

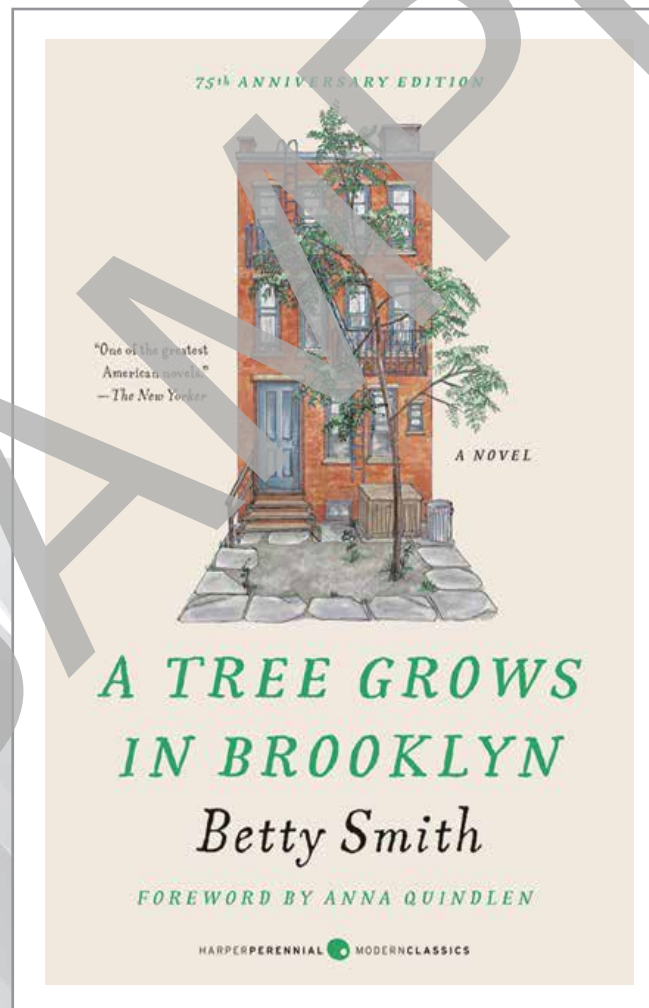


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

# A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Betty Smith



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

# A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Betty Smith

## 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!

---

**ISBN 978-1-50205-071-7**

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your  
local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Complete the following chart. Write what you think are the causes and effects of poverty. Then write some possible solutions to the problem of poverty.

<p><b>Causes</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Effects</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Poverty</b></p>	
<p><b>Solutions</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests. Starred questions indicate thought or opinion questions.

**Book One: Chapters 1–3, pp. 5–38**

1. What is the setting of the novel?
2. Identify the protagonist and her brother and give two facts about each of them.
3. \*What is the name of the tree in Francie's yard? Why do you think this tree is significant?
4. \*How do Francie and Neeley spend their Saturdays? How do you think they feel about Carney and Cheap Charlie?
5. Identify Francie's parents and give two characteristics of each of them. What are their occupations?
6. \*What is the ultimate ambition of the boys in Brooklyn? Why do you think this is important to them?
7. How does Francie feel about the library and the librarian? What is her reading plan?
8. Briefly explain Johnny's work habits and why the Union is important to him. Identify the song he always sings as he is coming up the stairs. How does Francie respond to him?
9. \*What is Johnny's rationale for drinking? Do you believe this is the real reason he continues to drink? Why or why not?
10. \*What does Johnny own that he would never pawn? Why do you think he refuses to part with them?

**Book One: Chapters 4–6, pp. 39–54**

1. Who are Flossie and Henny Gaddis? What is wrong with Henny? What three things does Flossie do each week?
2. \*Why does Francie grow uneasy while looking at Flossie's costumes? Why do you think this is significant?
3. Briefly describe Sissy. How does Francie feel about her?
4. \*Where does Francie go with Maudie Donovan? What do you think this incident reveals about Francie?
5. What must Francie and Neeley read each night?
6. \*How does the Nolan family react to Johnny's arrival after work? What do you think this reveals about the relationship between Johnny and Katie? between Johnny and his children?
7. \***Prediction:** Will Johnny overcome his drinking problem?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Character Analysis

**Directions:** Label the boxes below with the names of characters who appear in the novel. Working in small groups, discuss the attributes of the various characters. In each character's box, write several words or phrases that describe him or her.


Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Feelings

**Directions:** Complete the chart below for Francie Nolan.

**Describe Francie in the beginning.**

Summarize important events in the boxes below. Describe how Francie feels after each one.

**Event #1:** Francie feels ...

**Event #2:** Francie feels ...

**Event #3:** Francie feels ...

**Event #4:** Francie feels ...

**Event #5:** Francie feels ...

**Event #6:** Francie feels ...

**Describe Francie at the end.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are three main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature or society, and person vs. self.

**Directions:** The characters in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* experience some conflicts in the story. In the chart below, list the names of three major characters. In the space provided, list a conflict each character experiences. Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Conflict	Resolution

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Conflict	Resolution

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Conflict	Resolution