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READING
GUIDE

WOLFIE & FLY

BAND ON
THE RUN

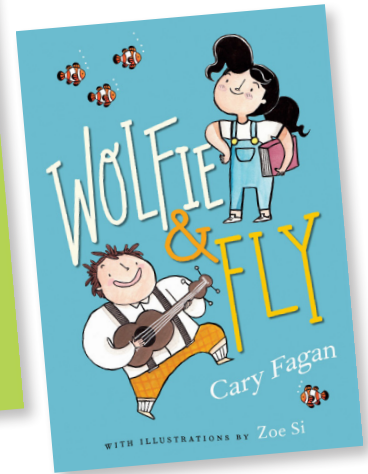


Cary Fagan

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY Zoe Si

WOLFIE & FLY

BAND ON THE RUN



ABOUT THE BOOK

A classic story of imagination, friendship, rock bands and high-speed helicopter chases.

Everyone's favorite odd couple is back! Our heroine, Renata Wolfman (Wolfie), does everything by herself. Friends just get in the way, and she only has time for facts and reading. But friendship finds her in the form of Livingston Flott (Fly), the slightly weird and wordy boy from next door. This time Fly has convinced Wolfie to join him in his one-man band. Before they know it, the pair are playing live onstage in front of a stadium of screaming fans. But the fans are about to get out of control — and Wolfie and Fly have to make a daring escape!

Even though Wolfie thinks she'd rather be at home reading by herself, playing the drums in a rock band sounds pretty fun. Maybe there *is* something to this friend thing...

This early chapter book can be used in the classroom in a number of ways, including:

- To explore themes and concepts such as friendship, adventure, social skills, family, compromise, cooperation and imagination
- To explore the features of chapter books with students who are new to the genre, as well as books that are written as part of a series
- To discuss feelings such as loneliness, sadness, excitement, kindness and relief, and strategies for coping with difficult feelings
- As a fun and exciting book for a read-aloud or independent reading session

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CARY FAGAN is an award-winning author for children and adults. His kids' books include *Mort Ziff Is Not Dead*, the *Kaspar Snit* novels, the two-volume *Master Melville's Medicine Show* and the picture book *Mr. Zinger's Hat*, winner of the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award and the IODE Jean Throop Award. He has also won the Jewish Book Award and been shortlisted for the Silver Birch Award (five times), the Rocky Mountain Book Award (twice), the Hackmatack Award (twice), the Norma Fleck Award, the Shining Willow Award and others. Cary lives in Toronto with his family.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

ZOE SI is a cartoonist, freelance illustrator and lawyer. She believes in the power of words, but also that wherever words fail, a cartoon can usually succeed. *Wolfie and Fly: Band on the Run* is Zoe's second book for kids. She lives and works in beautiful British Columbia.



Wolfie and Fly: Band on the Run • 9781101918234 Hardcover • *Wolfie and Fly* • 9781101919392 Trade Paperback
Written by Cary Fagan • Illustrated by Zoe Si



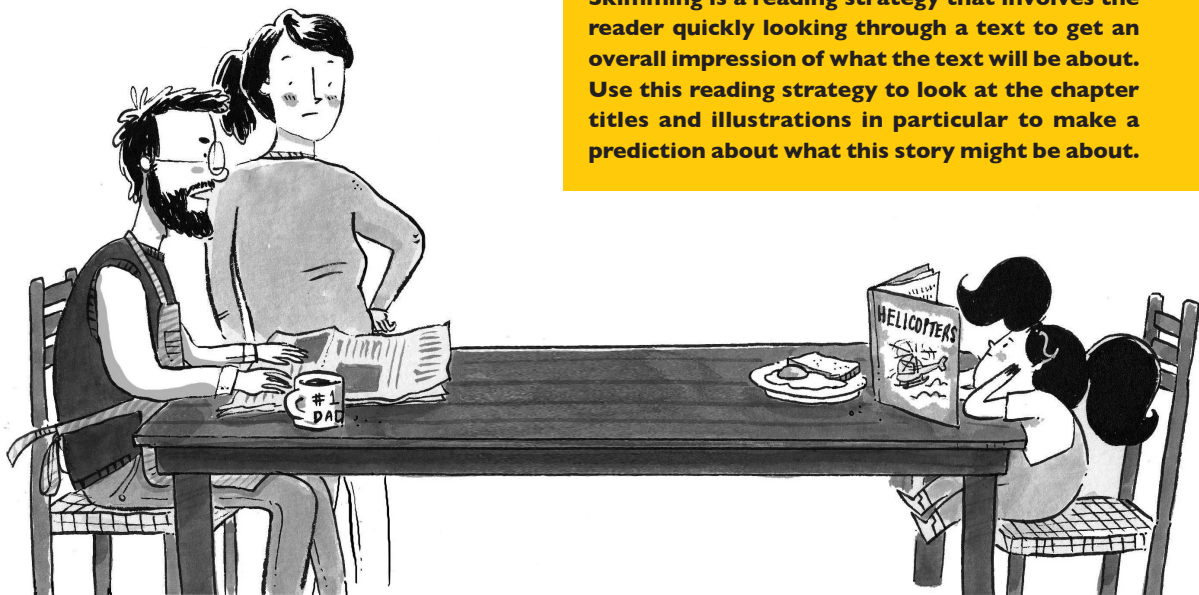
PRE-READING DISCUSSION

Wolfie and Fly: Band on the Run is a chapter book with pictures. What are some ways in which a chapter book is different from a picture book?

Wolfie and Fly: Band on the Run continues the story that began in *Wolfie and Fly*. If you read the first *Wolfie and Fly*, what happened in the first book? What did you learn about Renata and Livingston as characters?

Look at the cover and read the title of the book. What are some of the differences between this cover and the cover of *Wolfie and Fly*? Based on the cover and title, what do you think will happen in this book?

Skimming is a reading strategy that involves the reader quickly looking through a text to get an overall impression of what the text will be about. Use this reading strategy to look at the chapter titles and illustrations in particular to make a prediction about what this story might be about.



AFTER-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



CHAPTER 1 **Sleeping Wolf**

In the first book, *Wolfie and Fly*, the reader learns that Renata has been given the nickname Wolfie. This nickname is an adaptation of a nickname her classmates have given her (the Lone Wolf) as a play on words of her last name (Wolfman) and the fact that she doesn't really have any friends. Do you think Wolfie likes this nickname? Why or why not?

Why is Wolfie's mother so insistent that she goes to dance class that morning? And why is Wolfie so resistant?

How do you think Wolfie was feeling as she watched the boys and girls "swooshing" about the gymnasium warming up for dance class?

Wolfie describes Fly as a "nuisance." What does this mean?

What animal does Wolfie choose to be in the dance class? How does this connect to her attitude about being at the class?



CHAPTER 2 **A Little Favor**

In *Wolfie and Fly*, Wolfie claimed that she didn't like to play pretend. What does she do in this chapter that suggests maybe her thinking has changed about playing pretend?

When Livingston Flott (Fly) comes to the door, there is a string of dialogue where the speaker is not identified. How can you figure out who is speaking?

How does Wolfie feel about Fly's songwriting abilities?

CHAPTER 3 **Clang Thump Ting Thump**

Wolfie listens to Fly's song and identifies a few problems. What does she suggest he needs to fix?

What materials did Fly and Wolfie use to create a drum set?

How have Wolfie and Fly cooperated in this chapter? What is the result of their cooperation — do you think the song is better or worse now?

CHAPTER 4 **Pointy Hats**

Wolfie agrees to be in a band with Fly. Why?

Wolfie finds herself being more cooperative and enjoying Fly's company more than she expected. How does this show that Wolfie is changing as a character?



AFTER-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 5 **Stuffing**

Why doesn't Wolfie like stuffed animals? How does this connect to her feelings about being imaginative?

Why does Fly say he is "impressed" by Wolfie's suggestion to use a spotlight and close the curtains?

"Now," said Fly, "here is the important thing. We have to really believe that we're about to step onto a big stage. We have to believe that rows and rows of people are waiting to see us play'." Wolfie isn't sure how to do this. If you could give some advice to Wolfie, what would it be?

CHAPTER 6 **Ladies and Gentlemen...**

How do you think Wolfie was feeling when she opened her eyes to see and hear the hundreds of people cheering for she and Fly?

At the end of the chapter, Wolfie and Fly have to escape from their fans. Do you think Wolfie and Fly are really scared? Why do you think Wolfie doesn't just stop pretending?

CHAPTER 7 **Up, Up and Away**

Often the things you imagine are inspired by true events, facts, or ideas. What true-life ideas seem to have inspired parts of the adventure in this chapter?

What do Wolfie and Fly's different responses to the reporter's questions tell you about who they are?

Wolfie and Fly escape their fans in a helicopter. Where do you think the helicopter came from?

What problem do Wolfie and Fly soon encounter as they take off in the helicopter? Wolfie calls the problem "fascinating." How would you react in a similar situation?

CHAPTER 8 **The Show**

Wolfie says that she must have been feeling sorry for Fly to have agreed to be in the talent show. Why do you think she says that? Fly replies, "Why, that's almost as good as liking me!" What does he mean?

Why does Wolfie expect Fly's parents to look strange?

As Wolfie and Fly sit watching all of the other acts in the talent show, how do you think they are feeling?

CHAPTER 9 **Celebration**

How do the flavors of ice cream that Wolfie and Fly select connect to their personalities?

When Fly says he feels a song coming on, Wolfie says, "It's weird...but I actually *want* you to sing it." How have her feelings about Wolfie changed?



SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Adventure stories

Adventure stories usually have the following:

- Action
- Excitement
- Risk
- Fast-paced plot
- Remarkable or unusual events

Find examples in *Wolfie and Fly: Band on the Run* that connect to each of the listed characteristics of an adventure story.

Plan and write another adventure for Wolfie and Fly. Consider dividing the story into chapters to match the format of the books in the series.



How to be a friend

The willingness to compromise, cooperate and respect other's opinions is an important part of being a good friend. Find examples of Wolfie or Fly's actions in the story that show how they demonstrated compromise, cooperation and respect.

Wolfie is slowly learning how to be a friend. Write a how-to guide about being a friend. Include a description of different qualities a good friend often shows, why you think friendship is important and any other information that you think is important to know about being a good friend. Use your own experiences as being a good friend or knowing a good friend as inspiration for your guide.

Wolfie and Fly, the band

Wolfie and Fly have their own look and unique music as a rock band. Design a T-shirt, poster or some other unique souvenir that they could sell to their fans.

Pretend you are the news reporter Kurt Kavetsky from FAB news. After your interview with Wolfie and Fly, write a short newspaper article about them using what you learned from the interview.

Famous musicians often encounter similar experiences to what Wolfie and Fly imagined on their adventure in the story: there are excited fans that want autographs and news reporters who want interviews. What would some of the advantages and disadvantages be of being so famous?

Write a journal-style entry that explains what you imagine to be some of the pros and cons of fame.



READ THE FIRST ADVENTURE OF
THESE TWO UNIQUE CHARACTERS,
WOLFIE AND FLY!

