

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

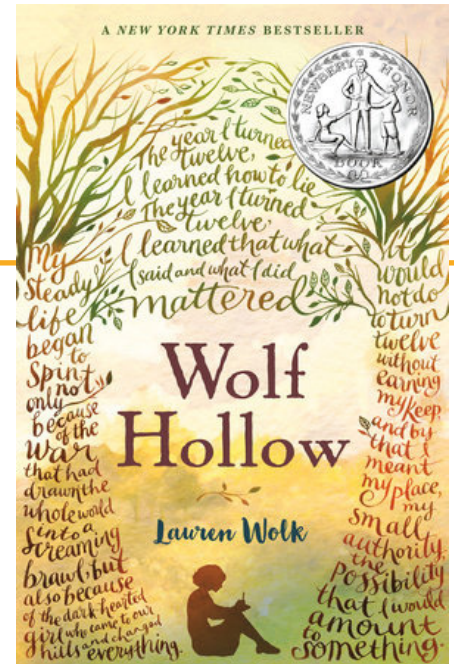
Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!



MEET LAUREN

Lauren Wolk is an award-winning poet and author. She is the bestselling author of three novels for young readers, Newbery Honor-winning *Wolf Hollow* (2016), the sequel *My Own Lightning* (2022), and *Beyond the Bright Sea* (2017). She was born in Baltimore and has since lived in California, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Canada, and Ohio. She now lives with her family on Cape Cod.

Learn more about Lauren [HERE](#).



LET'S BEGIN! BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S TALK!

Discussion Questions

1. In the beginning of the book, Annabelle talks about how she learned that what she 'said and did mattered' and how this was sometimes a burden. What experiences in your life have made you feel this way?
2. When Annabelle was first bullied by Betty, she decided she could handle it herself, and chose not to tell anyone about it, even when Betty began to threaten the safety of her and her brothers. Was this the right decision? Should she have told someone sooner?
3. Toby tells Annabelle many horrifying stories from his time in the war. She hopes that someday she will be able to tell them to someone. Why do some stories need to be told, even if they are unpleasant?
4. At the end of the book, Aunt Lily admits that she "regrets passing judgment on that man," in reference to her disdain toward Toby. What causes people to judge others? Did Lily have a good reason for her opinion of Toby?
5. Annabelle has to lie to protect Toby. Do you think it's okay to tell lies, if the lies are intended to protect someone?
6. When Betty throws a rock at Mr. Ansel, it hits Ruth, and causes her to lose her eye. Why are hate crimes especially hurtful?
7. Why does Betty hate the Germans for "being bullies," when she is such a bully herself?
8. Why do you think that, when the police caught up with Toby, he reached for his gun even though, by doing so, he was making himself appear guilty and threatening?
9. Toby carries around three guns on his back, even though two of them don't work. Annabelle comes to the conclusion that he carries them "because they are heavy." What do you think she means by this? Do you agree that this is the reason?
10. When Annabelle sees Toby's photograph of a sleeping deer, she wonders about why a man who doesn't have enough to eat would choose to shoot his deer with a camera instead of with a gun. Why do you think Toby did this? What does this show you about him?

STANDARDS Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3. Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5. Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8. Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

LET'S CREATE! Book-Inspired Art

Create a photo collage to rival Toby's! After taking digital photographs, use free editing software (such as PicMonkey) to add black-and-white or daguerreotype filters. Print the photos and combine them as a collage to show your own unique perspective.

Pretend you are Betty and write a journal entry for the day she hit Ruth with a rock. How do you think Betty felt? How do you think she would describe her experience?

Draw each main character together in one scene, and include a **dialogue bubble** above each of their heads saying what it is they learned about themselves or the world by the end of the book.

Read the poem "*13 Ways of Looking at Blackbird*". Choose a character from *Wolf Hollow* and, like Wallace Stevens write a poem where every stanza offers a different perspective of your character.

Scour the story for words and phrases that you can gather into a FOUND POEM.

allow words
(sometimes
pictures) to be
understood as
representing a
character's speech
or thoughts.

Wolf Hollow, Pennsylvania by Lauren Wolk

They used to dig ditches here to catch wolves.
Deep gashes stitched with roots,
 slick with melt,
 baited with deer necks
 that drew the wolves in,
 even the mothers, full of pups.

All night long, they fell and fell,
brewed fog with their own heat,
dug everywhere only to find
endless earth and darkness
and the bones of other buried things.

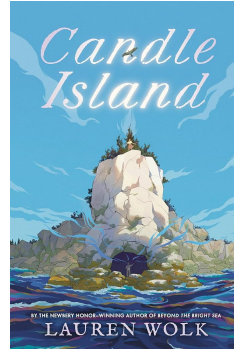
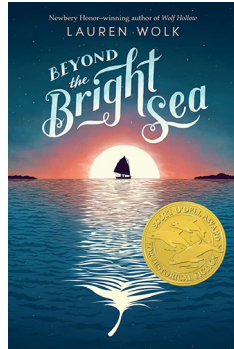
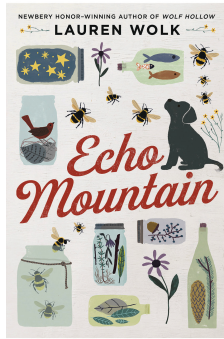
In the morning, they barked
and shied and bared their muddy teeth at the
farmers who shot them from above and cut off their
ears for the bounty.

The tiny ears of the pups,
born on the tip of a knife,
were like pink rose petals
that curled and stiffened
 in my hand as they dried.
That is what I remember best
of the year before I was old enough to hold
 a shovel or a gun.

Lauren Wolk also wrote a poem about Wolf Hollow, though it's from another resident's perspective. Write a poem or prose response to Lauren's poem, reflecting on how reading her poem affected you.

LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

Try reading some of Lauren's other work and complete an author study



An **Author Study** is an opportunity to delve deeply into an author's life and work, explore themes, characters, and writing style.

[WATCH](#) IRW's Wolf Hollow book trailer, created by Summer 2017 interns Alicia and Tilly.

Research historical background on gathering milkweed pods

Remembering War: This story takes place during the WWII Era. Research and learn about WWII through the stories of those who witnessed it firsthand, like Toby did in World War I.

Go on a treasure hunt among the [FSA Photograph Collection](#) (1935-1944) to find the closest photographic representation to Annabelle in Wolf Hollow, Pennsylvania.

LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections

