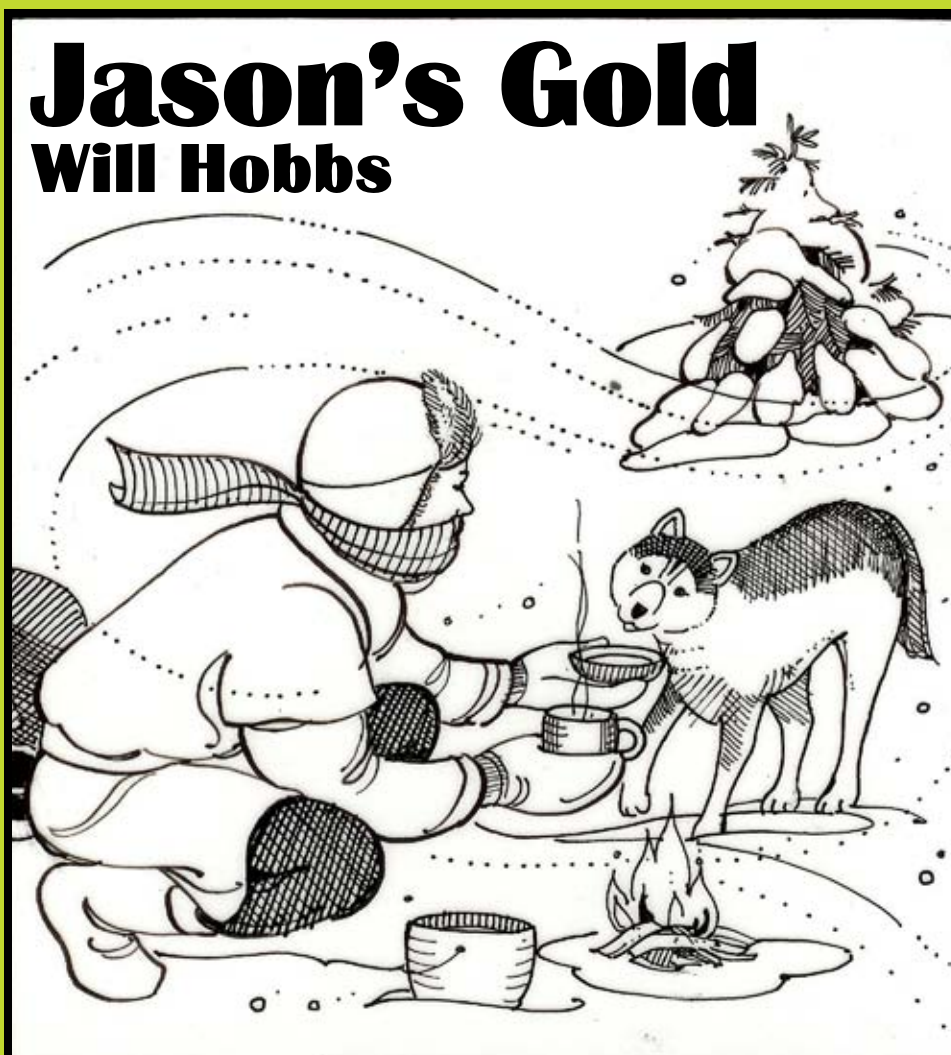


Novel·Ties

# Jason's Gold

Will Hobbs



## A Study Guide

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**LEARNING LINKS INC.**

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Jason's Gold* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

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**CHAPTERS 1 – 3**

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word in column A to its definition in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
1. stamina	a. yielded to the opinions or decisions of another out of respect
2. effusive	b. extend over or across
3. deferred	c. persuade not to take some action
4. endeavor	d. changed
5. span	e. earnest effort
6. hoarded	f. strength and endurance
7. dissuade	g. saved and stored or hid away
8. transformed	h. overly enthusiastic

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1. The town plans to build a bridge that will \_\_\_\_\_ this very wide river.
2. Jane's parents supported her \_\_\_\_\_ to earn enough money to buy a new bike.
3. Her thanks for the gift were so \_\_\_\_\_ that we began to doubt that she really liked it.
4. Naomi's boss hoped to \_\_\_\_\_ her from quitting by offering her a large raise.
5. Nick \_\_\_\_\_ his Halloween candy with the hope that it would last until Valentine's Day.
6. To be a championship athlete, you must have both talent and the \_\_\_\_\_ to practice many hours each week.
7. Since we had never visited Denver, we \_\_\_\_\_ to our travel agent's recommendations about hotels and restaurants.
8. The once sleepy village where I grew up was \_\_\_\_\_ into a bustling city during the years I had been away.

Read to find out why Jason Hawthorn decided to return to Seattle.

## Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)

### Questions:

1. How did Jason learn of the gold strike in the Klondike, and what was his reaction to this news?
2. What was “Klondicitis” and how did it infect the entire country?
3. Why did Jason pay attention to the old-timer he met on the train?
4. How did Jason plan to finance his trip to the Klondike?
5. Why did Jason believe that Seattle seemed to be a changed place?
6. How were Jason’s hopes dashed when he reached Seattle?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think it was realistic in the 1890s for a fifteen-year-old boy, such as Jason, to live on his own in New York and then to travel to the Klondike? Would it be realistic today?
2. Do you think Jason’s father would have agreed with Jason’s decision to break his vow to live on his own for a year before returning to Seattle?
3. What do you think the old-timer meant when he told Jason that “he was going to see the elephant”?
4. Do you think Jason’s brothers were justified in using Jason’s inheritance to help finance their trip to the goldfields?

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Irony*—Irony refers to a situation that is the opposite of what is expected. Considering Jason’s plans to finance his trip to the Klondike, what is ironic about the discovery he makes when he reads Abraham’s letter?

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- II. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

People were running toward him [Jason] like iron filings to a magnet.

What is being compared?

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Why is this an apt comparison?

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**Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)**

III. *Metaphor*—A metaphor is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using no direct words of comparison. For example:

The little steamer . . . set sail from Seattle crammed with . . .  
110 passengers, the first droplets of the human tidal wave that  
was to come.

What is being compared?

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Why is it better than saying, “Many people were soon to leave”?

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IV. *Idiom*—An idiom is an expression that is understood even though the words do not mean exactly what they say. For example “to get the drift” means to understand something. What does the underlined idiom in the following passage mean?

Jason folded the letter. He bit his lip. All the wind had gone out of his sails. What in the world was he going to do now?

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V. *Allusion*—An allusion in literature is a reference to a familiar person, place, object, event, or saying. The *New York Herald* article on the gold strike compares Klondikers to modern Jasons in pursuit of their golden fleeces. Look up Jason and the Argonauts on the Internet or in a reference book on Greek mythology to help you answer these questions.

- Who was Jason and what was his quest?

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- What hardships and adventures did Jason and the Argonauts encounter?

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- Why did the allusion have such a powerful impact on Jason Hawthorn?

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**Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)**

- VI. *Cliffhanger*—A cliffhanger is a device borrowed from serialized silent films in which an episode ends at a suspenseful moment. In a book it usually appears at the end of a chapter to encourage the reader to continue on in the book. What is the cliffhanger at the end of Chapter Three?
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**Writing Activities:**

1. Jason's sense of adventure leads him to flee from Seattle at the age of fifteen and work his way "on his own hook" across the country. Write about a time when you or someone you know acted in an adventuresome or impulsive way. Describe the behavior and its outcome.
2. Abraham used formal, dignified language, often referred to as elevated language, when writing his letter to Jason. A century ago, such language was often used in letters even when writing to a very close relative. Select a section of Abe's letter and rewrite it using a less formal style. You might even choose to rewrite it as an email or text message.

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Jason's Gold by Will Hobbs begins with fifteen-year-old Jason Hawthorn standing on the street in front of Grand Central Depot hawking newspapers. On that morning, July 17, 1897, the headline of the New York Herald was "Gold in Alaska". Hawthorn, like thousands of others, is immediately bitten by "Klondicitis" and the need to make the trek cross country and into the rugged wilds of Canada to reach Dawson City.