



Neptune's Honor

A Classroom Study Guide

A story of loyalty and love

Pamela Bauer Mueller

A STUDY GUIDE FOR USING
NEPTUNE’S HONOR: A Story of Loyalty and Love
IN THE CLASSROOM

Based on the book written by Pamela Bauer Mueller

This study guide was written by **Carey Giudici** and **Pamela Bauer Mueller**

Neptune’s Honor: A Story of Loyalty and Love

ISBN 0-9685097-6-2 (hardcover)

ISBN 0-9685097-5-4 PBK (soft cover)

Piñata Publishing
626 Old Plantation Road
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
(912) 635-9402
Copyright 2005
Cover Art by Earnest Butts Jr.
www.pinatapub.com

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INTRODUCTION

It is so exciting to read a good book that we often don't want the story to end! Books are like best friends. We can turn to them for comfort, guidance and companionship. And the beloved stories will stay in our hearts forever.

Educators who use this study guide will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Pre-reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- Vocabulary Lists
- Chapters grouped for study including
 - ___hands-on projects
 - ___cooperative learning activities
 - ___cross-curricular connections
 - ___extensions into the reader's own life
- Book Project Ideas
- Research Activity
- Objective Test and Essay
- Answer Key

We feel confident that this study guide will be valuable to your planning and hope your students enjoy the challenge of understanding the honor and loyalty that this book teaches.

BEFORE THE BOOK

Before you read **Neptune's Honor** with your students, here are some pre-reading activities to stimulate the class and enhance their comprehension.

1. From the title, can you guess what Neptune's Honor is about?
2. The author has written several books about animals:

The Bumpedy Road

Rain City Cats

Eight Paws to Georgia

Hello, Goodbye, I Love You

If you have read any of them, discuss them. If not, what are your favorite books about animals?

3. Divide students into small groups. Discuss one of the following topics. Have each group present their findings to the class. Allow other students to add as each group presents.
 - Have you met someone who fought in a war? Did they talk about their experiences? Why would that be difficult to talk about?
 - Have you had experiences with a violent person or a bully?
 - Describe the most dangerous situation you have experienced. What did you do to stay safe?
 - What's the biggest favor you have done for someone else? How did you feel afterwards?
 - Have you ever worked or helped out on a farm? What is your strongest memory of that experience?
 - Have you ever seen or touched a loggerhead turtle? Tell us about it.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Pamela Bauer Mueller, an award-winning children's author, brings valuable messages about relationships, love, loyalty and acceptance to school groups and civic organizations. She now resides in St. Simons Island, Georgia with her husband and cat. She was raised in Oregon and graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She worked as a flight attendant for Pan American Airlines before moving to Mexico City, where she lived for eighteen years, raising two daughters in a bicultural, bilingual environment. After returning to the United States, Pamela worked for twelve years as a U.S. Customs inspector. She served six years in San Diego and then was selected for a foreign assignment in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Ms. Bauer Mueller took an early retirement from the Customs Service to become a full-time author. She and her Mexican cat, Kiska, wrote *The Kiska Trilogy: The Bumpedy Road, Rain City Cats and Eight Paws to Georgia*, which encompassed their adventurous living in Mexico, Canada and the United States. These middle-reader books delight cat lovers of all ages.

Two years ago, Pamela's daughter decided to raise a guide dog puppy. Pamela watched this tender and heartfelt friendship between dog and puppy raiser and eventually depicted this sweet love journey in *Hello, Goodbye, I Love You: The Story of Aloha, A Guide Dog for the Blind*, an award-winning book and that was also selected as a 2004 Children's Choice selection by the International Reading Association-Children's Book Council.



Her newest book, an historical novel entitled *Neptune's Honor: A Story of Loyalty and Love*, portrays the story of two best friends in antebellum Georgia—one born into slavery and the other, the son of the slave's master. Their devoted friendship, which finally evolves into a shared struggle to survive on the Civil War battlefields, is an inspiring example of how two men from completely different backgrounds can stand united as brothers in times of sacrifice and tragedy. Based on months of extensive research, including interviews with the descendants of Neptune Small, *Neptune's Honor* delivers a powerful lesson about personal courage, bondage and ultimate freedom.

BEFORE INTEGRATION

Find someone who attended a local public school before integration between black and white students. Interview them about their feelings, problems, situations.

VOCABULARY LISTS

These vocabulary lists correspond to each sectional grouping of chapters. You may combine them with the Vocabulary Activities found below.

Section 1 (Chapters 1-7)

Deception Plantation
Bondage Osprey
Disoriented Cultivate

Section 3 (Chapters 16-22)

Verify Reverberate
Beckon Credibility
Self-assured Languish

Section 2 (Chapters 8-15)

Absentee Malaria
Uprisings Gelding
Providential Fowl

Section 4 (Chapters 23-End)

Festive Gouged
Percussion Abolish
Aspirations Secede

MAKE A MODEL

Create a model representation of a plantation: brainstorm as a class about what buildings and features to build, and have small groups specialized on constructing the buildings, flora, fauna, animals, etc.

The teacher can let you know what materials can be supplied through the school. You could divide equally the responsibility for bringing other needed supplies.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

Use vocabulary words to create word search or crossword puzzles.
Have a vocabulary bee (correct answer gives spelling and meaning).
Vocabulary “pictionary” on whiteboard.
Password game.
Play Vocabulary Charades: act out words.

ALL ABOUT THE GOLDEN ISLES

Create information piece to describe the highest and lowest recorded temperatures, the average annual rainfall, sizes and changes in marshes and islands, flora and fauna, animals living in the marshes, etc. Use magazine and/or the Internet to collect pictures that show or represent these features. Research the place where you live!

READING RESPONSE JOURNALS

Have the students make a journal as they read **Neptune's Honor**. The purpose is to record their thoughts, ideas, observations, and questions as they read the book. Provide students with or ask them to suggest topics from the story that would stimulate writing.

--Neptune wants to spend all his time with his best friend, but doesn't want to miss opportunities to spend with his family. How does he resolve this problem?

--How can Neptune satisfy his curiosity and ambivalence about slavery? Where does he turn for answers?

--When he must choose between staying home with his family or fulfilling his promise to Miss Anna Matilda, what does Neptune do? How does he feel making this decision?

After reading each section of the novel, students can write about events that took place in that section and their responses to those events.

Tell students they may want to use their journals as a diary Neptune or Lordy could have written during the Civil War.

Ask students to draw a time line of the main events in their journals.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Can the students give examples from the book of how cause and effect works? In their own lives? Read examples below and then work with a partner to match the causes and effects from **Neptune's Honor**.

Cause

The student studied very hard.
The student did not study.

Effect

The student earned an A on the exam.
The student failed the test.

Causes

Effects

FACTS OR OPINIONS

As the students read **Neptune's Honor**, they can practice distinguishing between fact and opinion. A fact is something that can be proved or verified.

Opinion: There are many beautiful fish in the ocean. (Whether or not they are beautiful is a matter of opinion. There is no way to prove that statement.)

Fact: Fish live in the ocean. (We can see they live there.)

After reading the book, write an **F** or **O** to identify each of the following as a fact or an opinion:

1. ___ Every Southerner wanted to secede from the North before the Civil War.
2. ___ The typical Georgia plantation grew a variety of crops.
3. ___ Every slave was mistreated by his or her master.
4. ___ Tabby is a building material made from oyster shells, sand and lime.
5. ___ During the Civil War, more soldiers died from sickness than in battle.
6. ___ Given the opportunity, every slave would escape.
7. ___ Anna Matilda ran the plantation effectively.
8. ___ Pneumonia was a disease affecting plantation inhabitants.
9. ___ Anna Matilda's roses had the best aroma and beauty in the area.
- 10 ___ The grey Confederate coats were adorned with ten horizontal stripes.

CONFLICTS:

Conflict is the struggle against an obstacle or opposing force. Conflict can be broken down into six types.

- A. Person vs. Self-The character faces a struggle against his emotions, conscience, or abilities.
- B. Person vs. Person-The character struggles against another person.
- C. Person vs. Society-The character struggles against something presented by society or a representative of society. (A convicted man appeals a jury's verdict he feels is unfair.)
- D. Person vs. Nature-The character struggles against the force of nature. (A man's house is blown away in a hurricane.)
- E. Person vs. Unknown-The character struggles against an unknown force. (He was afraid by strange noises.)

Try to find examples of each type of conflict from the book. What type of conflict would bother you the most? Why? How could you resolve it?

WHAT A CHARACTER!

Authors use characterization to give depth to a story and increase reader involvement. This can include physical descriptions, or personality traits. Characterization even describes skills, strengths, weaknesses and habits.

Complete the following chart about the characters from Neptune's Honor. List their nicknames and adjectives that describe them and their traits.

Character	Nickname	Description
Neptune Small		
	Tootee	
Henry Lord King		
Anna Matilda King		
	Malley	
Sukey		
	Tip	
Brigadier General T.R.R. Cobb		
Thomas Butler King		
Ila		
	Tigerhead	

UNDERSTANDING POINT OF VIEW

In any situation, people are going to have different points of view about what has happened, what is happening, and what should happen. In **Neptune's Honor**, the story is presented from Neptune Small's point of view. As readers, we are given a firsthand account of how he feels about what is happening and how he views the events. Are there other points of view in the story? Explore some different viewpoints and share with the class how you think the other characters might feel.

1. Read Chapter Seven (page 49) and try to imagine how Lordy would write what happened on their fishing trip in a letter to his father, and how he felt about it.
2. Read Chapter 7 (page 52) and try to imagine how Quamina would tell a friend about the Ebo Landing tragedy.
3. Now read Chapter 2 (page 24). Pretend you are Anna Matilda writing to a non-Southern friend about slavery and how you feel about it.
4. Read Chapter 37 (page 171). Imagine a conversation between the Confederate officer who helped Neptune find Lordy and a fellow officer about the actions of Lordy and Neptune on the battlefield.

Volunteers can share their writings with the class or present their conversation with a partner.

BOOK PROJECT IDEAS

A Television Talk Show: Organize a talk show with classmates. You will need a host, guests and an audience. The guests should be characters from **Neptune's Honor**. The host questions them about the events from the book.

Autobiography: Assume the identity of Neptune. Write a fictional autobiography beginning with his earliest memories of childhood through what you believe happened to him after the book ended. Make things up and use your imagination.

Musical Magic: Write a ballad about Lordy's or Neptune's experiences growing up on Retreat Plantation. A ballad is a poem that tells a story and is often set to music. Perform your ballad for the class with/without musical accompaniment.

Cover That Book: Create an original book jacket for **Neptune's Honor**. Include artwork for the front and back—a summary in the inside front flap and information about the author on the back inside flap. Make it original and different from the actual cover.

RESEARCH IDEAS

All of the following topics were mentioned in **Neptune's Honor**. Choose one that interests you and research it. Present your findings to the class.

Social Issues:

Slavery

War Between the North and South

Bondage

Geography:

Georgia

Virginia

Texas

California

Genealogy:

Your family tree and history dating back 4 generations

Neptune's family tree and history dating back 4 generations

Lordy's family tree and history dating back 4 generations

Famous Inventors:

Eli Whitney

Louis Pasteur

Orville and Wilbur Wright

Alexander Graham Bell

Thomas Alva Edison

FIND THE MAIN IDEA

Have each student or team come up with a chapter title for every chapter of **Neptune's Honor**. They may want to explain to the class why they picked each title.

OBJECTIVE TEST AND ESSAY

CHILDHOOD:

Cause and Effect: Match the cause on the left with the effect that most directly follows:

Cause	Effect
___1. Anna Matilda lost her oldest son at the age of six.	A. She became as good at fishing and sports as they did.
___2. The King family taught some slaves to read.	B. She thought never wanted to return to Retreat Plantation to live.
___3. Thomas Butler King traveled much of the time.	C. They had no control over their lives.
___4. Neptune and his family belonged to the Kings.	D. Other plantation owners criticized the Kings.
___5. Georgia followed Lordy and Neptune everywhere.	E. Anna Matilda had to run the plantation with her slaves.

True or False: Write True or False in the blank for each statement.

- ___ 6. Being a foster playmate for the King family allowed Neptune to study with the King children.
- ___7. Slave children began working in the fields as soon as they could walk.
- ___8. Lordy sprained his ankle when he disobeyed his parents' rules about swimming.
- ___9. Plantation children were never allowed to sing the slaves' working songs.
- ___10. Neptune and Lordy had such a close friendship they often acted like twins.

Essay:

Describe the event where Lordy sprained his ankle in the water and Neptune took care of him.

BOYHOOD:

Sequencing: Place the following events in order by placing numbers 1-5 in the blanks.

- ___11. Tootee King married William Couper at Christ Church Frederica.
- ___12. Neptune and Lordy get baptized in separate ceremonies.
- ___13. The boys learn the story of the African slaves who preferred drowning over bondage at the Ebo Landing.
- ___14. Lordy leaves home to study to become an attorney.
- ___15. Thomas Butler King buys the boys horses.

Matching: Match each character with the appropriate description.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ___16. Nurturing, capable, organized, hopeful, proud | A. Ila |
| ___17. Quiet, strong, trustworthy, dignified | B. Quamina |
| ___18. Beautiful, brave, demure, intelligent | C. Neptune |
| ___19. Kind, politically ambitious, absent, risk-taker | D. Anna Matilda |
| ___20. Generous, loyal, devoted to King family, good-hearted | E. Thomas B. King |

MANHOOD:

Conflict: Identify the type of conflict presented in each situation by placing the corresponding letter in the blank. Letters can be used more than once.

Types of Conflict

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Person vs. Self | D. Person vs. Person |
| B. Person vs. Society | E. Person vs. Unknown |
| C. Person vs. Nature | |

- ___21. Major Gen. McLaws requested a volunteer to ride through the enemy and carry a message. Captain Henry Lord King, knowing the danger involved, volunteered.
- ___22. Neptune loved his wife and child, but felt he must keep his promise to Anna Matilda to always care for Lordy.
- ___23. President Lincoln knew the agricultural states needed slaves to work the lands, but wanted to set them free and have them receive payment to work.

___24. Tigerhead blatantly disobeyed the orders given by his cruel master, Lieutenant Rushen Rose.

___25. The tragedy of one more death of a loved one was more than Anna Matilda could bear.

Essay: Write two paragraphs that describe two examples of desperation from **Neptune's Honor**. Use complete sentences and explain each example fully

ANSWER KEY

Page 8: Facts or Opinions

1. Opinion
2. Fact
3. Opinion
4. Fact
5. Fact
6. Opinion
7. Fact
8. Fact
9. Opinion
10. Fact

Page 9: What A Character!

1. **Neptune Small**-no nickname; small, wiry, curly black hair, devoted, loyal, smart, kind hearted, honorable, etc.
2. **Tootee**- Hannah Matilda Page King-oldest daughter of Anna Matilda and Thomas Butler King. Her mother's confidante, good mother to seven children, strong, dark-haired and attractive, dedicated to her family and slaves, etc.
3. **Henry Lord Page King**-nicknamed Lordy; ambitious, intelligent, hard working, loyal, good brother, leadership skills, etc.
4. **Mallery**-Mallery Page King-close friend of Neptune and Lordy, helpful with younger siblings, popular with friends and family, etc.
5. **Sukey**-no nickname-mother of Neptune Small and wife of Neptune Sr. Nurse, cook, devoted mother of eight children, hard working, compassionate, intelligent, etc.
5. **Tip**-Richard Cuyler King-youngest of the ten King children. Pampered, greatly loved by everyone, smart, inquisitive, etc.
6. **Brigadier-General T.R.R. Cobb**-Lordy's Division Commander in battle, mortally wounded the same day that Captain Henry Lord Page King was killed in the Battle of Fredericksburg. Courageous, loyal, strong principled leader, etc.
7. **Thomas Butler King**-Lordy's father. Absentee plantation owner, political, loving, ambitious, selfish, etc.
8. **Ila**-Neptune Small's wife, mother of five children. Brave, beautiful, loyal, compassionate, hard working, kind.
9. **Tigerhead**-slave of Lieutenant Rushen Rose who befriended Neptune in the war. Mis-treated, humbled and hurt, negative outlook, resentful, etc.

Page 11: Objective Test and Essay

1. B 3. E 5. A
2. D 4. C

True or False

6. True
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. True

Pages 12 and 13:

Sequencing Order

13, 15, 12, 11, 14

Matching

- 16. D
- 17. B
- 18. A
- 19. E
- 20. C

Types of Conflict

- 21. E, A
- 22. A, D
- 23. A, B, E
- 24. A, B, D
- 25. A