

A Wolf Called Wander



By

Rosanne Parry

A Novel Study
by Nat and Joel Reed

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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit novelstudies.org.

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one or two chapters of *A Wolf Called Wander* and is comprised of the following different activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include wolves, ecology, the Pacific northwest, courage and perseverance, family bonds, the circle of life, personal growth, survival, facing your fears, coming of age and dealing with loss.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Identify *anagrams*
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identify/create *similes*
11. Identification of root words

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.
6. Complete a Story Pyramid

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in an interview
4. Create a poem
5. Write a description of personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Chart
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Swift, a wild wolf cub, lives with his pack in the mountains. When a rival pack attacks, Swift and his family scatter, and Swift sets out on an incredible journey through dense forests, into barren wilderness, and across flowing water. The trip is dangerous and full of peril, and Swift encounters foe, hunger, hunter, and highways as he wanders. Will Swift find the courage to survive? Will he ever find a place to call home?

A Wolf Called Wander is based on the extraordinary true story of a wolf called PR-7 (and often called Journey) – a wild wolf who traveled a remarkable 1,000 miles across the Pacific Northwest. [Courtesy of the publisher]

Author Biography Roseanne Parry

Rosanne Parry is the author of seven award-winning middle grade novels, including the newly released *A Whale of the Wild* and the NY Times best seller *A Wolf Called Wander* which is published in 11 languages. Rosanne is a part-time bookseller at legendary Portland independent bookstore, Annie Blooms, and is the captain of the League of Exceptional Writers, a free mentoring workshop for young avid readers and writers. She lives with her family in an old farmhouse in Portland Oregon and writes in a treehouse in her backyard. You can find Rosanne at www.rosanneparry.com



Here's a list of her books *Heart of a Shepherd*, *Second Fiddle*, *Written in Stone*, *The Turn of the Tide*, *Last of the Name*, *A Wolf Called Wander*, *A Whale of the Wild*.

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Student Checklist

Student Name _____

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

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Name: _____

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Pack



Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The main character of *A Wolf Called Wander* is Swift, wolf raised in the wilds of the Pacific northwest. Do you think it would be more challenging for an author to feature an animal or a person as the novel's protagonist? Please explain your choice.



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

drowse	pounce	whimper	thwaps
harsh	scent	wrestle	kin

1. I can't keep the wag out of my tail. It _____ on the den roof and rains down dirt.
2. After supper Papa John lay down on the couch and began to _____.
3. “How can he be _____ to us?” Patsy asked. “He has a different last name.”
4. The two wolf pups began to _____ playfully until stopped by their mother.
5. The weather outside was so _____ that we all decided to play indoors.
6. Swift thought that Sharp was going to _____, so he scampered out of harm's way.
7. The bloodhound soon caught the _____ of the raccoon on the wind and took up the chase.
8. “Please don't _____ so,” Aunt Matilda said crossly. “It sets my nerves on edge.”

Questions



1. What is the **setting** of the story at the beginning of this chapter?

2. Think of at least one adjective to describe each of Swift and his siblings (or a reason the pup was given this name).

Swift	
Sharp	
Pounce	
Wag	
Warm	

3. How does Swift make up for being the second smallest wolf pup in the family?

4. Why do you think it was important for Swift that he grow to be bigger than Sharp?

5. How does Swift already show that he will one day make a good leader of the pack?

6. Mother does not want Swift to venture out of the den by himself. What dangers do you think might await a young wolf pup alone in the wild?

7. Why do you think the howl is so important to a wolf pack?

8. What was your impression of Swift's father? What helped you form this impression?

9. Define **weaning**. Describe how a wolf pup is weaned?

10. What animal meat was given to the pups?

Language Activities



A. The Timber Wolf

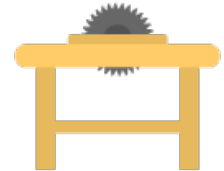
By the time you finish reading this novel you will have learned a great deal about the North American timber wolf. Did you know, for instance, that the howl of each wolf is unique? Did you know that they are the largest member of the dog family? Investigate the timber wolf (or gray wolf) and record three interesting facts about the animal below.



1.	
2.	
3.	

B. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters. All of the words in the left column can be found in the first chapter of *A Wolf Called Wander*.

Word	Anagram	Clue
wrestle		Toasty warm.
tender		Leased.
point		A type of horse.
sleep		Undoes an orange.
listen		Join up.
resist		Close kin.
steam		Close to a wolf's heart.

C. A Quatrain Poem Celebrating the Wolf.

The **quatrain** is a popular form of rhymed verse. It is a poem of four lines, is usually light and can be humorous. The following quatrain is the first verse of a poem written by the famous poet, Atrocious Halitosis. It is called, ***Raised by Wolves***.

*When I was just a lad of three,
A timber wolf did kidnap me.
He dragged me to its dingy den,
And raised me there 'til I was ten.*



Various rhyming schemes make up a quatrain poem. As you can see, the above four lines have a rhyming scheme of **A - A - B - B**. Other rhyming schemes include: ABAB, AABA, AAAA, ABBA, ABBA, and AAAB.

Your task is to write your own quatrain poem. You may choose a rhyming scheme that fits with your own personal creation. The theme should have something to do with the themes established in the first chapter of our novel.

<p>The Quatrain Poem</p> <p>Now create your own Quatrain Poem. Your poem must follow the format of a quatrain poem described above (and must rhyme).</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
--

D. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from the novel is: *A short-legged weasel thing walks across the stream below us. It is as black as night . . .*

What is being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) A wolf howling at the moon.

b) A very cold winter night.

E. Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's one such example from the first chapter: . . . and the damp dirt above . . .

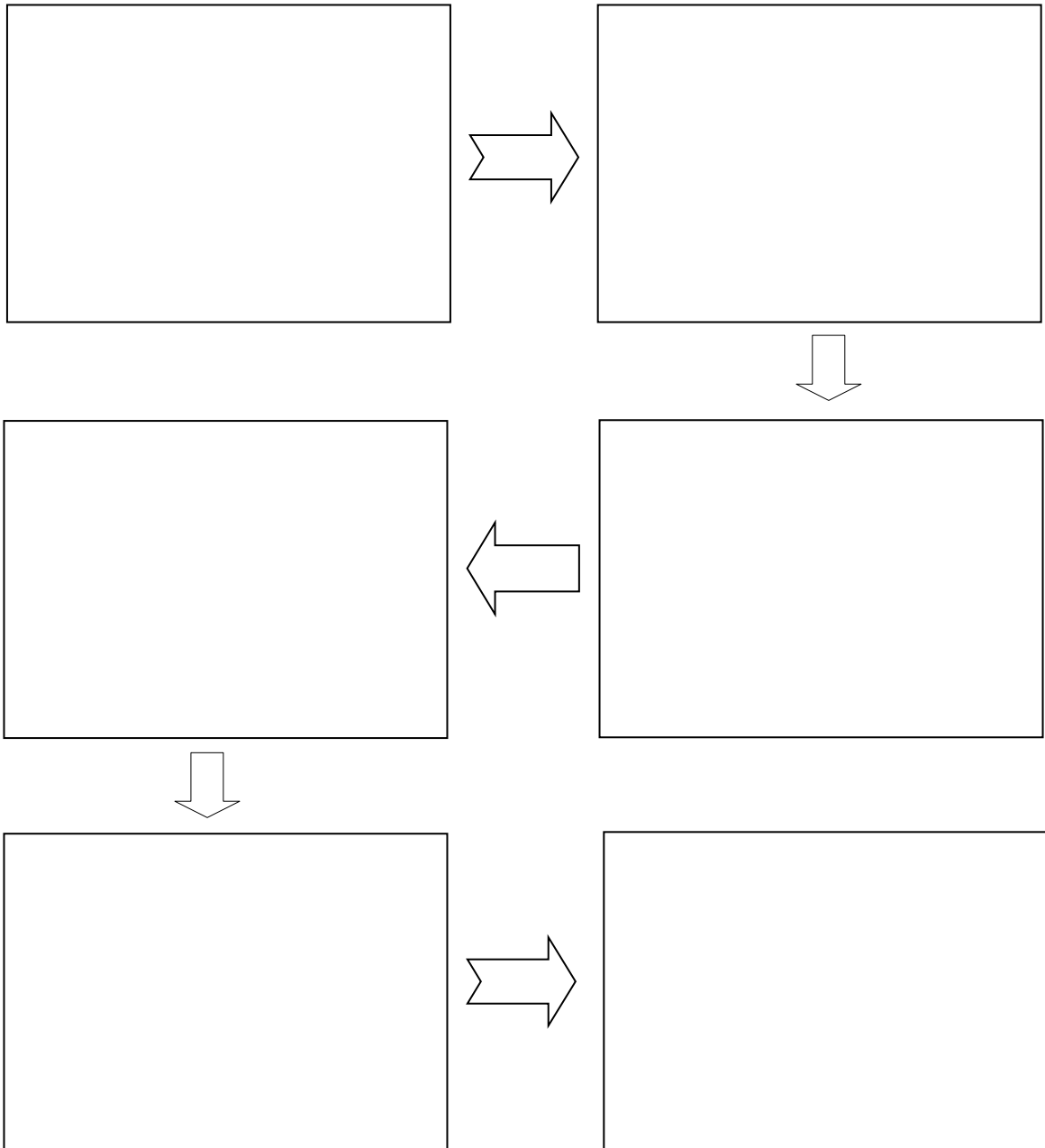


Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

A wolf den.	
A porcupine on the move.	
Your choice.	

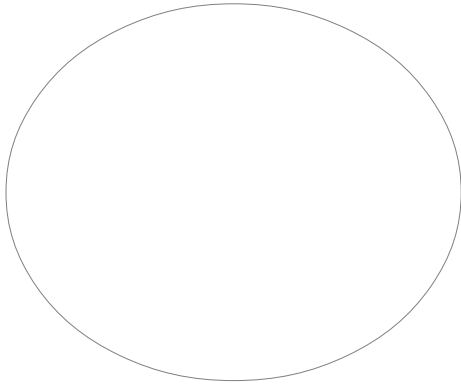
F. Sequence Chart

Choose what you consider to be the six most important events in *Pack*. In each of the six boxes below list the six events that you have chosen, describing what happened and telling why you consider this to be an essential part of the story.

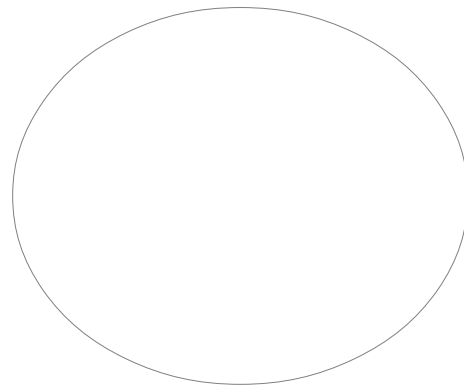


G. 5 Ws and an H.

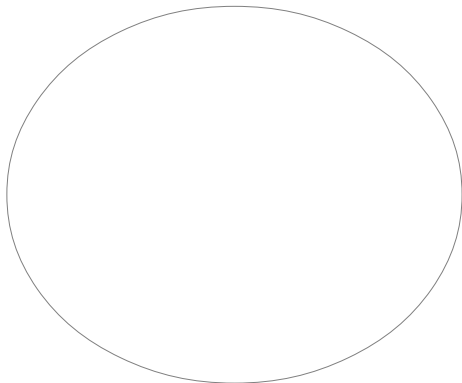
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



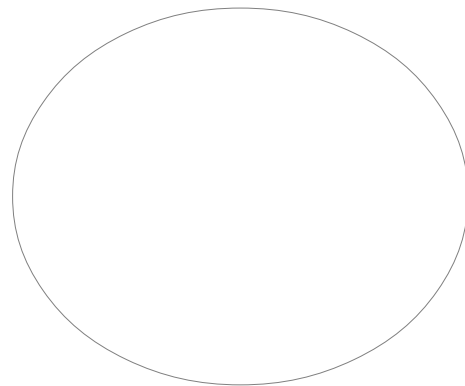
WHO?



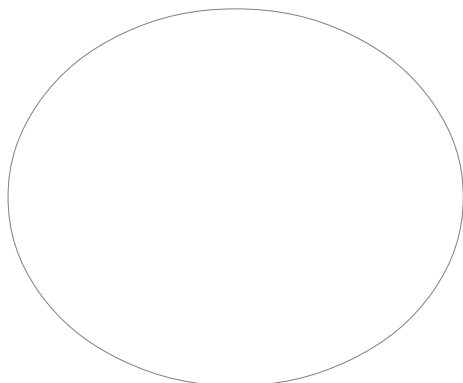
WHAT?



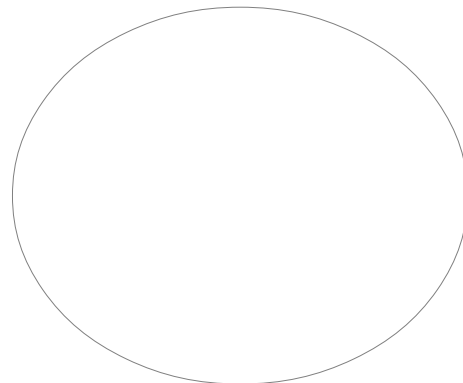
WHEN?



WHERE?



WHY?



HOW?

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel. Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.



1	2
3	4
5	6