

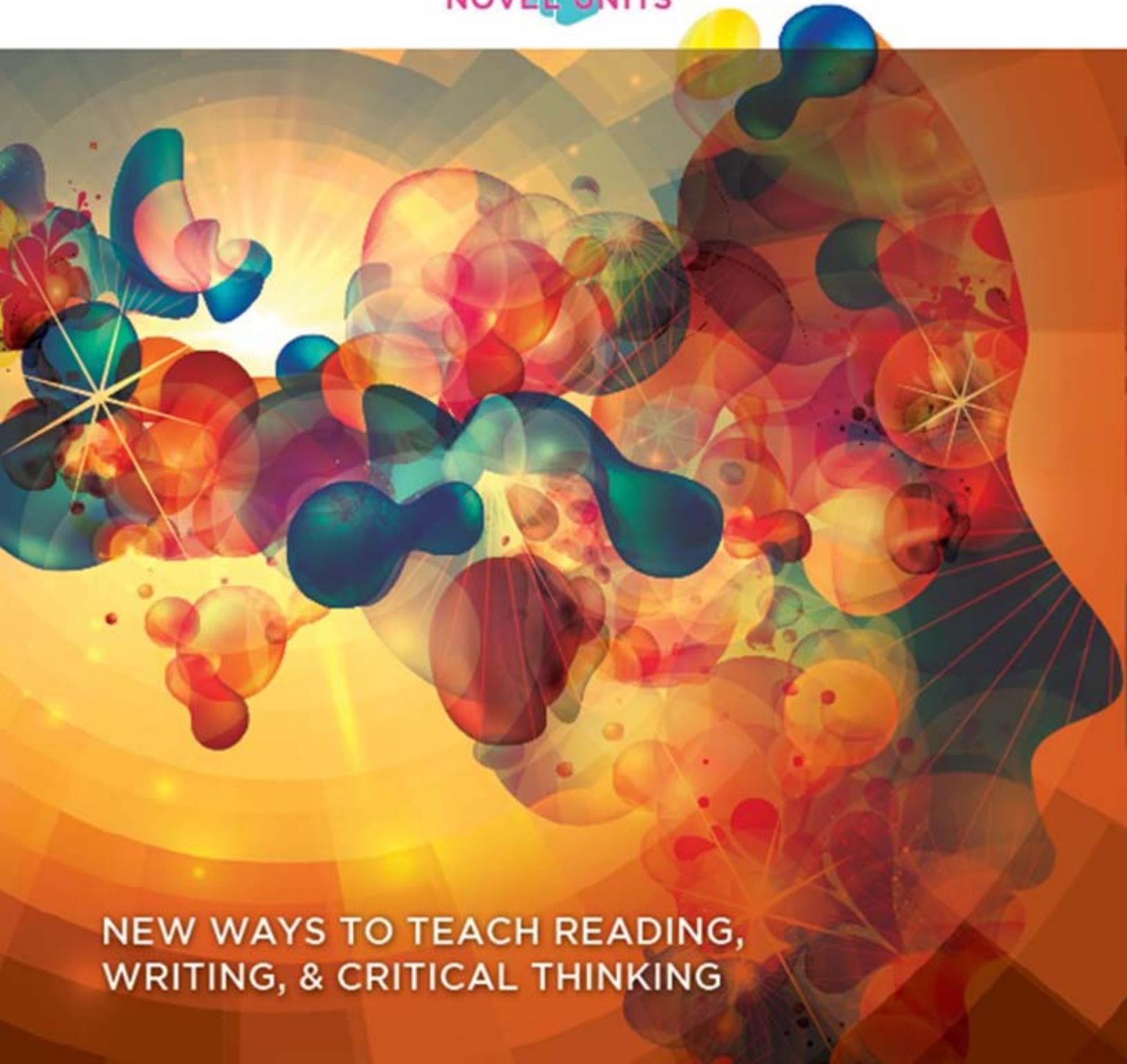
Teacher Guide

Grades 7–8

The Cay

Theodore Taylor

NOVEL UNITS[®]



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THE CAY

by
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Teacher Guide

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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 your class.

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, comparing
and contrasting, evaluating,
analyzing details

Literary Elements

Character, setting, plot
development, theme,
personification, fore-
shadowing, point of view

Vocabulary

Synonyms/antonyms,
context clues, root words,
prefixes/suffixes

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
cause/effect, inference,
problem solving and decision
making

Writing

Journal, poetry, description,
narrative, report

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion,
participation in dramatic
activities

Chapter 3

Pages 29-39

Vocabulary

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| torpedoed 29 | sextant 30 | lubricating 30 | ignited 30 |
| haunches 31 | alabaster 32 | trench 32 | welt 32 |
| calypso 33 | ebony 33 | alligatored 33 | cleats 34 |
| despair 34 | outrageous 36 | remorse 36 | defiantly 37 |
| deftly 38 | | | |

Vocabulary Activity

Place the words for the day in categories. For example:

| Descriptive | War-related | Feelings | Actions | Animals | Person |
|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| alabaster | torpedoed | despair | ignited | sextant | ebony |

Discussion Questions and Activities

1. How was Phillip's mother different after the torpedoing? Why do you suppose? (Page 29, *She was calm, talked quietly, her hands were not shaking and she gave good directions.*)
2. How did Phillip describe Timothy when he first saw him? (Page 31, "*...huge, very old Negro...His nose was flat...his face was broad; his head was a mass of gray hair.*" Page 33, "*...Muscles rippled over the ebony of his arms and around his shoulders. His chest was thick and his neck was the size of a small tree. The skin on his hands and feet were alligatored and cracked.*") Begin an attribute web for Timothy.
3. Why do you think Timothy called Phillip "young boss"? (page 33)
4. Why didn't Phillip's mother like black people? (Page 37, *Prejudice — "They are not the same as you, Phillip. They are different and they live differently."*)
5. Why did Phillip begin to think his mother was right about black people? (Page 37, *Because Timothy would not give him all the water he wanted.*)
6. Brainstorm the word "prejudice."

Brainstorming rules:

- All ideas count.
- Add details to others' ideas.
- Adapt others' ideas.
- Suggest unusual ideas.

Antonym

Synonym

Prejudice

Definition in own words

Related to experience

7. What is the problem in this novel? What was the problem in Chapter 1? (*Parents did not agree. Mother wanted to leave the island. Phillip wanted to stay on the Curacao.*) What is the problem in Chapter 3? (*survival until rescue or she rescues them*) Make changes on the map.
8. How would you answer Phillip when he said, "I wouldn't even be here with you if it wasn't for my mother"? (page 9)

Prediction

Will Phillip find his mother? Was she killed when the boat was torpedoed?

Supplementary Activity

Drama: In a monologue, there is only one speaker, who reveals his thoughts and feelings. Pretend that you are Phillip. In a monologue, describe what has happened to you and how you feel about it.