



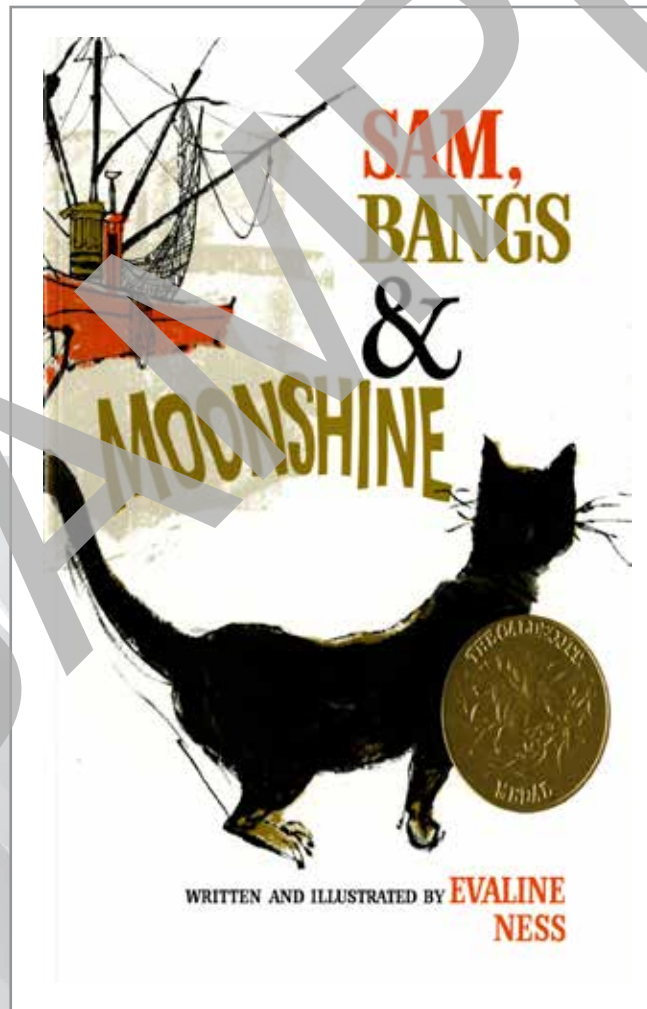
**TEACHER GUIDE**

**GRADES 3-5**

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

# Sam, Bangs & Moonshine

Evaline Ness



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

# Sam, Bangs & Moonshine

Evaline Ness

## 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

Identifying attributes,  
compare/contrast, pros/cons,  
decision-making, problem  
solving, summarizing

### Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,  
summarizing, cause and  
effect, inference, main idea

### Writing

Character journal, poetry,  
personal writing, description,  
journalism

### Vocabulary

Vocabulary words,  
comprehension games

### Literary Elements

Characterization, setting,  
plot development

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## Summary of *Sam, Bangs and Moonshine*

Sam has a bad habit of letting her imagination run away with her. Her friend Thomas believes her wild story about a kangaroo and a mermaid, and he barely escapes drowning. Sam learns that make-believe stories (moonshine) can cause serious trouble.

## Recommended Procedure For Reading This Book

There are five sections of this story. This book will be read one section at a time, using DRTA (Directed Reading Thinking Activity) Method. This technique involves reading a section, predicting what will happen next, and making good guesses based on what has already occurred in the story. The teacher writes the predictions on the class bulletin board and after each section is read, the children verify their predictions.

## Introductory Activities

### Prior to Reading

You may wish to choose one or more of the following pre-reading discussion questions.

1. Look at the picture on the cover. Can you find any clues that tell you about the setting of this story?
2. What do you think the word *moonshine* in the title of the book means?
3. Let's guess who the main characters are. Is Sam a boy or a girl? Does the cat have a name?
4. Is this going to be a realistic story or a make-believe story? Make a T chart with the class.

	Realistic Story	Make-believe or Fantasy
Setting:	our world	not quite like the real world
Characters:	like us	unusual characters
Action:	could happen	never could happen
Problem:	could be ours	never could be ours
Example:	Ramona Quimby books	Three Bears

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Acts

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Feels

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Character

Looks

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Says

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Activities For The Cat-Lover

1. Brainstorm a list of words that might describe a cat. Then evaluate each as a description for Bangs. Find passages in the story to support your answers.
2. Choose one of the following topics to report to the class either orally or in writing:
  - The first day I had my cat...
  - The funniest thing my cat ever did...
  - My cat likes to...
  - The weirdest cat I ever met was...
3. Interview a cat owner. Prepare your questions in advance and write up your answers.
4. Invite a veterinarian to visit the class. Prepare three questions to ask and take notes during the visit.
5. Imagine you are a cat. Describe a day in your life as a cat. How do you feel? What do you like/dislike? Why? What do you do while your owner is in school?
6. As a cat owner, how do you make your cat happy?
7. Compare cats and dogs using a Venn Diagram. (See page 20 of this guide.)
8. Fill in information on My Cat's Family Tree. Use a real or imaginary cat. (See page 21 of this guide.)
9. Attribute web (See page 9 of this guide.)

Children may list attributes of a real or imaginary cat or Bangs.