

The Secret Lake



By

Karen Inglis

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

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About the author: Joel Reed has over 80 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit www.reednovelstudies.com

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each section of the novel study focuses on three chapters of *The Secret Lake* and is comprised of the following activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

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.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

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

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. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.
6. Complete a story pyramid

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

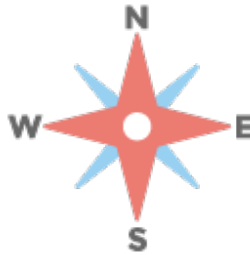
1. Research activity
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a description of personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Sheet
8. Write a letter to friends/family

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

A lost dog, a hidden time tunnel and a secret lake take Stella and Tom to their home and the children living there 100 years in the past. Here they make both friends and enemies and uncover startling connections with the present. (Courtesy of Well Said Press)

Author Biography

Karen Inglis

Karen Inglis is an international bestselling children's author of picture books, chapter books and middle grade novels. Her time travel adventure *The Secret Lake* has sold over half a million copies in English and is in translation in 10 languages. It has also received approaches for film rights. Its long-awaited sequel *Return to the Secret Lake* came out in Mar 2022 to glowing reviews. Karen's titles have all sold in their thousands.

Karen has written and presented extensively about children's self-publishing, both in the UK and at international online events. She has received traditional publishing offers over the years but for now has preferred to retain creative control over her work.

Karen has been praised by teachers, librarians and reading charities for writing captivating historical adventure mysteries as well as fun, fast-paced page-turners that engage keen and reluctant readers alike. Her illustrated chapter book *Eek! The Runaway Alien*—about an alien who runs away to Earth for the World Cup—was used in the Get London Reading campaign and voted favourite book club read three years in a row by boys and girls in a London primary school.

In her early career, Karen was Director of Studies in an English Language school. She subsequently lived and worked in New York (within the media arm of the Foreign Office) and Oslo. On returning to London she worked in marketing for the financial services industry. (Courtesy of the author's website: www.wellsaidbooks.com)



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Name: _____

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Chapter 1-3



Before you read the chapter:

The protagonist in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting protagonist?



Vocabulary:

Beside each word in Column A list the correct definition from Column B.

	COLUMN A	ANSWER		COLUMN B
1.	Suppress		A.	To dissipate or draw off in vapor or fumes.
2.	Secret		B.	People with common interests living in a particular area.
3.	Community		C.	Raised, rounded or elevated area of earth or debris.
4.	Evaporate		D.	To run nimbly and usually playfully about.
5.	Undergrowth		E.	Something hidden from knowledge or view.
6.	Mound		F.	Low growth on the forest floor, including seedlings, saplings, shrubs and herbs.
7.	Scamper		G.	To fall or stamp on so as to crush.
8.	Squelch		H.	To silence, or extinguish something or someone.

Questions



1. Circle the correct writing narrative that the novel follows, and the reason for your choice.

First Person Second Person Third Person

2. Describe the setting of the story as Chapter One begins

3. How does the author use language and literary techniques to create a specific atmosphere or mood within the novel? Provide examples to support your answer.

4. Identify two different emotions that one of the main characters went through during the first three chapters and give reasons as to why he/she felt this way.

5. Where do you think Harry the terrier keeps going? Defend your answer.

Language Activity



A. Alliteration



Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: "... **g**rouching, **g**rouching, **g**rumbling about something or other."

Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sounds of a child	
The sounds of an animal.	
One from your own imagination.	

B. Simile

A **simile** is a comparison using the words "like" or "as".

The following is an example of a simile: "Her smile was as bright as the sun."

What is being compared in this example?

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Write two of your own similes comparing two different things.

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 2 chapters of the novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6