



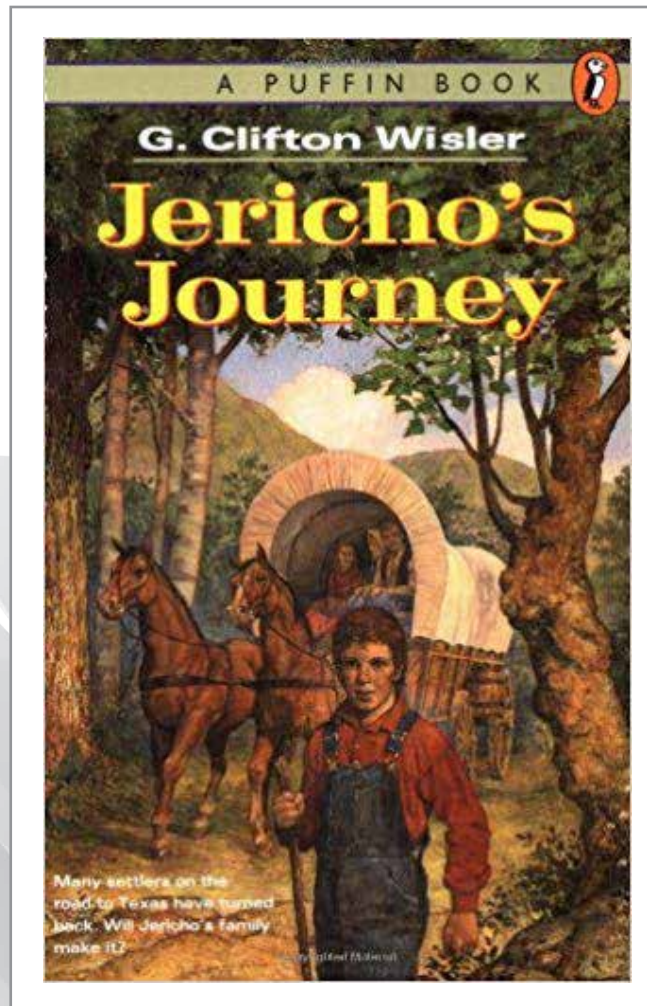
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 6-8

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Jericho's Journey

G. Clifton Wisler



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Jericho's Journey

G. Clifton Wisler

TEACHER GUIDE

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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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Visualization, research

Comprehension

Comparison/contrast,
predicting

Vocabulary

Word mapping, synonyms,
antonyms, multiple meanings

Listening/Speaking

Discussion

Literary Elements

Characterization,
personification

Writing

Journal, dialogue, poetry

Summary of Jericho's Journey

It is 1852. As Jericho celebrates his twelfth birthday, he and his family are getting ready to move from Tennessee to Texas. Jericho's Uncle Dan has gone before them, and has found some good land for the Wetherbys to settle. Uncle Dan has also written of the many opportunities and adventures to be had in this new state. Wanting to leave behind the sadness of the deaths of three of their children, Ma and Pa Wetherby are anxious to get a fresh start in Texas. They put their possessions in a covered wagon and the family starts out in October, hoping to beat the winter weather to Texas.

With an older brother on horseback and an older sister in the wagon, Jericho and his two younger brothers have to walk the trail. In spite of bad weather, poor trail conditions and illness, the Wetherby family completes their journey. In Texas, they get a new home and the comfort of the sense of belonging.

Some topics of interest that may be pursued when reading this novel are Texas, wolves, Tennessee, travel in the 1800s, hunting and fishing for survival, family values.

About the Author

G(ary) Clifton Wisler was born May 15, 1950, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He attended Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, B.F.A. 1972; M.A. 1974. Although Wisler was born in Oklahoma, he grew up in Dallas, Texas. In 1961, Wisler joined a Boy Scout troop and became acquainted with the earth that his grandfather had told him about. Wisler also discovered his storytelling abilities at that time, entertaining others with old stories and his own tales. While a senior in high school, Wisler took some journalism classes and wrote articles and editorials for the school paper. This was his first public recognition as a writer. While in college, the campus newspaper afforded Wisler more experience and headed him toward the life of a newsman. However, his experience with children at a Boy Scout summer camp led him to a teaching career and a graduate degree. It was while teaching at a middle school in Garland, Texas that Wisler tried his hand at writing a novel. *My Brother, The Wind* was published in 1979. His many stories come from the campfire tales of his past, historical events, and his imagination.

Introductory Activities and Information

Note:

It is not intended that everything presented in this guide be done. Please be selective, and use discretion when choosing the activities you will do with the unit. The choices that are made should be appropriate for your use and your group of students. A wide range of activities has been provided so that individuals as well as groups may benefit.

Initiating Activity:

Collect books from the library that have to do with your choice of topics of interest that students may wish to pursue during the reading of the novel. Have the books easily accessible to the students for their use as time permits. You may also wish to have on hand other novels that deal with the same time period in history as *Jericho's Journey*.

When you are ready to begin the novel make several large banners that would be appropriate for Texas in 1852, or at the present time, to display in the room. For example:

**Welcome to Texas
Where You Can Think BIG**

**Texas
The Land of Black Prairies and Fine Creeks**

Texas—Where Dreams Come True

Ask students to share the experiences they have had when moving from one place to another,* and about Texas.

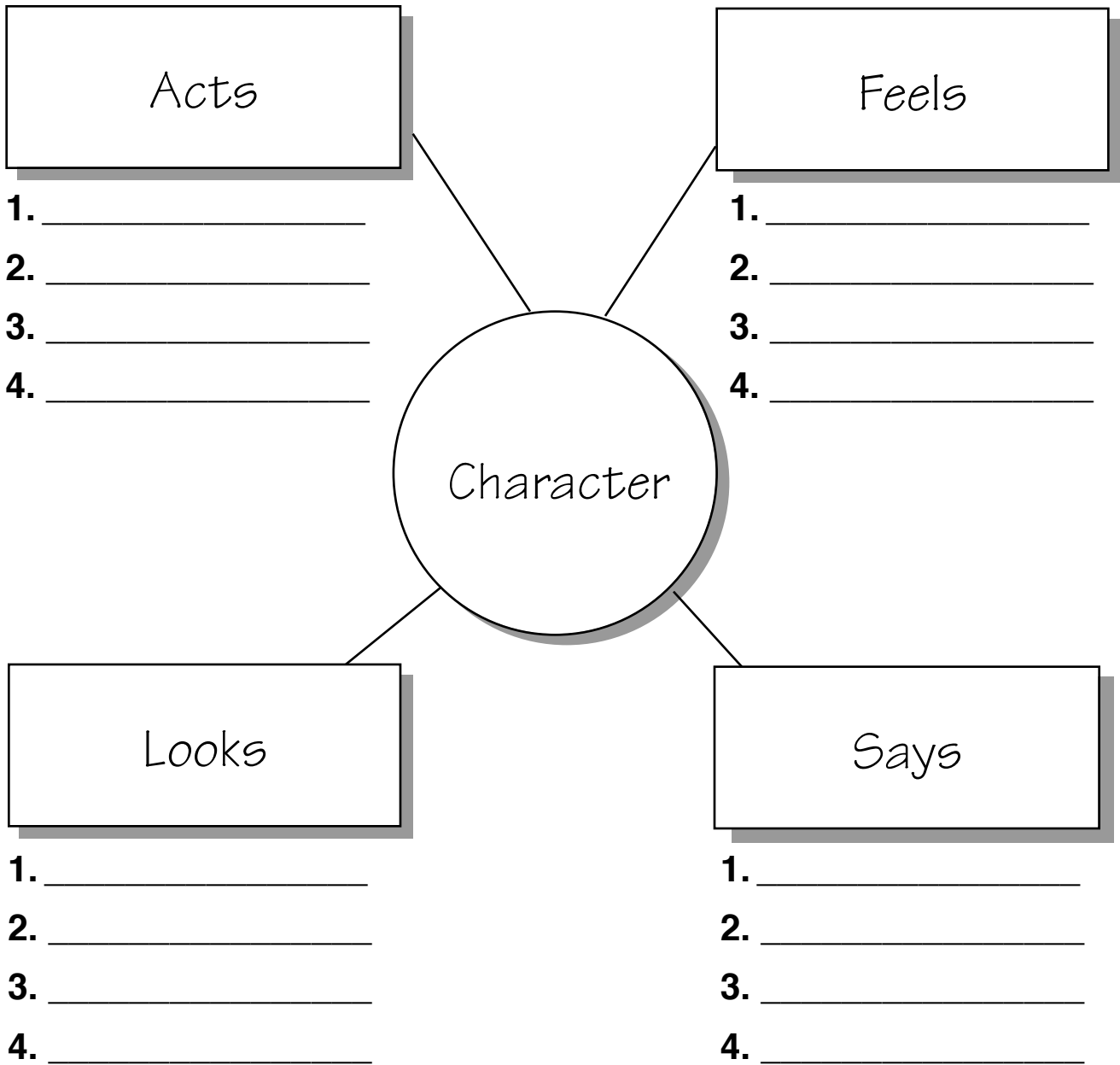
*Start a chart about moving from one location to another, giving the present-day experiences of what it involves. As the story is being read, fill in the experiences of a family moving in the year 1852. At the end of the novel, compare the experiences. Are any of them the same? Discuss.

Moving From One Location To Another

Present-day experiences	Experiences in the year 1852

Attribute Web

The attribute web below is designed to help you gather clues the author provides about what a character is like. Fill in the blanks with words and phrases which tell how the character acts and looks, as well as what the character says and what others say about him or her.



Chapter Twelve: Pages 132-135

Chapter Summary:

Eli takes the rest of the family to Pa at the new home. A day of chores and settling in ends with Pa and Jericho sitting on the porch steps that night. Pa Wetherby tells Jericho that he is proud of the kind of growing that Jericho has done on the trail. If Jericho believes in himself, Pa Wetherby is sure that Jericho will overcome any obstacles placed in his way.

Vocabulary:

review

Vocabulary Activity:

Do the Vocabulary Review–Synonym or Antonym? See Supplementary Activities section of this guide.

Discussion Questions:

1. After a day of doing chores to make the cabin a home, Pa Wetherby and Jericho sit on the steps that night talking of what they will grow. What is most important to Pa? (*Page 134, "Mostly we'll grow Wetherbys, though. Good men to build this new state of ours."*) What do you think of Pa's "crop"? Discuss.
2. What is Jericho's reaction to his father's idea? (*Page 134, Jericho asks his father if he will ever grow.*) What does Pa Wetherby tell Jericho? (*Pages 134-135, Pa Wetherby tells Jericho that he has proven on the journey that he has the heart to make a good man, and Pa numbers Jericho among those who can take hardship and disappointment and move on. However, Pa tells Jericho that he must believe in himself.*) What is your opinion of Pa's response to Jericho? Discuss. Do you think believing in oneself is important? Why or why not? Discuss.

Postreading Activities:

1. Write an epilogue* to the story. (*An epilogue is a concluding section that rounds out the design of a literary work.)
2. Complete the attribute webs.
3. Finish the story map.
4. Complete journals and other recordings kept during the reading of the novel.
5. Think of something about a home that, to you, symbolizes comfort and warmth. Use the art media of your choice to illustrate your thoughts.

