

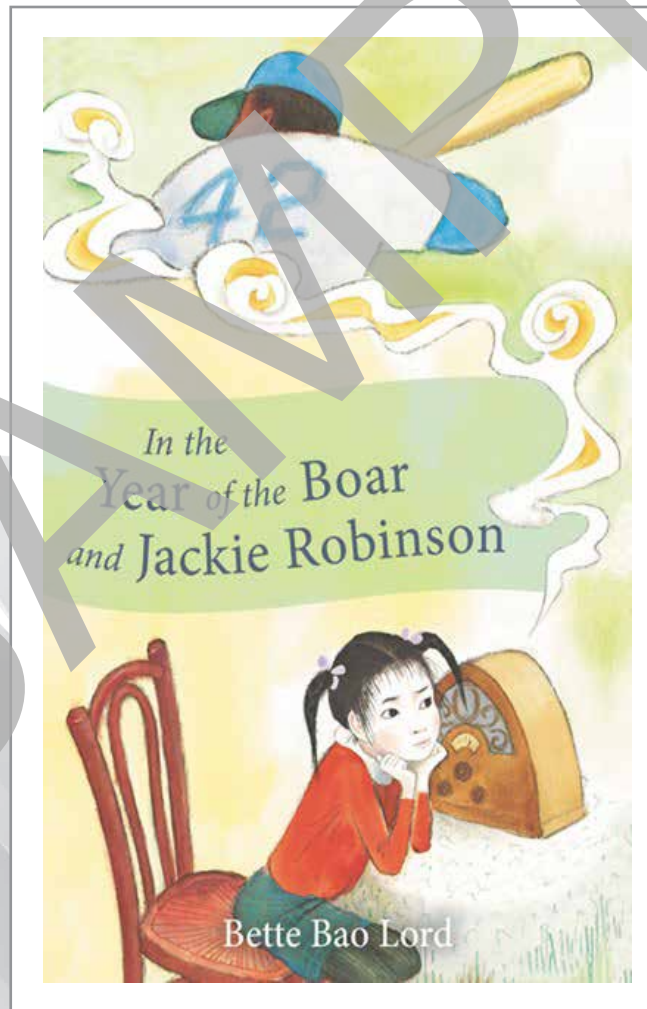


**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 3-5**

# **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson**

Bette Bao Lord



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

Bette Bao Lord

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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**ISBN 978-1-50204-684-0**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Questions

Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the book. Use the questions to review before group discussions and before your final test.

### **JANUARY and FEBRUARY (Pages 1-39)**

1. From whose viewpoint is the story told?
2. Why do you think Bandit has been given that name?
3. What is the setting at the beginning of the story?
4. Who has the power in the Wong household?
5. What is the season of merrymaking as the story begins?
6. Who is the Matriarch of the House of Wong? What power does she have?
7. Why does Bandit take Precious Coins to her meeting with the Matriarch?
8. What does the Matriarch tell Bandit?
9. Why does everyone of the Wong household stay awake on New Year's Eve?
10. What is unique about Bandit's Grand-grand Uncle and his wife?
11. How does Bandit get her American name?
12. What does Shirley think is unique about her mother?
13. What does Shirley remember about her father?
14. Why do you think the manner in which Mr. Wong greets Shirley and his wife at the train station differs?
15. How is Shirley's new home different from the one she had in Chungking?
16. What are some ways Mrs. Wong's life in America differs from her life in Chungking?
17. Why does Shirley want to go to the store for her father's cigarettes? What happens?
18. How does Shirley get home from the store?

### **MARCH, APRIL and MAY (Pages 41-83)**

19. Why is the first interview at school embarrassing for Shirley?
20. Why is there a mistake about Shirley's grade placement?
21. Why does Mrs. Wong call Shirley "China's little ambassador"?
22. Where does Shirley eat lunch on her first day at P.S. 8?
23. Why does the teacher send a note home with Shirley after her first day at school?
24. Why do Shirley's classmates, who greeted her warmly at first, later ignore her?
25. Why does Shirley compare herself to a "hungry ghost"?
26. What is the outcome of Shirley's recitation in class?
27. What does Mrs. Wong do to cheer up Shirley?
28. What joins Mrs. Rodriguez during Shirley's lesson? How does it help?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

RE + [  ] = REBUS

**Vocabulary Words Used For This Activity**

scowled (3)  
grimaced (60)

churned (5)

omen (14)

enshrined (15)

**Directions:** Use the letters and the pictures to figure out the words.

1. CH + [  ] = \_\_\_\_\_

2. G + [  ] + [  ] + D = \_\_\_\_\_

3. EN + [  ] + D = \_\_\_\_\_

4. SC + [  ] + ED = \_\_\_\_\_

5. O + [  ] = \_\_\_\_\_

Make your own REBUS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Tongue Twister

**Directions:** On page 137, the triplets are referred to as the “terrible threesome” and the “tame trio.” Use either phrase as the basis for an original tongue twister made up of words beginning with the letter/sound of T. Write out the tongue twister. Practice saying it, increasing the speed each time. Try not to make an error. For example:

Tame Trio Taunts Tenderly

Increase the length of the tongue twister to make it more of a challenge.

Tame Trio Taunts Tenderly Twice

Tame Trio Taunts Tenderly Twice Today

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**Directions:** Make a cartoon or illustration to go with your tongue twister.