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INTRODUCTION

This novel study for *Stars From Mars* was written for students in Grades 4 to 6. Gordon Korman's novels are of high interest and written with great humor. They involve events that students find it easy to relate to. The *Slap Shots Series* would be helpful in encouraging reluctant readers to read for pleasure.

Imagination is the key to successful and enjoyable reading. When a reader can visualize different characters, settings and events the story comes alive for him or her. To aid in this creation the student is asked to illustrate various characters and settings. Visualization is a major component of this novel study.

The unit consists of a series of work sheets involving comprehension, vocabulary development, language skills and creative writing. Also included are suggestions for evaluation by the teacher, a peer evaluation sheet, a self evaluation sheet, a student tracking sheet and an answer key.

Suggestions for using the Novel Study

Teachers may choose to read parts of the novel to the class, to have students read independently or to have the students read in groups. This last is particularly useful with students requiring extra help with reading. All possible variations should be tried to maintain a high reading interest, since the prime objective of this novel study is to foster a love for reading.

Intertwined throughout the study are numerous language activities. These activities will strengthen the students grasp of the conventions necessary for successful writing. Pre-teaching before assigning the activities would solidify learning.

Major reading strategies are emphasized throughout the unit. Story comprehension is stimulated by varied questioning activities. Puzzles and creative writing are used to link comprehension and vocabulary development. Research projects enable students to gather and organize information. Puzzles and creative writing are used to link comprehension and vocabulary development.

Chapters 3 & 4 - Reading and Comprehension

A. Read Chapters 3 and 4.

B. Circle the correct ending for each sentence.

1. The Mars ice rink

- a) was in a Waterloo community center. c) had an even, smooth surface.
b) had a bumpy , uneven surface. d) had artificial ice.

2. Boom Boom reminded Chipmunk of a

- a) beetle. c) water scorpion.
b) cricket. d) praying mantis.

3. At his first practice Trent Ruben

- a) skated circles round everyone. c) fell flat on his face.
b) broke his arm. d) broke his leg.

4. Brian Azevedo was

- a) a fast forward skater. c) an amazing goal tender.
b) a fast backward skater. d) the player with the hardest
shot.

5. Jared Enoch

- a) went offside on almost every play. c) bodychecked Trent.
b) scored on his own net. d) believed the penalty shot was
important.

Chapters 9 & 10 - Vocabulary and Language

- D. *Adjectives modify* or give additional information about *nouns*, and *adverbs modify verbs*.

Complete the following sentences by adding adverbs or adjectives where indicated.



1. Mrs. Bolitsky was a _____
_____ woman.
2. The Bolitsky's served _____
_____ food.
3. We wore _____ coats with _____
_____ pockets so we could _____ hide the _____
_____ food.
4. Trent looked _____ around the _____
_____ restaurant.
5. Trent _____ drank _____ cider as he was
_____ thirsty.
6. Boom Boom called the players _____ for an
_____ speech before the _____ game.
7. The Flyers were _____ surprised as they
_____ expected the _____ joke to be an _____
_____ win.