

Upper Grammar Literature Book I

Logos School Literature Series
by David Kohl

The Cricket in Times Square
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Rascal
The Princess and the Goblin
Shadow of a Bull

About the Author

David Kohl teaches fifth grade at Logos School in Moscow, Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho with degrees in Wildlife Resources and Education. He has taught fifth grade at Logos School for 15 years. He is married with four children and attends Christ Church in Moscow.

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Suggestions For Use

This literature guide is designed to be completed by a fifth grade student over the course of one semester. Students may certainly read more than the five books contained in this guide if they are so inclined. Five required books would be a reasonable goal for a school semester, but a lot depends on how much time - if any - you spend on projects, how much time daily you devote to reading, and what else you do in your reading program. For best results, parents may read and discuss the books and the questions with their students.

Books on the fifth grade literature list vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Your students may find some books harder to grasp than others.

Questions fall into three basic levels: literal, inferential, and evaluative; or, as someone put it, “on the lines”, “between the lines”, and “beyond the lines”. Some literal level questions have one right answer, but most questions have more possibilities.

Our typical reading period is about an hour long. First, someone reads aloud to the class for 15 minutes from a book not on the literature list. It could be related to something we are studying in history, or it could be just for fun. For the remaining 45 minutes students read and answer the comprehension questions for one of the books on our literature list. If they finish early, they read a book of their choice.

Some editions of some books have no chapter numbers, so you may have to number them yourself.

A typical weekly cycle includes four days of new assignments; the fifth day is a catch-up day for students who need the extra time, or a free reading day for those who don't.

I require thorough, accurate answers in complete sentences, and I grade on content - which should include style - and mechanics. The questions should be thought of as more short essay than short answer.

Here are the four vocabulary steps used throughout this guide:

Vocabulary: The Four Steps

- A. Find the vocabulary word; write it in context.
- B. Guess the meaning from context; write it.
- C. Write the dictionary definition next.
- D. Finally, use the word in a sentence of your own.

Enjoy your books!

David Kohl
Moscow, ID
January 2002

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 1 - 2

1. Who is Tucker, and where does he live?

2. Does the newsstand operated by Mario Bellini and his family sound very prosperous? Give reasons.

3. Predict what Tucker will find is making the unusual sound he hears.

4. What kind of person is Mama Bellini?

5. What kind of person is Papa Bellini?

6. Why does Mario get to keep the cricket?

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 3 - 4

1. Summarize Chester's story about how he gets from Connecticut to New York City.

2. Why is Harry Cat afraid for the future of the newsstand? (Why does he think the newsstand might go broke?)

3. According to Tucker, what is a "long hair?"

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 5 - 6

1. Mr. Smedley, the music teacher, notices that Chester can play a perfect middle C, and he comments, "I prophesy great things for a creature of such ability, Mario." What do you predict will happen as a result of Chester's musical ability, and why?

2. Describe Sai Fong's shop.

3. Tell the story of Hsi Shuai and the first cricket in your own words.

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 7 - 8

Do the four vocabulary steps with these words: (see Suggestions For Use on page 5).

1. murmured

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

2. pagoda

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

3. kimono

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

4. Tucker accuses Chester of being disgustingly honorable. A. Why is Chester accused of that?

B. Then explain why you agree or disagree with the charge.

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 9 - 10

1. Summarize chapter 9.

2. Explain the very important discovery the three friends make about Chester.

3. How does the fire get started?

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 11 - 12

1. Why does Mama Bellini change her opinion about Chester?

2. What “three things” has Tucker been thinking about?

3. Do you agree with this statement: “Talent is something rare and beautiful and precious, and it must not be allowed to go to waste.” Explain your answer.

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 13 - 14

1. Why is Chester unhappy?

2. Note the last paragraph. What decision do you think Chester made?

Note: For a reminder of who Orpheus was, see Mr. Smedley's comment in chapter 5.

3. Who enjoyed Chester's playing while he had been in Connecticut?

4. What effect did Chester have on the people of New York during his final concert?

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

Name _____

Date _____

Chapter 15

1. What was the climax or high point of the book? (That is, what was the incident the book built up to?)

2. Was the ending satisfying? Explain why or why not.

3. Explain what you thought of the book as a whole. Be specific. Give reasons to back up what you say.
