

Student Packet

Grades 5–6

# Al Capone Shines My Shoes

Gennifer Choldenko

NOVEL UNITS<sup>®</sup>



NEW WAYS TO LEARN READING,  
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



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# AL CAPONE SHINES MY SHOES

by  
Gennifer Choldenko

## Student Packet

Written by  
Monica L. Odle

**Contains masters for:**

- 2 Prereading Activities
- 7 Vocabulary Activities
- 1 Study Guide
- 3 Literary Analysis Activities
- 3 Character Analysis Activities
- 2 Comprehension Activities
- 3 Quizzes
- 1 Novel Test

**PLUS**

Detailed Answer Key  
and Scoring Rubric

### Teacher Note

Selected activities, quizzes, and test questions in this Novel Units® Student Packet are labeled with the appropriate reading/language arts skills for quick reference. These skills can be found above quiz/test questions or sections and in the activity headings.

### Note

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**Please note:** Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with them.

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## Note to the Teacher

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**Basic Understanding:** The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of written texts. The student will:

- use a text’s structure or other sources to locate and recall information (Locate Information)
- determine main idea and identify relevant facts and details (Main Idea and Details)
- use prior knowledge and experience to comprehend and bring meaning to a text (Prior Knowledge)
- summarize major ideas in a text (Summarize Major Ideas)

**Literary Elements:** The student will apply knowledge of literary elements to understand written texts. The student will:

- analyze characters from a story (Character Analysis)
- analyze conflict and problem resolution (Conflict/Resolution)
- recognize and interpret literary devices (flashback, foreshadowing, symbolism, simile, metaphor, etc.) (Literary Devices)
- consider characters’ points of view (Point of View)
- recognize and analyze a story’s setting (Setting)
- understand and explain themes in a text (Theme)

**Analyze Written Texts:** The student will use a variety of strategies to analyze written texts. The student will:

- identify the author’s purpose (Author’s Purpose)
- identify cause and effect relationships in a text (Cause/Effect)
- identify characteristics representative of a given genre (Genre)
- interpret information given in a text (Interpret Text)
- make and verify predictions with information from a text (Predictions)
- sequence events in chronological order (Sequencing)
- identify and use multiple text formats (Text Format)
- follow written directions and write directions for others to follow (Follow/Write Directions)

**Critical Thinking:** The student will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze written texts. The student will:

- write and complete analogies (Analogies)
- find similarities and differences throughout a text (Compare/Contrast)
- draw conclusions from information given (Drawing Conclusions)
- make and explain inferences (Inferences)
- respond to texts by making connections and observations (Making Connections)
- recognize and identify the mood of a text (Mood)
- recognize an author’s style and how it affects a text (Style)
- support responses by referring to relevant aspects of a text (Support Responses)
- recognize and identify the author’s tone (Tone)
- write to entertain, such as through humorous poetry or short stories (Write to Entertain)
- write to express ideas (Write to Express)
- write to inform (Write to Inform)
- write to persuade (Write to Persuade)
- demonstrate understanding by creating visual images based on text descriptions (Visualizing)
- practice math skills as they relate to a text (Math Skills)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Al Capone Shines My Shoes*

Activity #1 • Prereading

Use Before Reading

(Making Connections/Predictions)

**Pros and Cons**

**Directions:** With a partner, brainstorm the pros and cons of being a civilian child on Alcatraz Island in the 1930s. Make predictions about conflicts that might emerge in the novel based on your brainstorm.

**Living on Alcatraz**



Student Worksheets

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Anticipation Guide

**Directions:** Rate each of the following statements before you read the novel, and discuss your ratings with a partner. After you have completed the novel, rate and discuss the statements again.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
strongly agree strongly disagree

	Before	After
1. A person only knows his or her own strength once it is tested.	_____	_____
2. A person cannot be fearful and brave at the same time.	_____	_____
3. It is best to only have friends who share your interests.	_____	_____
4. Criminals are incapable of making good decisions.	_____	_____
5. People should trust everyone.	_____	_____
6. Sometimes it is okay to keep secrets.	_____	_____
7. People who are handicapped in some way can still contribute to society.	_____	_____
8. It is okay to tell people the truth, even if it hurts their feelings.	_____	_____
9. People should always forgive.	_____	_____
10. In the most successful friendships, the people involved always try to get along.	_____	_____

