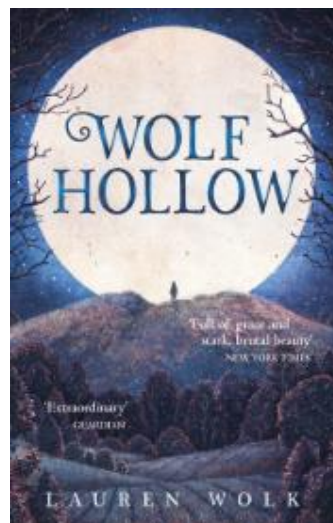


2017 Carnegie Medal shortlist Talking Points

Title: **Wolf Hollow**
Author: **Lauren Wolk**
Publisher: **Corgi**



WOLF HOLLOW (THE SETTING)

How important is this particular setting – rural Pennsylvania, at the time of the Second World War – to the story that happens there?

How well does the author bring this particular place and time to life?

Is the backdrop to the story portrayed as a safe place, or a threatening one?

ANNABELLE, THE NARRATOR

“The year I turned twelve, I learned how to lie.” A good first line?

How close is Annabelle to the family she lives with?

How believable did you find her as a character, and how distinctive is her voice?

Does she always do the right thing?

BETTY AND TOBY

Betty and Toby couldn't be more different, in so many ways – but as people who come into Annabelle's life and unsettle the balance, do they have things in common too? (Some have compared both of them to wolves, too, in different ways – why do you think this is?)

Does the author try to make Betty at least partly sympathetic, or is she just all bad?

The author has compared Betty's evil bullying to what was happening on a more massive scale in the war – can you see the connection?



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PREJUDICE, SECRECY

There are lots of things we don't know (what happened to Betty's father?) – do you think it's good that the author keeps some information from us? Why do you think she does it?

Why is Toby reluctant to talk about his First World War experiences?

In part this is a book about prejudice and bigotry, and judging people by appearances – who's guilty of this? What happens when these judgments get out of hand?

RIGHT AND WRONG

“The year I turned 12, I learned how to lie” – why is this a significant moment in her life?

Annabelle decides that she might need to do wrong to do right – and that in certain circumstances lying might be necessary and justified. Do you agree with her? Is it a brave decision?

This is described as a coming-of-age story – so how does Annabelle grow in it, and what does she learn about the moral complexity of the world?

ENDINGS

The ending of the book isn't a simply happy ending, but is it the right ending for this story?

The reader may hope for justice to be served at the end of the book – is it?

How did you feel about Betty's eventual fate? Mixed feelings at all?

AND FINALLY...

Does this Carnegie-shortlisted book deserve to win? Why, or why not?



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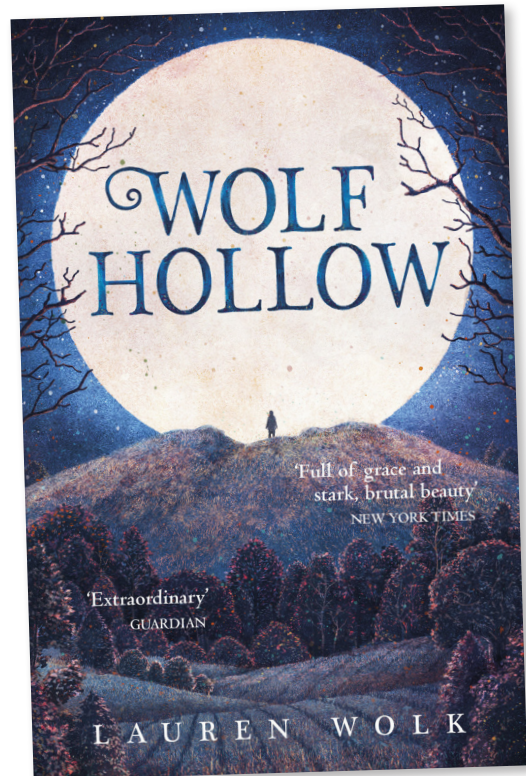
WOLF HOLLOW

by Lauren Wolk

Corgi Children's Books

Shortlisted for the 2017 Kate Greenaway Medal and the Amnesty CILIP Honour

'A truthful exploration of small-time attitudes and injustice without being overly sentimental, it tackles questions of mortality. Every character is believable' – Judging panel



We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.

Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Set in Western Pennsylvania in 1943, this book tells a story of standing up to injustice. Annabelle lives a quiet, steady life – until bully Betty walks into her class. Annabelle doesn't understand why Betty is hurtful and violent. As Annabelle tries to defend her brothers, herself and a former soldier, she discovers right and wrong aren't so clearly divided.

“*But Wolf Hollow was also where I learned to tell the truth in that year before I turned twelve: about things from which refuge was impossible. Wrong, even.*”

Annabelle

HUMAN RIGHTS THEMES IN THIS STORY

Discrimination; right to education; right to healthcare and a good standard of living; war and the rights of veterans; right to life; right to safety; right to a fair trial; truth and justice.

YOU CAN TALK ABOUT...

Equality

- Who is discriminated against and why?
- How do other characters react to the injustices they witness?
- How do you feel about how Mr Ansel and Aunt Lily behave?
- How would Annabelle describe Toby? How would the rest of the town describe him?

The right to a good life and our duty to others

- What do you think happened to Toby during his time as a soldier?
- Did his story make you see how
 - a) trauma can change someone and
 - b) we extend little sympathy and patience to those we don't understand?
- What should we do for people who are affected by war?

The right to safety and to be free from cruelty

- ‘You’ll learn to look after your own self, too,’ says Betty. Does she feel being cruel is protecting herself?
- Why does Betty kill the quail?
- Why doesn’t Annabelle initially tell her mum about Betty?

Education

- Why don’t the boys see the point of school?
- What is the impact of having only one teacher?
- Why is education so important that it is included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Finally...

- Should Annabelle have done anything differently?
- Would you have been as brave as she is?
- What does the title Wolf Hollow refer to?

ACTIVITY

Annabelle describes Betty as a ‘dark-hearted girl’ but we never discover why she bullies to such an extreme. Imagine a backstory for Betty and write a diary entry for the night before her first day at school. Include how she feels about having to start somewhere new, whether she is angry with anyone in particular and what she thinks the following day will be like.

RESEARCH

Toby was a soldier in World War I and is traumatised by the experience. Find out what support is given to soldiers and whether their right to receive care for their physical and mental health are met.

We are all born free and equal

The atrocities of World War II sparked a determination to protect the rights of all human beings, everywhere. On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The preamble says it must be shared, learned by children and be a part of all our lives.

For a simplified version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights go to www.amnesty.org.uk/udhr

For more free educational resources from Amnesty International go to www.amnesty.org.uk/education



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