

Student Packet

Grades 3–4

The Magician's Elephant

Kate DiCamillo

NOVEL UNITS[®]



NEW WAYS TO LEARN READING,
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



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THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT

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Student Packet

Written by
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Contains masters for:

- 2 Prereading Activities
- 6 Vocabulary Activities
- 1 Study Guide
- 3 Literary Analysis Activities
- 2 Character Analysis Activities
- 1 Comprehension Activity
- 2 Critical Thinking 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

The 2009 Candlewick Press hardcover edition of the novel, © 2009 by Kate DiCamillo, was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions. Novel ISBN: 978-0-7636-4410-9

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

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

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 _____

6. What is an elephant's ear?
7. Why are the people of Baltese obsessed with the elephant?
8. What idea does the count present to countess Quintet?
9. Who comes to visit the countess and her elephant?
10. What certainty does Peter's dream hold for him?
11. What does Peter plan to do in order to find his sister?
12. What is Sister Marie's job at the orphanage?
13. What does Adele yell to the elephant in her dream?
14. In her dream, what happens outside as Adele stands at the window?

Chapters Seven–Nine

1. Why do the citizens of Baltese knock on the elephant door?
2. How does the elephant feel about being in the ballroom?
3. Of what "wonderful news" does the beggar on the street sing?
4. Why does Gloria compare Peter to a prisoner?
5. About what subject does Gloria forbid Leo from speaking? Why?
6. What happens in Adele's dream?
7. According to Sister Marie, how did Adele arrive at the orphanage?
8. What is Iddo's talent? What is his disability?
9. For what does the elephant long?
10. What does Vilna Lutz consider "man's work"? What does Peter think about soldiering?
11. What does Vilna Lutz finally reveal about Adele?
12. What reason does Vilna Lutz give for lying to Peter?
13. Now that he knows Adele is alive, what does Peter plan to do?

Chapters Ten–Twelve

1. What sentence from her dream does Adele particularly remember?
2. Why does Lisette say that Adele is stupid?
3. What does the beggar tell Adele about truth?
4. Who is sympathetic to the beggar and his dog?
5. Does Lisette crush Adele's hopes? Why or why not?

The Magician's Elephant
 Activity #12 • Literary Analysis
 Use During and After Reading
 (Setting)

Name _____

Significance of Setting
Directions: Tell how each of the settings listed is important to Peter and to the plot.

Setting	Importance to Peter	Importance to the Plot
1. the market		
2. the ballroom		
3. the Apartments Polonaise		

Student Worksheets

Name _____

The Magician's Elephant
Activity #14 • Character Analysis
Use During and After Reading
(Character Analysis)

Peter's Encounters

Directions: On the lines in each box below, describe the listed person or animal, briefly state what happens when Peter meets the character, and tell how this meeting changes Peter.

the elephant

the magician

Peter

Leo Matienne

Vilna Lutz

Name _____

(Main Idea and Details)

A. True/False: Mark each with a *T* for true or an *F* for false.

- ___ 1. At the market, Peter buys fish as instructed by Vilna Lutz.
- ___ 2. The fortuneteller says that Peter's sister is alive.
- ___ 3. The magician conjures an elephant on purpose.
- ___ 4. A noblewoman is seriously injured during the magician's performance.
- ___ 5. *The Magician's Elephant* is set in modern times.

(Summarize Major Ideas)

B. Short Answer: Write a brief answer to each of the following questions.

- 6. Who is Vilna Lutz?

- 7. What happens to the magician as a result of his trick?

- 8. How do the people of Baltus react to the elephant's arrival?

- 9. What magical things happen in Chapters One–Six of the novel?

- 10. Why is the countess upset by the elephant's arrival?

(Interpret Text)

C. Open-Ended Short Answer: On the lines below, explain Peter's response to the fortuneteller's prophecy.

