

# Wolf Hollow



By

Lauren Wolk

A Novel Study  
by Nat Reed

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## Table of Contents

Suggestions and Expectations	3
List of Skills	4
Synopsis / Author Biography	5
Student Checklist	6
Reproducible Student Booklet	7
Answer Key	79

**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](http://novelstudies.org).

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## Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each section focuses on two or three chapters of *Wolf Hollow* and is comprised of four 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** and **topics** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include PTSD (shell shock), the 1940s in America, bullying, the importance of friends and family, sacrifice, perseverance and personal growth, initiative, courage.

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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 *anagrams*
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identification of a *cliffhanger*

### 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. Identify the climax of the novel
4. Five W's Chart

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists/antagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

### Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

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## Synopsis

Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount.

Brilliantly crafted, *Wolf Hollow* is a haunting tale of America at a crossroads and a time when one girl's resilience, strength, and compassion help to illuminate the darkest corners of our history. [Courtesy of the publisher]

## Author Biography Lauren Wolk

*Lauren Wolk* is an award-winning poet and author of the bestselling Newbery Honor-winning *Wolf Hollow*, described by the *New York Times Book Review* as "full of grace and stark, brutal beauty." 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.

(Biography courtesy of [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com))





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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapters 1 - 2



### Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *Wolf Hollow* is (almost) twelve-year old, Annabelle, growing up in Pennsylvania in 1943, during World War II. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an interesting and memorable **protagonist** (one you find difficult to forget)?




### Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

incorrigible	tedious	contemptuous	wane
dismemberment	splendid	privy	kinship

1. Annabelle's family were the first to have a \_\_\_\_\_ in their house.
2. I would often threaten my brothers with death and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Sarah seemed quite \_\_\_\_\_ of my opinion on that subject.
4. My sister's interest began to \_\_\_\_\_ after a few hours.
5. Ross found the work of picking cotton to be very \_\_\_\_\_.
6. She was proud to claim a \_\_\_\_\_ with King Richard I of England.
7. Kevin was an \_\_\_\_\_ little brat.
8. “I think it's \_\_\_\_\_ of you to take him hunting,” Mr. Rolly said.

# Questions



1. What is the **setting** of the novel at the beginning of Chapter One?


2. Match each name with the proper description:

1	Annabelle
2	Laura
3	Betty
4	Grandfather
5	Henry
6	Mrs. Taylor
7	Ruth
8	James

A	The older boys were contemptuous of her.
B	Incorrigible.
C	Seven years old.
D	Nine years old.
E	The novel's protagonist.
F	Gave up her desk for the new girl.
G	Mashed a young copperhead.
H	Dark-haired, red-lipped, pale.

3. What two things did Betty do to provoke Annabelle in class?

1.	
2.	

4. Research: In what year did Arizona become a state?

--

5. What was your impression of Mrs. Taylor as a teacher? On what evidence did you base this impression?.


6. Describe the attitude of the big boys toward school.


7. Describe how Wolf Hollow got its name.


8. What did Annabelle consider to be the most amazing thing about their home?  
What did Betty consider to be the most amazing thing?


9. What final threat did Betty level on Annabelle before leaving her? Do you think this was more or less effective than threatening Annabelle herself? Please defend your answer.


10. What does Annabelle mean when she says, "...I'd wait to see if she was a barker or a biter"?


11. What was the only thing about her grandmother that frightened Annabelle?


## Language Activities



**A. Personification** is giving human qualities to something that is not human. In the Prologue the author writes ... *the war that had drawn the whole world into a screaming brawl* ... In this example the world takes on human characteristics by drawing the whole world into war.



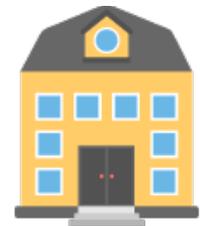
a) Why do you think personification is a literary device used by many authors?


b) Create your own example of personification.


c) Rewrite the above sentence about the war without changing the overall meaning so that the war is no longer personified.


## B. Exaggeration

**Exaggeration** is a literary device defined as *a statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is*. We find several possible examples of exaggeration in this novel. One such example is: *If not for her, the schoolhouse would have been a peaceful place, at least until everything fell to pieces that terrible November...* (Although the events of November may have indeed been terrible, things didn't literally fall to pieces.)

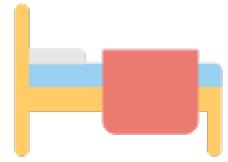


Think of an exaggerated way of describing the following

The odor of a skunk.	
A thunderstorm.	
Your choice.	

## C. 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 **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. 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.

Each of the words in the left-hand column are found in this section of our novel.

Word	Anagram	Clue
reap		A fruit.
worse		Uttered an oath.
pale		Avoid a mud puddle.
wrong		Homophone of <i>groan</i> .
tedious		The external side or surface of something.
teacher		10,000 square meters.

## D. What Do You Know About Wolves?

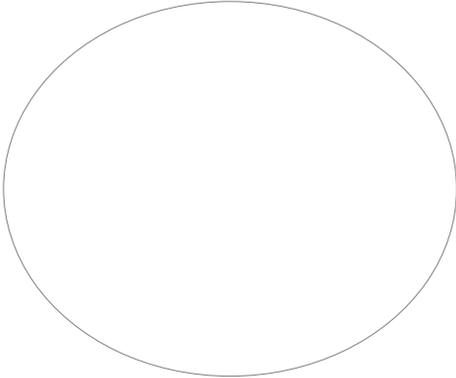
It seems that wolves once played a very large part in the history of this area of Pennsylvania. Wolves have been the subject of many novels, movies and even fairy tales. But what do you know about this often misunderstood animal? Did you know, for instance, that a wolf pup's eyes are blue at birth? Did you know that wolves run on their toes to keep the pads of their feet from wearing down? Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, research three fascinating facts about the wolf and record this information below.



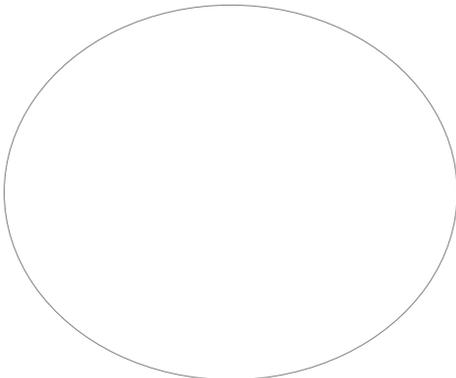
1	
2	
3	

**E. 5 Ws and an H.**

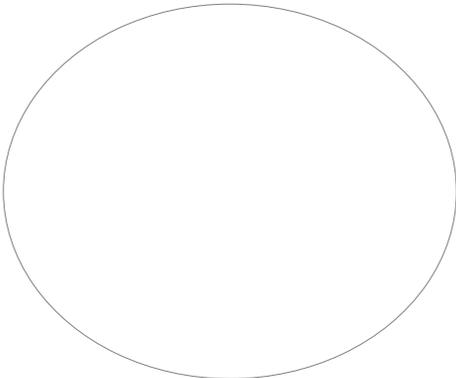
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



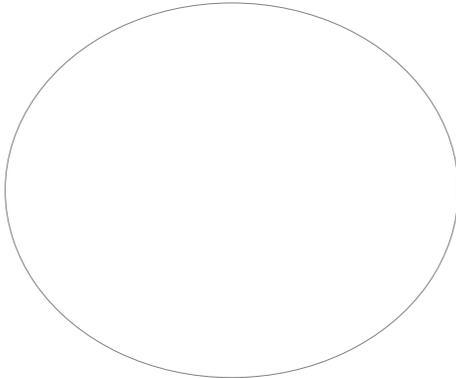
**WHO?**



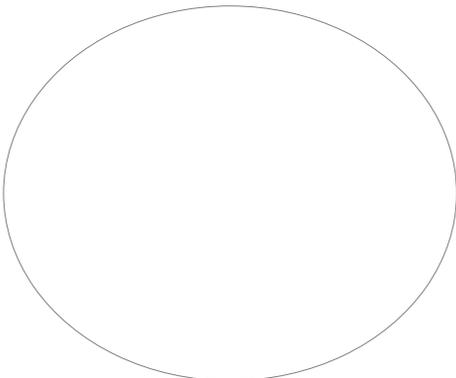
**WHAT?**



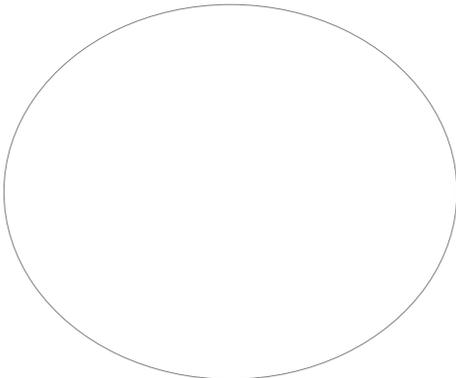
**WHEN?**



**WHERE?**



**WHY?**



**HOW?**

## F. An Acrostic Poem

There are many forms of poetry available to the aspiring poet other than the rhyming poem. An ACROSTIC poem is one example. In an acrostic poem the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. The word often is the subject of the poem. Here is an example written by the acclaimed poet, Atrocious Halitosis:

### The Firefly

Freaky-looking  
Itches me when I touch  
Restless at night  
Early or late  
Fearless  
Little  
Yellowfly



### The Acrostic Poem

Now create your own Acrostic Poem on a subject featured in this novel. Your poem must have at least four lines (and doesn't need to rhyme).

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_


## 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 two chapters of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6