Random House. (Grades 7, 8, 9)**Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**

Jim Hawkins possesses a treasure map leading to a fortune hidden on a tropical island. Can he survive the perilous ocean and a ship full of ruthless pirates to claim his prize?

Book Summary (194 pages)

Category: Classic, action

Theme: Trust, honor, courage

Setting: England, Pacific Islands, 1700s

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium

Critical Thinking: Medium

Biblical Focus: Wages of sin, righteousness

Related Studies: Navigation, sailing, tropical islands, pirates*Barbara's Notes:* This classic is well-written, suspenseful, and should keep the interest of even reluctant readers. Be sure to use an unabridged edition. (Grades 7, 8, 9)**The Trumpeter of Krakow** by Eric P. Kelly**Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.99**

Joseph and his family gave their word to protect the Great Tarnov Crystal, but can they survive the violent, superstitious inhabitants of the city of Krakow?

Book Summary (208 pages)

Category: Historical fiction

Theme: Integrity

Setting: Medieval Poland

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)

Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult

Critical Thinking: Difficult

Biblical Focus: Wisdom, integrity

Related Studies: Middle Ages, architecture, Poland's history and geography, Catholicism*Barbara's Notes:* Based on a Polish legend, this is an extraordinary book. The vocabulary is rich, the plot enchanting, the action fast-paced, the theme worthwhile. (Grades 7, 8, 9)

Suggestions for Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

The novel studies in this section (except for *The Yearling*) have a slightly different format from our regular study guides. The Enrichment-Writing section no longer has field trip ideas or hands-on projects, but does have in-depth writing and analyzing assignments. It is common for each unit to take one and a half to two weeks to complete. Newcomers of high school age may benefit from choosing a title from the previous section such as *The Hiding Place* or *The High King* before undertaking one from this section. Some titles are best done in 11th or 12th grade as preparation for college level thinking and writing. See Barbara's Notes for recommendations regarding grade 11 and 12 titles.

**Animal Farm** by George Orwell**Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$9.99**Written as a criticism of Soviet Russia, *Animal Farm* is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago, for there will always be those eager to control others and limit freedom.**Focus:** Discernment; essay writing**Grade Level:** 9th – 12th**Novel:** 141 pages**Critical Thinking:** Difficult**FOCUS GUIDE:** 3 weeks*Barbara's Notes:* This is another must-read. The "fairie story" was written by Mr. Orwell as a warning. The focus guide works with the story to develop discernment. With Matthew 10:16 in mind, we consider aspects of shrewdness and innocence, preparing young adults to be wise.



Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Vern **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$5.95**

Phileas Fogg wagered half his fortune that he can travel around the world in eighty days, crossing jungles, deserts, mountains, oceans -- all the while being pursued by a bounty hunter determined to stop him..

Book Summary (208 pages) Category: Adventure Theme: Tolerance, technology Setting: Europe, Asia, America	Novel Study Highlights (5 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Christian virtues	Related Studies: World geography, railroads, Gandhi, Hinduism, Mormonism, Suez Canal, drug abuse
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Barbara's Notes: This is a fun story to read, combining action, humor and challenging vocabulary. Although TLP is a literature program, this study includes a geography section. We are excited to offer this light-hearted study, and heartily recommend it to balance some of the weightier reading offered at this level. (Grades 9, 10, 11)



The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck **Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$17.00**

This is the story of Wang Lung's adult life from the day of his marriage to his old age. We watch him develop as a young, hard-working man, filled with dreams and guided by tradition and principles through life struggles of poverty, deception and greed.

Focus: Meaning of life (Ecclesiastes); character study	Grade Level: 9th – 12th Novel: 385 pages	Critical Thinking: Difficult FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks
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Barbara's Notes: This is not a “feel good” story, but definitely a must read for students about to embark on life after high school. It provides food for thought as to what makes a successful, happy existence at a time when young adults are making decisions that will affect their future.



Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$7.99**

An abused and misunderstood child, Jane is sent away to a boarding school where she matures to womanhood. When she accepts the position of governess, Jane hopes to find a new life, but she is unprepared for the mysteries of Thornfield Hall.

Book Summary (433 pages) Category: Classic Theme: Patience, virtue Setting: England, 1800s	Novel Study Highlights (7 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Perseverance	Related Studies: Christian character, England in the 1800s, boarding schools, governesses
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Barbara's Notes: Elements of good writing abound including foreshadowing; concrete, concise writing and an interwoven plot. It is an intense, introspective work--appropriate to add to your studies of British literature. (Grades 11, 12)

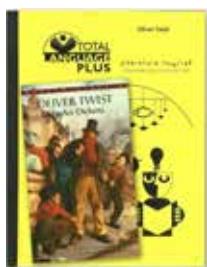


Lord of the Flies by William Golding **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$11.00**

What began in friendship deteriorates to fear and hatred as Ralph struggles to survive Jack's pursuit.

Book Summary (202 pages) Category: Adventure Theme: Defects of human nature Setting: Deserted island during WWII	Novel Study Highlights (6 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Wisdom vs. wickedness	Related Studies: Leadership, government, society Enrichment/Writing Focus: essays, descriptive writing
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Barbara's Notes: I started to write this as a focus guide, but found way too much depth not to make it a study guide. Flawed, relatable characters give realism to the story and thus we shudder. Appropriate to add to your studies of British Literature. (Grades 10, 11, 12)

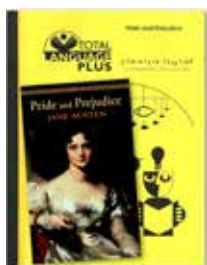


Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$5.95**

Orphaned at birth, Oliver finds himself a naive youth in London's seedy slums with depraved villains as associates. Is he destined to swing from the gallows with them?

Book Summary (419 pages) Category: Classic Theme: Outrage against poverty Setting: London, 1800s	Novel Study Highlights (6 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium Critical Thinking: Difficult Biblical Focus: Love thy neighbor	Related Studies: Poverty, homelessness, social responsibilities, crime
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Barbara's Notes: Of all Dickens's book, *Oliver Twist* is most relevant for today's world. It is an early work expressing his outrage against the treatment of the poor. (Grades 11, 12)

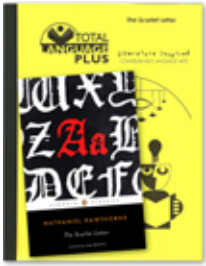


Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$5.95**

Elizabeth Bennett has too much sense to marry Mr. Collins, and too much pride to accept Mr. Darcy. Has she sense and humility enough to admit error in judgment?

Book Summary (320 pages) Category: Classic Theme: Pride, prejudice Setting: England, 1800s	Novel Study Highlights (6 units) Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult Critical Thinking: Medium Biblical Focus: Pride, foolishness	Related Studies: England, French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, marriage, satires Enrichment/Writing Focus: Writing a research paper, character studies, summarizing
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Barbara's Notes: *Pride and Prejudice* is on many high school required reading lists. It has strong male characters to justify its addition to our selection. (Grades 9, 10, 11)



The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$8.00**

Hester, Roger, and Arthur are caught in a web of sin and deceit. Each holds his or her own key to peace, but will the paths chosen lead to salvation or bitterness?

Book Summary (255 pages)
Category: Historical fiction
Theme: Man's response to sin
Setting: Boston, 1600s

Novel Study Highlights (5 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Difficult
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: Response to sin

Related Studies: Early American history, Puritans, Biblical salvation, sin
Enrichment/Writing Focus: Setting, tone, characterization, plot, theme, symbolism

Barbara's Notes: This novel has it all: excellent characterization, intriguing plot, realistic setting, and a timeless theme with a high degree of symbolism. It is on most high school required reading lists. (Grades 11, 12)



The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis **Focus Guide \$9.95, Novel \$15.99**

The novice demon Wormwood is in charge of deterring a young Christian from growing in his faith. Screwtape, Wormwood's uncle and a highly placed assistant to Satan, is his mentor, teaching Wormwood the value of deceit and temptation in distracting his "patient" from a close walk with God.

Focus: Christian Apologetics
Grade Level: 10th – 12th

Novel: 175 pages
Critical Thinking: Difficult

FOCUS GUIDE: 3 weeks

Barbara's Notes: As Jessie developed these lessons, we held many meaningful and poignant discussions. I heartily recommend doing it with your student or in a Bible class for a mutually amazing experience.



The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Emmuska Orczy **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$5.95**

No one possessing roots in the French nobility is safe from the guillotine—except those whom the enigmatic Scarlet Pimpernel snatches away. Who is this elusive Scarlet Pimpernel?

Book Summary (264 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Love, courage, integrity
Setting: France, England

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: Trusting God, Godly marriage

Related Studies: French Revolution, English and French geography, social classes, fashion
Enrichment/Writing Focus: Irony, sarcasm, foreshadowing, point of view, descriptive writing

Barbara's Notes: This is a fun book to read with humor, mystery, daring escapes, and romance. Some characters use inappropriate language. (Grades 9, 10, 11)



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$15.99**

Growing up in a small town may sound boring, but Scout's childhood is anything but uneventful. Coming of age in a turbulent time, Scout learns much about human behavior as she experiences love, hatred, kindness, and cruelty.

Book Summary (281 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Relationships
Setting: Maycomb, Alabama

Novel Study Highlights (6 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Medium
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: Christian virtues

Related Studies: Alabama history and geography, civil government, communities, traditions, civil rights
Enrichment/Writing Focus: Theme, descriptions, simile, metaphor, personification, dialogue, characterization

Barbara's Notes: This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is of must-read caliber. It is masterfully written, and is on most high school required reading lists. Caution: inappropriate language. (Grades 9, 10, 11)



The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings **Study Guide \$29.95, Novel \$9.99**

Jody's loneliness is assuaged by his pet fawn, but trouble and sorrow ensue when he can no longer control the mischievous deer.

Book Summary (428 pages)
Category: Adventure
Theme: Relationships, growing up
Setting: Florida backwoods

Novel Study Highlights (8 units)
Spelling-Vocabulary: Med. to Dif.
Critical Thinking: Difficult
Biblical Focus: The Lord is our deliverer

Related Studies: Florida history and geography, animal tracking, natural disasters

Barbara's Notes: This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is a poignant study of relationships and coming of age. It is so much more than a story about a boy and his pet; take it slow and grow with Jody. (Grades 8, 9, 10)

American Literature

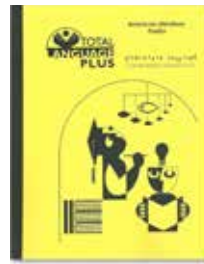
Our in-depth American literature study consists of three modules. Each module contains detailed lesson plans for three levels of study: advanced placement, regular high school, and overview. To realize the most from these studies, Internet access is recommended; utilizing the library is essential. For a full year's American literature credits, we recommend beginning with the module for nonfiction, continuing with short stories and poetry, and finishing the year with the study guide for *To Kill A Mockingbird* or *The Scarlet Letter*.



American Literature: Nonfiction

This module covers 31 American authors, it also teaches how to read and write essays, with a strong focus on thinking and communication skills. Authors are presented within their historical context. Plan 6 to 10 weeks for completion.

Study Guide \$29.95



American Literature: Poetry

This module not only covers 30 American poets, it also teaches how to read poetry. Students learn seven important steps for appreciating poetry as well as the vocabulary relevant to understanding it. Plan 8 to 12 weeks for completion.

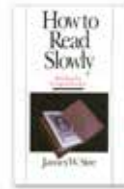
Study Guide \$29.95



American Literature: Short Stories

This module covers 22 American short story writers and teaches students how to effectively read short stories. Authors are presented in the context of their historical settings and influence. Plan 7 to 10 weeks for completion.

Study Guide \$29.95



How to Read Slowly by James W. Sire

The American Literature modules refer to *How to Read Slowly* by James W. Sire. The studies can be completed without the book, but we recommend it as a valuable reference.

Novel \$14.99

Miscellaneous



Christmas Volume I: Three Short Stories by Elizabeth Morrow, Hans Christian Andersen, O. Henry **Study Guide \$23.95**

This three-unit study guide includes the text and worksheets for three short stories: *A Pint of Judgment*, *The Fir Tree*, and *The Gift of the Magi*. It follows the traditional TLP format, but is specifically designed for multi-level use; it is a study guide the entire family can do together. Plan three to four weeks for completion.



Christmas Volume II: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens **Study Guide \$20.95, Novel \$3.95**

This study guide is a three-unit study based on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. The text is not included in the study guide. Like Volume I, it is designed for multi-level use, a fun study the entire family will enjoy doing together. Plan three to four weeks for completion. Written by Jessica McMillan.



Bertie's War by Barbara Tiffy Blakey

Novel \$7.99

Set in Washington state during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, Bertie bounces from one embarrassing situation to another as she deals with the reality of an unsafe, unstable world. Readers ages 10 – 14 will be entertained by her brother Aaron's mischievous antics and Bertie's attempts to deal with her fears. The book balances humor and fear while providing glimpses into small town America and accurate information about a real, historical conflict. For a free teacher's resource to accompany Bertie's War, visit our website at www.totallanguageplus.com.



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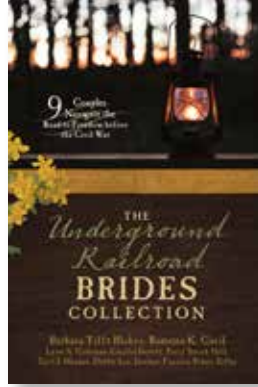
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