

# Three Times Lucky



By

Sheila Turnage

A Novel Study  
by Joel Michel Reed

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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](http://www.reednovelstudies.com)

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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 2 or 3 chapters of *Three Times Lucky* and is comprised of 5 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 *anagrams*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identify *personification*
11. 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 *cliffhangers*
4. Identify the climax of the novel.

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Complete a character comparison
3. 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. Identify types of conflict.
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Sheet
9. KWS Chart
10. Complete a 5W Chart

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Write a secret message
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip
6. Identify the perpetrator!

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## Synopsis

Mo's summer is looking good. But that's before the murder, the kidnapping, the car crash, and the hurricane. If ever there was a time for Mo to put her detective skills to work, this is it. Good thing Mo's always been lucky. (Publisher – Puffin Books)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found online:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three\\_Times\\_Lucky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Times_Lucky)

## Author Biography

Sheila Turnage

Sheila Turnage grew up on a farm in Eastern North Carolina. She's a graduate of East Carolina University and the author of several books. She's written two nonfiction books (including *Haunted Inns of the Southeast*) and one picture book, as well as *Three Times Lucky* and *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing*.



*Three Times Lucky* – Miss Moses LoBeau's first mystery – received a Newbery Honor in 2013, and was named an Edgar Award Finalist for best juvenile mystery of the year. The New York Times Bestseller was also named an EB White Read-Aloud Honor Book and SIBA's Best Young Adult novel of 2013.

*Three Times Lucky* was selected a best book of the year by Booklist, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Bookpage, Newsday, The Wall Street Journal, and Read Kiddo Read. It's on several state award discussion lists, and was a Junior Library Guild Selection.

*The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing* was released in February 2014. It's a Junior Library Guild Selection and a 2014 SIBA Okra Pick. It's getting great reviews! Go Mo and Dale!

Today Sheila lives on a farm in Eastern North Carolina with her husband, a smart dog, a dozen chickens and a flock of guineas. She's working on Mo and Dale's next adventure, and visiting schools and bookstores to talk about her books.

Biography courtesy of the author's website: <http://sheilaturnage.com>

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## Student Checklist

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapters 1-2



**Before you read the chapter:**

Briefly predict what you believe the plot-line of *Three Times Lucky* will be about.




**Vocabulary:**

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

- 
- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Composure       | A. To think deeply about something.   |
| 2. Temperament     | B. The act of buying or selling something.  |
| 3. Transaction     | C. An exaggerated sense of one's own abilities.                                     |
| 4. Unsubstantiated | D. To pause before saying or doing something.                                       |
| 5. Impression      | E. To endure someone or something unpleasant.                                       |
| 6. Hesitation      | F. The feeling of being calm and in control.  |
| 7. Arrogant        | G. To steal goods using force, typically at war.                                    |
| 8. Tolerate        | H. Not supported or proven by evidence.   |
| 9. Plundered       | I. A person or animal's personal nature.  |
| 10. Contemplate    | J. A feeling or opinion about something or someone that is formed without evidence. |



# Questions



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


2. Why did Dale refer to the Colonel's new car as the 'Underbird'?


3. Why did Mo wake up Dale so early in the morning?


4. Do you think Mo and Dale did a good job managing the cafe? Why or why not?


5. What happened to the male members of Dale's family when the police were around?


6. Why do you think the Colonel lied about the date he purchased his car?


# Language Activities



## A. The United States of America

Using resources from your school library or the Internet, do some research on **The United States of America** and complete the questions listed below.

Questions	Answers
Population	
Official Language	
Currency	
Largest City	
Capital City	
Land Size (Miles)	
President/Leader	
Form of Government (Monarchy, etc)	

**B.** A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. Here's an example from Chapter Two: *“The crowd's attention swiveled to Starr, who sauntered toward the photograph. As he passed the Azalea Woman they leaned away from him, like rabbits shying away from a bobcat. “She looks familiar,” he said, squinting at the photo.”*

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent two of your own **similes** comparing two different things using your own imagination:

a)

b)

## 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 ***Three Times Lucky***. You may wish to practice your drawings before you begin.

1	2
3	4
5	6