



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

Robert C. O'Brien

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

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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!

ISBN 978-1-50204-815-8

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Name _____

Using separate paper, write a brief answer to each numbered study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test. You don't need to write answers to the starred questions, but be ready to discuss them.

- * What do you see on the cover? Why do you suppose the mouse is on the bird's wing? Who might Mrs. Frisby be? What is NIMH? What do you suppose the rats of NIMH are like? How do you suppose Mrs. Frisby and the rats are connected?

Chapter 1:

1. Where does Mrs. Frisby and her family live? Why have they chosen to live there?
2. What is the tunnel to Mrs. Frisby's house like? Why is it so narrow?
3. What treat does Mrs. Frisby find for her family to eat? Where? How did it probably get there?
4. Who is shown in the picture on page 8? Why isn't Timothy shown with the others?
5. What do you learn about Mr. Frisby?
6. Why does Mrs. Frisby go to see Mr. Ages?
 - * When will moving day be? What will Mr. Ages tell Mrs. Frisby?
 - ** Does the beginning of this story remind you of any others that you have heard or read? Are there any fables or children's stories or animal adventures that it brings to mind?

Chapter 2:

1. Reread the first sentence of the chapter. What is unusual about Mr. Ages's fur? Does Mrs. Frisby find that odd?
2. Why doesn't Mrs. Frisby take the shortest route to Mr. Ages's house?
3. Why had Mrs. Frisby visited Mr. Ages the first time?
4. What does Mr. Ages give Mrs. Frisby?
5. What does Mr. Ages tell Mrs. Frisby when she asks if Timothy will get better? Do you think this is the answer she dreaded?
 - * What will Mrs. Frisby tell Timothy about his sickness?
 - ** Close your eyes and think about what has happened so far in the story. What is the most clear, vivid picture that comes to mind? What do you see?

Chapter 3:

1. Why is this chapter called "The Crow and the Cat"?
2. What is Timothy like? How do you know?
3. Why does Mrs. Frisby take a different way home—across the farmyard?

Name _____

preceding 4	rancid 4	cope 5	sward 5
protruded 6	festive 7	authoritatively 9	intensity 10
hypochondriac 10	tedious 11	delirious 11	stalked 13
harsher 14	droning 14	draughts 14	vigorous 15
resembled 15	nimbly 16	hermit 16	botanically 16
projecting 18	prospect 20	merriment 21	invariably 21
scatterbrained 21	ineffectively 22	birdbrain 24	capacity 24
dubiously 24	twined 24	surge 25	circumstances 26
literally 26	subdued 27	scarcely 27	reassure 28
despite 29	illogical 32	sympathetic 32	sputtering 32

Directions: An analogy is a comparison.

Examples:

NO is to YES as OFF is to ON.

HILL is to MOUNTAIN as STREAM is to RIVER.

In the first example, both pairs of words are opposites. In the second example, a hill is a small mountain, just as a stream is a small river.

Use words from the vocabulary list above to complete the analogies, below. Using the analogies as models, create analogies for three more of the vocabulary words and share them with your group.

1. BIRD is to WOODPECKER as WORRYWART is to _____.
2. STALE is to TASTE as _____ is to ODOR.
3. LINOLEUM STRIP is to FLOOR COVERING as _____ is to TURF.
4. PILLS are to SOLIDS as _____ are to LIQUIDS.
5. BRAZENLY is to CONFIDENCE as _____ is to DOUBT.
6. EXCITING is to "YIP-EEEE" as _____ is to "BLAH."
7. PERTURB is to "UH-OH" as _____ is to "DON'T WORRY."
8. _____ is to _____ as _____ is to _____.
9. _____ is to _____ as _____ is to _____.
10. _____ is to _____ as _____ is to _____.

Name _____

Directions: Add to what you learn from the novel about each of the animals below by using two or three reference books. (For a Cooperative Activity: After doing research on one of the animals listed below, each person in a group fills in the information for that animal on the chart.)

Data Retrieval Chart					
Animal	Appearance	Foods	Behavior	Home	Other Facts
Rat					
Mouse					
Owl					
Crow					
Shrew					