

Pippi Longstocking



By

Astrid Lindgren

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit novelstudies.org.

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Suggestions and Expectations

This 80 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one chapter of *Pippi Longstocking* and is comprised of four activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Themes and **topics** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include Sweden, tall tales, the importance of creativity and imagination, Sweden, friendship, being different.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel
4. Five W's Chart

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists/Antagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

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Synopsis

Tommy and his sister Annika have a new neighbor, and her name is Pippi Longstocking. She has crazy red pigtails, no parents to tell her what to do, a horse that lives on her porch, and a flair for the outrageous that always seems to lead to one adventure after another! [Courtesy of the publisher]

Check out the clips of the movie *Pippi Longstocking* on *YouTube*

Author Biography

Astrid Lindgren

Astrid Lindgren (1907-2002) was born in Sweden. After college, she worked in a newspaper office and a Swedish publishing house. Her most famous and beloved book, *Pippi Longstocking*, was originally published in Swedish in 1950, and was later translated into many other languages. It was followed by two sequels, *Pippi Goes on Board* and *Pippi in the South Seas*. Ms. Lindgren had a long, prolific career, writing more than 100 picture books, poems, short stories, plays, screenplays, and novels. In 1958 she won the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, the highest international award in children's literature. [The Publisher]



We can't take credit for our talents. It's how we use them that counts – Madeleine L'Engle - Courtesy of Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrid_Lindgren

Pippi Longstocking



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Name: _____

Pippi Longstocking

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *Pippi Longstocking* is, of course, Pippi, a feisty young girl who experiences many exciting adventures as the story unfolds. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels that you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

cannibal	remarkable	admitted	threshold
griddle	satisfaction	decorated	tumbledown

1. Pippi stopped at the _____ to the house and removed her large shoes.
2. The twins _____ their room with pictures of their favorite tennis players.
3. A _____ would just as soon eat you for breakfast as look at you.
4. Much to Glenda’s surprise, she was _____ into the exclusive club.
5. “I think it is _____ that Marjorie aced that difficult test,” the teacher said.
6. Pippi dumped the pancake mix into the _____ and set it on the burner.
7. Believe you me, I get no small _____ from seeing him squirm.
8. Pippi lived in a small _____ house on the edge of town.

Questions



1. What is the **setting** during the last part of Chapter One?

2. Pippi mentions a number of places she has travelled to. Using an atlas or resources on the Internet, find out what continent each of the following countries is located in

Egypt	
India	
Congo	
Brazil	

b. If Pippi's father was a sea captain, would it be possible for his ship to land at ports in all of these countries?

3. Do you think it is entirely realistic that a young person like Pippi is living by herself without any adult supervision? Why or why not?

4. What had been the fate of Pippi's sea captain father?

- a) blown overboard
- b) marooned on a desert island by his crew
- c) killed by pirates
- d) sent to prison for piracy

5. Mr. Nilsson was Pippi's pet _____. Pippi also received a big suitcase full of _____ from her father.

6. Think of one good **adjective** which would accurately describe the personality of Pippi. _____

7. What did Annika and Tommy find unusual about Pippi's appearance? (Pick two things which **you** found most remarkable.)

8. How would you describe Pippi's cooking skills?

9. What gifts did Pippi give to her new friends?

Annika	
Tommy	

Good to Know

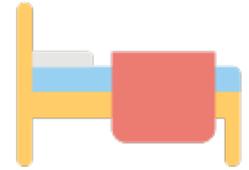
The Brothers Grimm were two brothers (Jacob and Wilhelm) who lived in Germany. Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786 - 1859) collected and published folklore including the stories of *Cinderella* and *The Frog Prince*.

Language Activities



A. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

The words in the left-hand column are found in Chapter 1 of our novel.

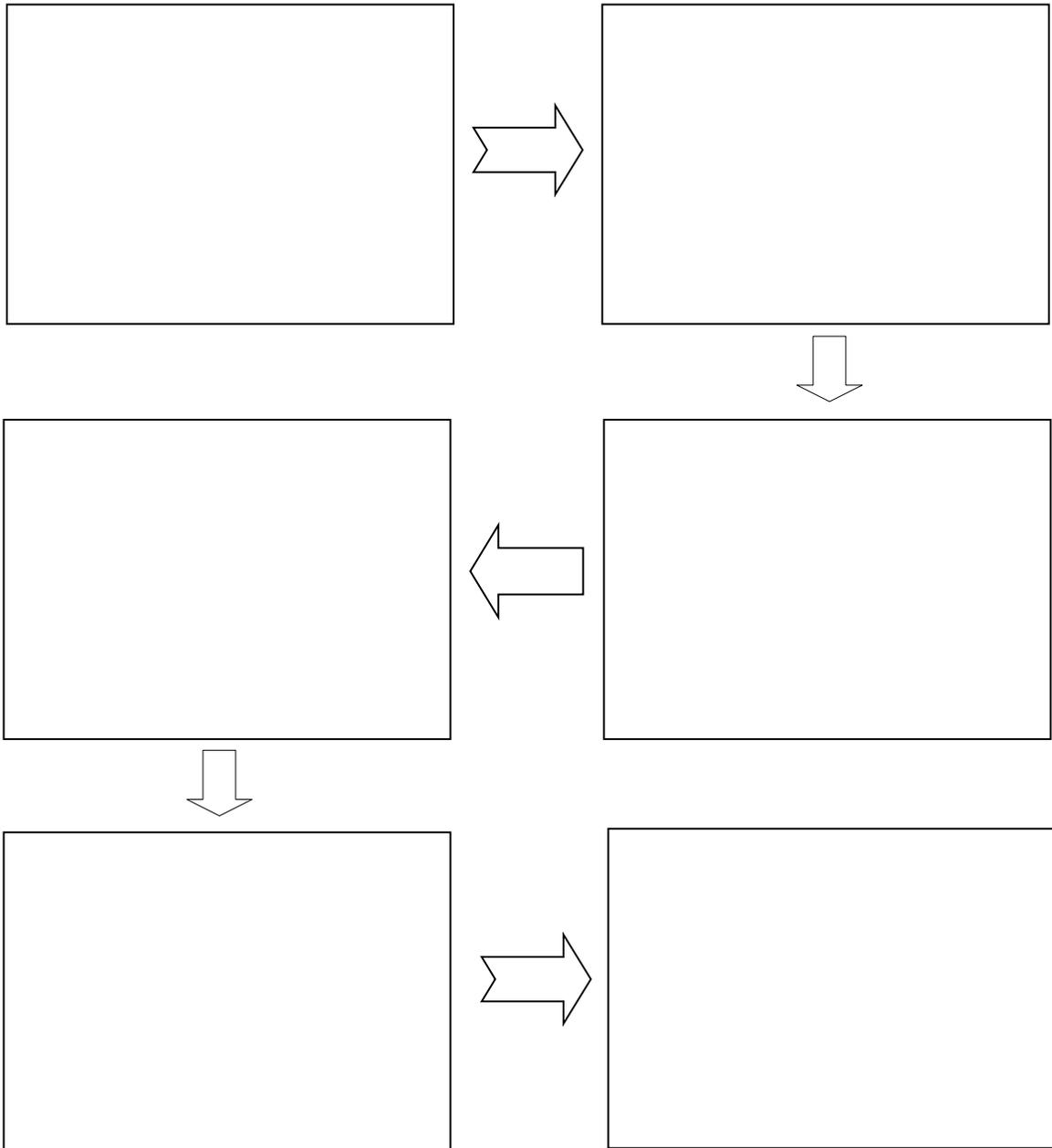
Word	Anagram	Clue
near		To receive in return for work.
name		Nasty.
garden		Peril.
street		One who gives an exam.
horse		Land bordering water.
bowl		Something the wind will do.

B. Place the following words from this chapter in **alphabetical order**.

Pippi	1.
present	2.
monkey	3.
princess	4.
played	5.
playmate	6.
wicked	7.
pants	8.
potato	9.
parlor	10.

C. Sequence Chart

Choose what you consider to be the six most important events in these chapters. In each of the six boxes below list the six events that you have chosen, describing what happened and telling why you consider this to be an essential part of the story.

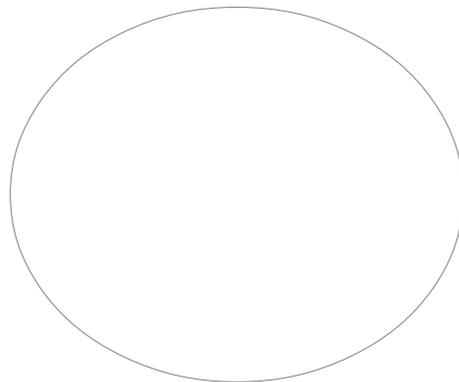


D. 5 Ws and an H.

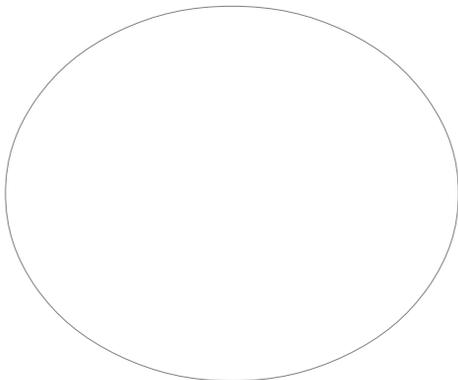
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



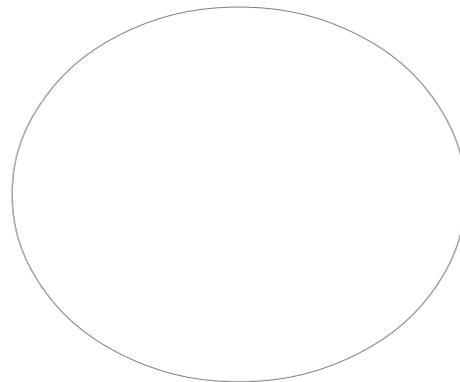
WHO?



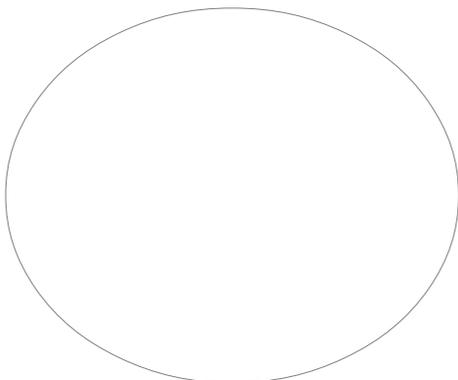
WHAT?



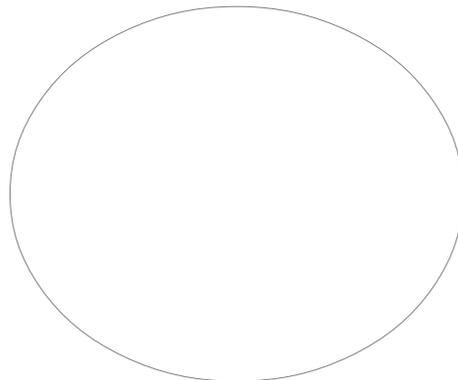
WHEN?



WHERE?



WHY?



HOW?

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of the novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6