

The Sheep-Pig



By

Dick King-Smith

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

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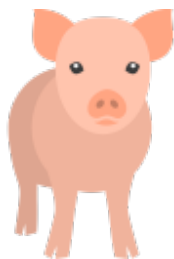


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About the author: Joel Reed has over 70 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit www.reednovelstudies.com

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Revisions Completed in 2025

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on two or three chapters of *The Sheep-Pig* and is comprised of five 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. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identify/create *similes*
13. 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.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

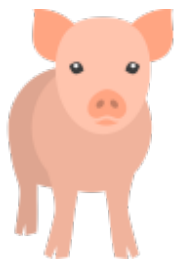
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a description of personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Sheet
8. Complete a Story Pyramid

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

When Babe, the orphaned piglet, is won at a fair by Farmer Hogget, he is adopted by Fly, the kind-hearted sheep-dog. Babe is determined to learn everything he can from Fly. He knows he can't be a sheep-dog. But maybe, just maybe, he might be a sheep-dog. (Puffin Books)

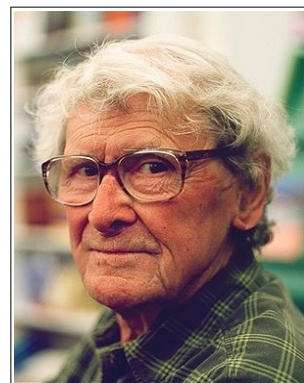
A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sheep-Pig

Author Biography

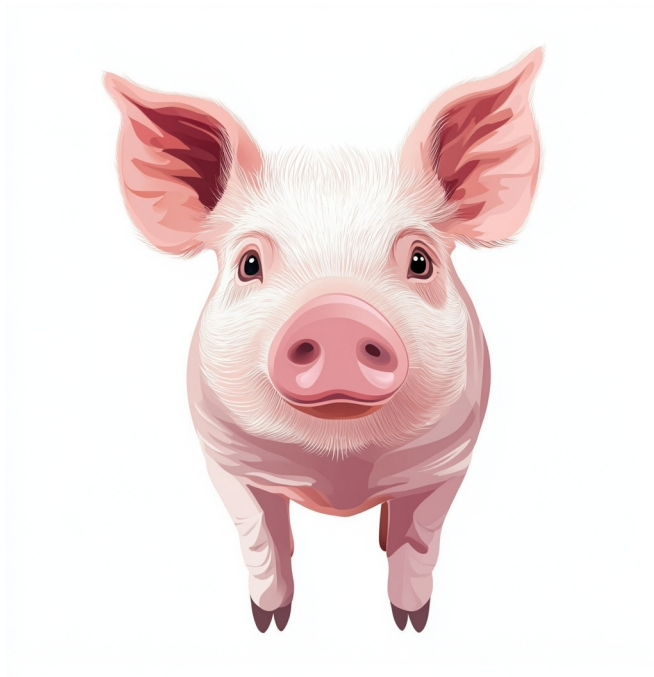
Dick King-Smith

Ronald Gordon King-Smith (27 March 1922 – 4 January 2011), was a prolific English writer of children's books, primarily using the pen name Dick King-Smith. He is best known for *The Sheep Pig* (1983), or *Babe The Gallant Pig* in the US. It was adapted as the movie *Babe* (1995) and translations have been published in fifteen languages. He was awarded an Honorary Master of Education degree by the University of the West of England in 1999 and appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2010 New Year Honours.



Dick King-Smith grew up in the West Country, where his family ran several paper mills, and was educated at Beaudesert Park School and Marlborough College. He was a soldier in World War II, serving with the Grenadier Guards in Italy and a farmer for 20 years before he became a teacher and author. King-Smith's first book was *The Fox Busters*, published in 1978. He married his first wife, Myrle, in 1943. They had three children Juliet, Giles and Liz. Myrle died in 2000, and King-Smith subsequently married Zona Bedding, a family friend. (Coutesy of Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_King_Smith)

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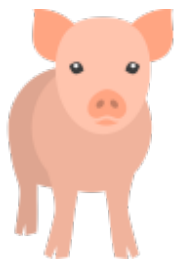


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Name: _____

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Chapter 1-2



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of **The Sheep-Pig** is Babe, a polite, ambitious and adventurous pig. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Write a list of three different synonyms* for each of the following words.

Word	Synonym 1	Synonym 2	Synonym 3
Friend			
Courage			
Enemy			
Polite			
Shout			

* A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word.

Questions



1. Describe the **setting** of the story as Chapter One begins.

2. What did Babe do every time someone picked him up at the fair to guess his weight?

b. What did Babe do when Farmer Hogget picked him up?

3. Farmer Hogget was bemoaning the fact that he had never won anything in his life, but he ended up winning Babe as a prize. Describe a time in your own life where you or someone you know won a prize. What did you win, and how did you win it?

4. Briefly describe how Fly (the sheep-dog) took to Babe (the pig).

Language Activities



A. 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 sound of a pig.	
The sound of a dog.	
One from your own imagination.	

B. A **simile** is a comparison using the words "like" or "as". Here is an example of a simile "*People only eat stupid animals. Like sheep and cows and ducks and chickens.*"

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) A pig rolling in the mud.

--

b) A dog herding sheep in a pasture.

--

C. Write the plural of the following nouns listed in the table below. Careful – you may wish to consult a dictionary for some of these words.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
Sheep	
Pig	
Puppy	
Turkey	
Chicken	
Calf	
Fish	
Woman	
Man	
Mouse	

D. Place the following words from these chapters in **alphabetical order**.

Murder	1.
Medley	2.
Minute	3.
Moment	4.
Matters	5.
Manoeuvre	6.
Mangers	7.
Mother	8.
Mention	9.
Machine	10.

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