

Teacher Guide

Grades 7–8

Wolf Rider

Avi

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WOLF RIDER

by
Avi

Teacher Guide

Written by
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Note

The 2008 Simon Pulse edition of the novel, © 1986 by Avi Wortis, was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions. Novel ISBN: 978-1-4169-5444-6

Please note: This book deals with sensitive, mature issues. Parts may contain descriptions of violence. Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with them.

ISBN 978-1-60878-734-0

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Publisher Information
For a complete catalog, contact—
Novel Units, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

Web site: novelunits.com

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Skills and Strategies

Comprehension

Prediction, cause/effect,
sequencing, drawing inferences

Literary Elements

Genre, allusions, plot, theme,
point of view, figurative
language, character analysis,
story mapping

Writing

Exaggeration, essay, narrative,
creative writing

Critical Thinking

Evaluation, compare/contrast,
supporting details, summarization

Listening/Speaking

Oral report, debate, discussion

Vocabulary

Glossary, definitions, synonyms/
antonyms, context clues

Across the Curriculum

Social Sciences—crime
investigation, dating violence;
Social Studies—current events,
geography, history;
Psychology—grief; Art—
landscape, portraiture,
graphic novel

Part Two

Andy meets with Officer Dorfman. He tells the officer about finding Nina Klemmer. Meanwhile, Nina files a harassment complaint against Andy. Consequently, Officer Dorfman contacts Mrs. Baskin, Andy's high school counselor, and she talks with Andy about his seeming obsession with Zeke and Nina. Officer Dorfman and Mrs. Baskin inform Andy that Nina has complained about him. Disregarding the adults' instructions, Andy continues trying to identify Zeke.

Vocabulary	
colleagues	
milling	
municipal	
exasperated	
perished	
feeble	
balmy	
atrium	
stabilize	
casual	
rambunctious	
admonition	
cadence	
wary	
psychic	

Discussion Questions

1. Analyze why the police, Dr. Zedinski, and others do not believe Andy. Would you believe him? Why or why not? *(The police, Dr. Zedinski, and others probably do not believe Andy because they have no proof of his conversation with Zeke. Nina appears to be okay, and she has no concerns for her safety. Answers will vary.)*
2. Andy feels torn about whether to continue investigating. Prepare a list of pros and cons for continuing the investigation. *(Answers will vary. Pros: Andy might be able to help Nina, Zeke is exposed as real or a murderer, Andy satisfies his curiosity/worry; Cons: Andy disobeys his father's, his teacher's, and the police's orders, and may look foolish, failing, or having to face legal consequences.)*
3. Andy is trying to convince others of something only he has experienced. Decide how Andy can persuade others that Zeke's threat is real and how far he should go to prove his point. *(Answers will vary. Because the cops do not have a recording of Zeke's phone call, it will be very difficult for Andy to convince others about*

it. The most likely way to prove Zeke's existence would be to draw Zeke into the open. Andy should not, however, put himself or Nina in danger as a result.)

4. What does Andy think is the appropriate response to the phone call? How do the adults in his life feel? *(Andy feels a responsibility, which probably stems from his mother's tragic death, to protect Nina from Zeke. He should not prevent his mother's death, but he might be able to prevent Nina's. Everyone else wants to protect Andy from the consequences of his investigative actions. Andy's safety is the disconcerting concern; the adults feel that he himself poses the imminent danger rather than a supposed killer.)*
5. How does Andy frighten Nina in the Student Center? Describe what behavior would have been more convincing to Nina. *(Andy frightens Nina when he approaches her unannounced but especially when he grabs Nina's arm and tries to walk away. If Andy had been friendlier and less intimidating to Nina, he probably would have been more convincing.)*
6. Analyze how Andy's actions toward Nina could be construed as harassment. *(Harassment involves persistently annoying or bothering someone. Showing up at the Student Center and obviously knowing things about Nina makes it seem as if Andy has been stalking her. Bothering Nina when she has asked to be left alone constitutes harassment.)*

7. How does Andy's relationship with his father change following Zeke's phone call? (*Since his father reacts angrily when Andy talks about the phone call, Andy now keeps his thoughts about Nina and Zeke secret. Andy is distracted by the situation and cannot enjoy the little time he and his father spend together. He isolates himself, which creates a rift between Andy and his father.*)
8. Summarize Dr. Zadinski's feelings about Andy behaving like "Sherlock." (*Dr. Zadinski believes Andy should leave the entire situation to the police. Even if Zeke's call was real, the situation is too dangerous for Andy to be involved in. Dr. Zadinski empathizes with Andy's reasons for wanting to warn Nina about Zeke but feels that "...what started out as something...merely unpleasant, has gotten out of hand" [p. 84]. Dr. Zadinski wants their lives to return to normal.*)
9. **Prediction:** How will Andy next attempt to discover Zeke's identity?

Supplementary Activities

1. Literary Analysis: Begin the Literary Analysis chart on page 23 of this guide. Continue to fill in the chart as you read the novel.
2. Psychology: Learn about the grief process. Create a way to graphically share the stages of grieving with the class.
3. Point of View: Using the Thought Bubble on page 26 of this guide, explain Andy's motivations in searching for Nina. In the other bubble, give Nina's thoughts about Andy.
4. Creative Writing: Write a monologue reflecting Andy's feelings toward Nina and Zeke.
5. Poetry: Write a poem contrasting illusion with reality as they relate to Andy's situation.

Getting the "Lay of the Land"

Directions: Prepare for reading by answering the following short-answer questions.

1. Who is the author?

2. What does the title suggest to you about the novel?

3. When was the novel first copyrighted?

4. How many pages are there in the novel?

5. Thumb through the book. Read three pages—one from near the beginning, one from near the middle, and one from near the end. What reflections can you make about the novel?

6. What does the cover suggest to you about the novel?

Character Analysis Blocks

Directions: Select a character from the novel to describe using the blocks below.

Who is the character?			
What does the character do?		Why does he do it?	
What, if anything, is significant about the character's name?	What is the nature of his character's actions? (reactive, active, important, consistent, secondary)	What is the significance of the novel's time and place to the character?	
What is unusual or important about the character?	How does the character change in the story?	Does the character remind you of another character from another novel? Who?	Do you know anyone similar to this character?

Elements of Mystery

Directions: Complete the genre chart below by filling in information specific to the novel.

Elements	Evidence From <i>Wolf Rider</i>
1. A puzzling mystery: crime; the conflict that drives the plot of the novel; poses the question: Who did it?	
2. Detective work: The story's action involves an investigation of the crime. When the crime is solved, the story ends.	
3. A heroic sleuth: professional or amateur; solves the crime using his/her qualities of intelligence, perseverance, courage, and more, may face physical or psychological danger	
4. A capable villain: The culprit tests the limits of the sleuth. The antagonist/murderer is solely in his/her desire to get away with the crime. The villain is resourceful and clever.	
5. Fairness: The reader is aware of the clues as the sleuth of the story uncovers them. The climax is therefore logical because evidence is provided as the story unravels.	
6. Realism/Logic: Characters, the emotions, and the story's locations seem real. The crime <i>could</i> possibly have happened as described.	