

WOLF STORM by Dee Garretson
Teacher's Guide

WOLF STORM is a story of survival against the odds, friendship, and how people of very different personalities can find common ground to work together. Stefan Andris, a boy without acting experience, from a family overburdened by financial difficulties, has been cast in a lead role in a major movie. Working on location in a remote mountainous region of Europe, he is struggling to learn the basics of acting, knowing the job is important to his family. Excited to be working with the trained wolves on set, he hopes he can do the job, even though after a disastrous first day, he fears he will be fired instead.

Stefan's costar, a famous young actress named Raine Randolph, does not want to work with him at all, thinking he is far too inexperienced to carry off the role as her brother. Raine has burdens of her own, including a mother who is far more concerned about the wealth Raine's work brings to her than her own daughter's interests.

When a blizzard isolates Stefan and Raine, along with a nine-year-old named Jeremy who is playing their younger brother, and an elderly actor with health problems, the four have to find a way to get along until help arrives. The situation worsens after an avalanche destroys the lodge where the group is staying, and the actors must find a way to survive the cold, their own lack of experience in the wild, and the presence of wild wolves who are determined to get rid of the tame wolves invading their territory.

Interwoven in the story are details of wolf behavior, and questions about the role of people in domesticating wild animals.

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Chapter Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

1. In chapter one, could you imagine this scene from the one paragraph description? Even though the author doesn't say what kind of creatures she's writing about, can you guess what they are?

Chapter 2

2. If you were in Stefan's place, acting for the first time, being a long way from home, and being without your family, which one would be hardest for you?

Chapter 3

3. What do you learn about wolf behavior in this chapter?

Chapter 4

4. Do you think it was right that Stefan didn't explain how the accident with Inky happened? What would you have done?

Chapter 5

5. How do you feel about the wolf in this chapter? Are you sympathetic toward him? Scared of him?

Chapter 6

6. Brad talks about wolf behavior in the wild. What behaviors do you think the trained wolves still have that are like wild wolves?

Chapter 7

7. What do you think of Raine's behavior in this chapter?

Chapter 8

8. Why aren't Raine and Stefan getting along in this chapter? What do you think of Cecil?

Chapter 9

9. Why does Stefan have a hard time deciding what to do about the wolves in the trailer?

Chapter 10

10. Raine is very dramatic in this chapter. Do you think that's part of her personality or is she just pretending because she is an actor?

Chapter 11

11. At thirteen years old, Raine is both successful and wealthy. What parts of her life do you think are not so happy?

Chapter 12

12. Raine had a terrible choice to make between her dog and Jeremy and she only had a second to make it. Do you think she would have made a different decision if there had been more time?

Chapter 13

13. Stefan is discouraged by his mistakes, but when the situation gets serious, what abilities and skills does he have that help everyone survive?

Chapter 14

14. Everyone has become very dependent on cell phones. Can you imagine a world without cell phones? How would things change?

Chapter 15

15. People react very differently to emergencies. How are each of the characters in the story reacting? Do their reactions fit what you know of their personalities so far?

Chapter 16

16. While dogs have been domesticated for thousands of years, wolves are still essentially wild animals. Do you think it is right that some wolves are trained to act like dogs?

Chapter 17

17. Raine, more than Stefan, seems to believe what she reads in stories. Do you find yourself sometimes wishing stories were real?

Chapter 18

18. Raine and Stefan start out the story misjudging each other and Cecil. As the story progresses, they learn they shouldn't rely on first impressions. Do you think this is common? Have you ever met someone you didn't like at first, only to discover later you did?

Chapter 19

19. Stefan decides it's time to take action in this chapter. What would you have done in his place?

Chapter 20

20. How did you feel about what happens to Natasha? Why do you think the author wrote the scene this way?

Epilogue

21. Do you think Stefan will go on wanting to make movies after this? Would you?

Just for fun

If you had a chance to act in a movie, what kind of movie would you like it to be? Where would you like it to be filmed?

WOLF STORM Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions

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|----------------|---|
| 1. amateur | A. extraordinary, outstanding |
| 2. debris | B. to hold spellbound, to enslave |
| 3. ravenous | C. a person who engages in a sport or activity for entertainment, and is not paid, an inexperienced or unskilled person |
| 4. phenomenal | D. illogical, not using reason |
| 5. choreograph | E. to direct or manage, to plan out a dance or a series of movements |
| 6. hideous | F. a person who acts on behalf of another |
| 7. stabilize | G. the remains of anything broken down or destroyed |
| 8. advocate | H. horrible or frightful to the senses |
| 9. enthrall | I. extremely hungry, famished |
| 10. irrational | J. to make or hold stable |