



**Little  
Novel•Ties**

# **Harry the Dirty Dog**

**Gene Zion**

**A Study Guide**  
Written by Garrett Christopher



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

For the Teacher . . . . .	1
Suggestions For Using Activities . . . . .	1 - 2
Synopsis . . . . .	3
Author Information . . . . .	3
Pre-Reading Activities . . . . .	4
Word Study . . . . .	5
Understanding the Story . . . . .	6 - 7
Understanding Pictures . . . . .	8
Story Frame . . . . .	9
Extension Activity . . . . .	10 - 13
Follow-Up Activities . . . . .	14
Suggestions For Further Reading . . . . .	15
Answer Key . . . . .	16

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## FOR THE TEACHER

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *Harry the Dirty Dog*. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your guided reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary, visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that focus on fluency training and link the story to other curriculum areas.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR USING ACTIVITIES

### Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read

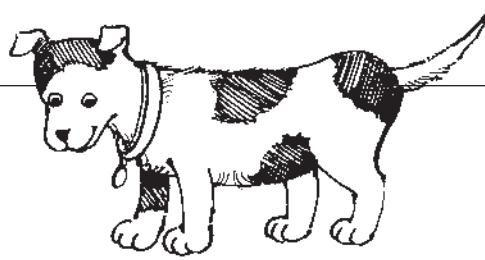
These activities are designed to activate children's prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group, or with the entire class.

### Word Study – Full of Action

This page presents examples of verbs and brief instructional material on verbs. Children are asked to label pictures with verbs that describe the actions portrayed.

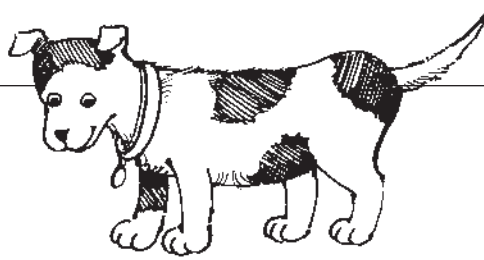
### Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions

The story questions include a number of literal, inferential, and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The picture questions help children draw inferences from the illustrations.



## BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the title of the book. Then look at the picture on the cover. Who do you think this story is about?
2. Look at the pictures in the book to see what life was like almost 50 years ago when this book was written. How was life then different from life today? In what ways do things look the same?
3. **Pair and Share:** This story is about a dog that gets very dirty. Make a list of ways that dogs could get dirty. Then share your list with a partner.
4. In this story, some children give a dog a bath. Draw a picture. Show things you would use to give a dog a bath.



## **STORY QUESTIONS**

1. What does Harry look like when he is clean?
2. What is the one thing that Harry dislikes?
3. What does Harry do with the scrubbing brush? Why does he do it?
4. What happens to Harry when he plays in the street?
5. What does Harry do right before he plays tag with the other dogs?
6. How does Harry get the dirtiest of all?
7. Why does Harry decide to return home?
8. What does the family think when they first see Harry? Why do they think this?
9. How does Harry try to convince his family that he is really Harry? Why doesn't it work?
10. How does Harry finally solve his problem?
11. How do you think Harry feels about having a bath at the end of the story? What makes you think this?