

Big Ideas for Little Scholars



TEACHER'S GUIDE

PHILOSOPHY

This novel study is designed to provide activities and extensions for a deeper reading of Natalie Babbitt's *The Search for Delicious* with advanced and/or gifted readers in 2nd to 3rd grade.

The main goals of this mini-unit are:

- to share in the common joy of reading
- to uncover universal themes
- to make connections across disciplines
- to explore advanced literary elements
- to broaden appreciation of words, language, and sentence structures

The study is **not** designed to reinforce basic reading skills or "teach the novel," but rather to share in the experience of reading and learning, discovering connections to the real world, and analyzing the author's craft.

The unit will, however, address many ELA standards (please see last page in this guide for a list). The book may be read aloud over a period of weeks or students may read chapters in pairs or small groups.

WHY THIS BOOK?

The Search for Delicious has many elements that younger advanced readers will appreciate and enjoy. Most chapters can be read in 4-6 minutes. The "otherworld" setting is intriguing, and the plot contains elements of both a hero's journey and a fairy tale, making it a great introduction to more advanced novels in the fantasy genre. Also, as one editor writes, "Babbitt never talks down to the reader," and students will love the surprises within the text and the extended learning that is part of this unit.

HOW IS THIS GUIDE ORGANIZED?

The sections of the guide include **printable worksheets** and links to **digital presentations**.

IMPORTANT:
Do not show
the students
the book or
share the title
in advance!

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Connections Prior to Reading	page 4
Deeper Reading Chapter-by Chapter	page 8
The Search for Delicious Language	page 20
Connections Across Disciplines	page 25
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