

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

The main goals of this mini-unit are:

- to share in the joy of reading
- to make personal connections and connections across disciplines
- to explore advanced literary elements
- to promote appreciation of word choice and sentence structure
- to reflect on timeless themes and big ideas that have enduring relevance

The study is **not** designed to provide reinforcement of 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, incorporate the tools of [Depth and Complexity](#) and address many [ELA standards](#). These are noted in each lesson. 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 sections can be read in 4-6 minutes. The "otherworld" setting is intriguing, and the plot is 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?

This 55-page guide includes **printable student handouts** and a link to copy a **digital presentation of 165 slides** (found on p. 3).

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

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