

CURRICULUM GUIDE



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THE ONE AND ONLY WOLFGANG

FROM PET RESCUE TO
ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

By **STEVE GREIG**
and **MARY RAND HESS**
Illustrated by **NADJA SARELL**



From Instagram sensation Steve Greig and *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Rand Hess comes a humorous, heartwarming story about Greig's real-life menagerie of senior rescue animals.

MET THE WOLFGANG, a loveable bunch of misfit animals who together have become a family. When Steve Greig started the Wolfgang six years ago, he looked for the most "unadoptable" animals he could find and gave them a home. The menagerie has grown to nine senior dogs, a rabbit, two ducks, two chickens, a rooster, and a pig named Bikini.

Featuring unique art that combines original photographs of the Wolfgang with expressive illustrations, this engaging book showcases each animal's personality and leaves plenty of room for humor and whimsy. A lighthearted yet touching story, *The One and Only Wolfgang* will remind readers that no matter how odd, everyone can find a place to belong.



The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

-  The Wolfgang is a family of assorted animals who were once “unadoptable, but are now unstoppable.” Why do you think that the animals were considered unadoptable before they became a family? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)
-  What feelings do you experience when reading *The One and Only Wolfgang*? How do the illustrations add to your feelings about the story? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7](#)
-  Look at the pages that invite readers to “Meet the One and Only Wolfgang!,” where photos and descriptions of each animal are featured. How are the animals alike and how are they different? Use information from the description of the animals to compare and contrast the stars of this story. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)
-  The Wolfgang is one big family of pets. What lessons do the animals in the story learn about being a family as they share a life together? How can you connect one of these lessons to your own life? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2](#)
-  There is a special note at the end of the book from author Jodi Picoult. What is her special connection to the Wolfgang? How did Picoult’s own experience with her dogs help her understand the uniqueness of the Wolfgang? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)
-  The pets in this story are described as, “...grateful to be part of this big, quirky family.” What does it mean to be quirky? Cite evidence from the story that supports the description of the Wolfgang as quirky. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.4](#)
-  Jodi Picoult is especially drawn to Englebert, the tiniest of the dogs in the Wolfgang. Which animal in the story is your favorite? Why does this particular pet stand out for you? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)
-  Which animal causes the most problems within the Wolfgang? How do the other animals feel about the troublemaker? How do they treat him/her? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)
-  What questions come to mind as you read *The One and Only Wolfgang*? What more do you want to know about the characters and their story? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

HOORAY FOR PETS!

Do you think it is important for kids to have pets when growing up? Write a persuasive paragraph detailing your opinion about the importance of pets in people's lives. Include reasons and examples to support your opinion. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1](#)

ADOPTION OPTION

April 30th is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day. Design a poster promoting this special day. Feature an illustration of one member of the Wolfgang along with a slogan to help people learn about Adopt a Shelter Pet Day and the important role that shelters play in communities.

SHELTER FACTS

Research animal shelters. What are the jobs and responsibilities of people who work and volunteer there? What types of animals do your local animal shelters keep? Write an informational report on how an animal shelter operates. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#)

LET'S HELP!

Many animal shelters depend on donations of supplies and money to run the shelter and to take care of the animals. Check with your local animal shelter to find a way that your class can help support the shelter. Plan a class donation drive to collect items such as food, toys, old towels, or other animal care items that your local animal shelter needs.

PET CARE 101

The Wolfgang is a diverse group of animals with several dogs, a pig, chickens, ducks, and a rabbit. Each animal in this special family has its own unique needs. Imagine you were to adopt an animal. What type of animal would it be? What would you need to do to take care of it so that it stayed healthy and happy? Create an informational brochure about how to take care of a new pet. Include pictures and diagrams with captions to make your information clear to the new pet owner. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#)

The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name: _____

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PET?

Collect data from your class to find out which pets are the favorites of your classmates. Record your data using tally marks. Create a bar graph to represent your data. Write three sentences that describe the data shown in the bar graph.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.B.3; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.MD.C.4; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.MD.D.10;
CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.B.3

TYPE OF PET	HOW MANY PEOPLE CHOSE THE PET
DOG	
CAT	
FISH	
RABBIT	
PIG	
CHICKEN	
HAMSTER	
OTHER	

Write three math statements about the data shown in the bar graph below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

BAR GRAPH								
12								
11								
10								
9								
8								
7								
6								
5								
4								
3								
2								
1								
	DOG	CAT	FISH	RABBIT	PIG	CHICKEN	HAMSTER	OTHER

PET POINT OF VIEW

Name: _____

In *The One and Only Wolfgang*, the author includes words showing what the animals are saying in different situations. The Wolfgang is sitting for a family portrait in the image below. Using what you know about the personalities of each character from reading the story, add speech bubbles for each animal in the portrait showing their point of view in this situation. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.6](#)



FAMILY LOVE

Write a paragraph that states your opinion on how the statement below applies to the Wolfgang.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1


