

# The Good Books Companion

Version 0.1

The Good Books Companion is a curriculum supplement using Newberry award winning novels as a basis for vocabulary development. This curriculum can also be for spelling word lists in more senior grades. Many of these books are included with other curriculums, or are used in private or classical school systems. Other features of this curriculum supplement are details on the moral themes of each book, particularly how it relates to a Christian value system. There are suggestions on how each book could be used together with other studies. Developed as a Christian service activity to families, the Good Books Companion is made available free of charge.

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## **The Golden Goblet**

Eloise Jarvis McGraw, Newberry Honor Book, 1962

### **Moral Development:**

The main character, Ranofer, decides not to steal and pays a terrible price for his decision. This book presents strong friendships, both between young men and with an older man. Set in Ancient Egypt, this book contains no explicitly Christian content.

### **Vocabulary/Spelling Development:**

#### Chapter 1

molten, crucible, destiny, ingot, exquisite, amulet, intensity, apprentice, tempered, sibilant, tarry, adder, porters, habitual

#### Chapter 2

vivid, villas, tarnished, artisans, jocular, irresolute, swerved, gnarled, continuous, canyon, whitewash, hewn, obsidian, spasmodically, eerie, countenance, wilting, cringing, invariable, tantalizing, reproachful

#### Chapter 3

jubilant, welts, glimpse, obliterated, hieroglyphs, guttural, tentative, drollest, solder, endearment, coaxed, depleted, obeisance, lingering, annealing, mollified, courteous, chided, blissful, contagion, coincide, bulwarks, insolent

#### Chapter 4

earthen, scrupulously, funerary, alcove, rustling, charcoal, snippets, scorpion, prickle, generosity

#### Chapter 5

joyiality, anxieties, ostensibly, mechanically, filthy, barbarians, urchins, papyrus, pharaoh, pasture, cackling, bloomed, witty, fragrances, dismissal, mumble, disdainfully, venomously, acacia tree, fishmonger, torrent

#### Chapter 6

wharves, traitorously, clamor, shrieking, majestically, vultures, alabaster, granite, tweezers, rhythmically, sarcophagus, resentment, disconsolately, spindle, monotonous, gangling, strode, conspicuous, malevolent, elusive, stealthy

#### Chapter 7

dykes, emerald, scythes, desiccated, treacherous, gashes, resentful, interminable, menial, diminished, contemptuously, scowl, lithe, squirming, thicket, meandering, foliage, tortoise, belligerent, wryly, enticing, aroma, trough, defiant, voluminous, dubiously, haunch, buoyant

#### Chapter 8

adorned, clod, lobes, shimmering, kinsman, chisel, imbecile, persuade, modest, grille, austere, intrusion, scanty, recrimination, superbly, agile, aptitude, diligence, scrutinize, creditable, enormous, abrupt, trivial

#### Chapter 9

scornful, superficially, paltry, obscure, dubious, contagious, skulking, quenched, smuggle, ragamuffin, conceited, yonder, irrepressible, inestimable, solemn, beckon, dawdling, drooping, wincing, precarious, thoroughfare, waddled, stolid, exhilarating, crouch

#### Chapter 10

straggly, hyena, ostrich, confer, hippopotamus, slither, ridiculous, phantom, eerily, staccato, pounce, agonize, quavering, exasperated, nocturnal, fiasco, shrine, truncated, impudent, mongrel, vicious, temerity, saliva, audacious, jolt, scarab

#### Chapter 11

roused, recede, kindle, venture, morsel, incantation, weary, ravenous, glazed, casual, wraith, conspiratorial, morose, waif

#### Chapter 12

tactful, mortal, viper, asp, civilities, vulture, scorching, convulsive, transparent

#### Chapter 13

spangled, plait, delicate, brazen, consternation, crevice, league, ominous, gilded, palanquins, retinues, ailed, aghast

#### Chapter 14

inky, kindled, shiver, vengeful, citadel, glare, camouflaged, necropolis, hilt, serenity, wicker, garland, eloquent, profound, methodically, hoarse, hideous

#### Chapter 15

expanse, crooked, outcrop, massive, reluctant, procession, summit, outskirts, bedeck, thatched, burly, apologetic, scandalize, sublime, gaudily, coherent, arbor

#### Chapters 16

luxurious, fragrant, ebony, anteroom, thronged, timbre, radiance, quaking, courtier, peremptory, impassive, errand, Mycenae, reeking, surgeon, incredulous, astonishment, elegant

#### **Suggestions for Use:**

This book describes life in Ancient Egypt and would be a good companion novel to a study of Ancient Egypt. Note that the book itself contains almost no history, and cultural/religious practices are mentioned but not explained.

## **Strawberry Girl**

Lois Lenski, Newberry Medal, 1945

### **Moral Development:**

Birdie's family moves to live in Florida, where they have problems with their neighbours, the Slaters. The father of the Slater family causes distress and difficulty for his whole family by his lazy and sinful life. But the power of Christ to change a life shines through in the end.

### **Vocabulary/Spelling Development:**

#### Forward

frontier, Seminole, replete, vigor, antecedents, staunch, diverse, localities, heritage, merit

#### Prologue

slat, drawl, dozing, palmetto

#### Chapter 1

geranium, amaryllis, akimbo, angular, mansion, picket, feeble, breezeway, ventured, oilcloth, squalling, flatiron

#### Chapter 2

vigorous, sunbonnet, manure, defiant, freight, lasso, steer, genial, wallowed, shaggy, whooping, tousled, riles

#### Chapter 3

innumerable, cud, Yankee, suspicion, gourd, sulphur, calico, shrill, chimed, aisle, recitation, morrow

#### Chapter 4

galloped, punctuated, gable, pew, melodious, congregation, bristling, frown, clenched, evidently, heap, scorn, coward, plumb

#### Chapter 5

corduroy (road), cypress, awning, hitching, millinery, yearning, forlorn, bedraggled, clutching, ornament, parlor, vase, pelted, growling, canvas, easel, palette, landscape, horizon, admired, earnest, beholden, obliged, fierce

#### Chapter 6

quench, sultry, oppressive, sinkhole, artesian well, awhile, maturity, devour, tortoise, tote, turpentine, ornery, crouched, huddle, frail

#### Chapter 7

tallow, hearty, liquor, frolic, quarrel, umbrella, balk, accompaniment, flurry, whirling, indignantly, bonfire, brisk, glum, scornful, pliers, hesitated

#### Chapter 8

ruckus, deliberately, boundaries, bleached, yonder, wiry, teamster, rickety, commotion, briskly, doomsday, sprinkled, protruding, mosquitoes, suspicious, skirting, roundabout

#### Chapter 9

squabbles, fodder, riddance, appeal, advent, burlap, nuisance, disgusted, clump, dormant, bounding, hibernate, migrating, dainty

Chapter 10

refrigerators, schemes, stagnant, intruder, flay, ventilation, foliage, buzzard, strenuous, whimper

Chapter 11

heifer, piteously, bawling, scuttling, depot, pasture

Chapter 12

pearly, billowy, swoosh, galloping, furious, calamity

Chapter 13

dicker, bargain, harangue, doubloon, stern, obliged, pillar, whippoorwill, brilliance, lullaby

Chapter 14

flickering, mullein, meager, bureau, cemetery, rations, linen, partition, splendid, precipitately, intoxicating, excessive

Chapter 15

hallelujah, phosphate, leased, flourish, fuse, commissioner, grove, sashes, awkward, elaborate, ivory, velvet, dismay

**Suggestions for Use:**

Because this book simulates the Florida accent from years ago, some children may have difficulty reading this book.