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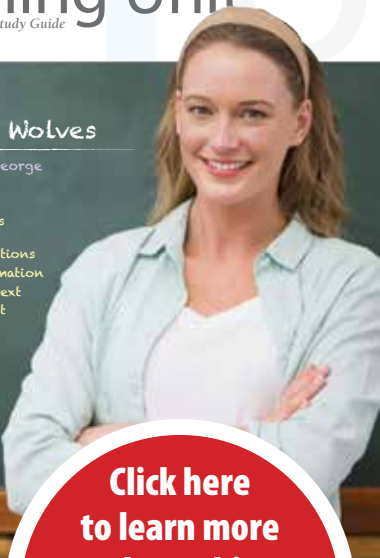
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Julie of the Wolves

by Jean Craighead George

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938
www.prestwickhouse.com
800.932.4593

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Julie of the Wolves

Note to the Teacher

The setting of *Julie of the Wolves* is the Arctic tundra in relatively modern times. This time element of setting is quite important because the main character, Julie, although aware of the modern world, is only able to stay alive through her people's ancient methods of survival. Julie, whose Eskimo name is Miyax, desires to become more modern and live in San Francisco. It is this desire that is in constant conflict with the older, truer ways. (Since the book was written in 1972, "Innuït" could be substituted for "Eskimo," as the modern convention dictates).

Because of the unusual customs and language, the author requires the reader to become acquainted with ways and language of the residents of the Arctic. Because it may at times become difficult for the average reader to follow the unfamiliar names and customs, a phrase sheet identifies some of the more important terms which may not be easily understood.

Julie of the Wolves

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. list at least three ways the setting influenced the action of this novel.
2. list and discuss the elements of the novel which show that *Rite of Passage* is one of its major themes.
3. identify the elements of the culture of the Northern peoples that readers learn from reading this novel.
4. identify and discuss the major conflicts in the novel.
5. identify flashback scenes and point out how they advance the plot.
6. identify the role traditional beliefs played in the lives of the major characters and discuss how the old ways clashed with the new ways.
7. support or refute the following assertion by referring to incidents in the novel: "A major theme in this novel is that the older, traditional ways of the native people are being wiped out by the encroaching beliefs and values of the modern world."
8. write a character profile for the major characters by stating a generalization and supporting it with specific details from the novel.

Julie of the Wolves

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. “Coming of Age” or “Rite of Passage” novels show the ways in which the characters grow and mature. We see them at the beginning as children or childlike, but by the end of the story the main characters have changed and grown, in that they become more mature and knowledgeable about themselves and the world around them. In some novels, this transformation takes years. Julie’s conversion from a frightened, insecure girl into a mature, aware, confident person took less than a year. Explain how dealing with survival, combined with her own growth, made *Julie of the Wolves* a coming of age novel.
2. This novel has at its center the relationship between Julie and her environment, which forced Julie to face all three types of literary conflict: man vs. man, man vs. his environment, and man vs. himself. These three types of conflicts were present in nearly every section of *Julie of the Wolves*. Julie was able to overcome these obstacles by using her Eskimo knowledge, common sense, and reliance on her wolf pack. Discuss and give an example of each type of conflict and show how Julie/Miyax overcame the obstacle in order to survive.
3. Even though we are not given an exact time for *Julie of the Wolves*, it can be assumed that it took place in modern times. In a short essay support or refute this assumption based on facts from the story.
4. Authors usually try to make their characters and the characters’ actions believable. In this novel the many plot twists may come as a surprise to the reader. Consider these points: Julie spends half the novel trying to leave the Arctic; then she decides to stay. She then travels many miles to find her father only to leave immediately after meeting him. Did these or any other of her actions show Julie as a real person or did they seem false to you? Explain your answer in a short essay.
5. In *Julie of the Wolves*, the entire second chapter is a flashback to the time before Julie wandered throughout the tundra. Discuss how this long flashback affected the telling of the story. Point out what made the beginning of the novel more effective than if the story had been told in a normal time-order sequence.
6. Julie’s survival depended directly on the wolf pack. Give examples of how the wolves’ behaviors affected the story, and how it might have been different if the wolves had behaved in a different manner.

3. What did the Arctic look like?

4. Where did Julie want to go and why did she wish to go there?

5. To survive, what did Julie fix to eat for herself?

6. How did Julie get Amaroq to accept her?

7. What is the sun like in the Arctic summer?

8. Julie saw the older wolves feed the younger ones in what way?

Chapter III

VOCABULARY

abeyance – stop; to cease
bestial – savage, like an animal
enamored – fascinated by
engulfed – surrounded by, swallowed up by
resonant – loud and reverberating
totem – superstitious or religious item

1. Why did Jello destroy Julie's house?

2. What did the return of the lemmings signify?

3. The caribou were fighting among themselves. What did this mean?

4. Why did Amaroq attack Jello?
