

Book ADVENTURES

Classroom Library

Lessons and Activities

Third Grade

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Teacher's Travel Guide (7 pages)

Searching for the Sky River (full reader, 32 pages)

My Book Adventures Passport: Grade 3 (3 pages)



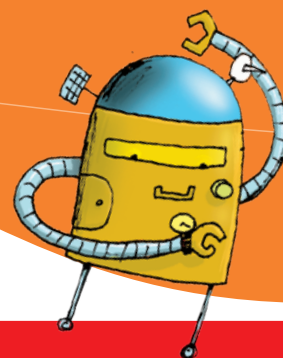
GRADE

3

Book ADVENTURES

Classroom Library

TEACHER'S
TRAVEL GUIDE



TCM

Teacher
Created
Materials

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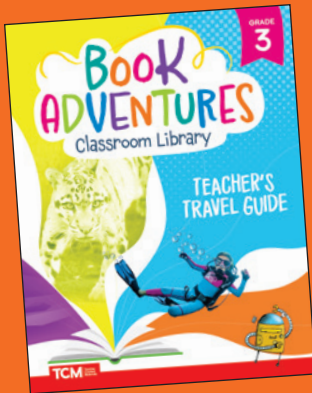
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PACKING LIST



Explore this *Teacher's Travel Guide* to discover how to use the components in the classroom library, get ideas to inspire students to read, and find student activity sheets that support reading engagement.

Scan the QR code or visit this link for a full list of titles included in the classroom library.*

tcmpub.digital/ba3_books



Fiction and Nonfiction Books

The books are grouped into 9 captivating themes:

- Animal Mania
- Art All Around Us
- Ecosystem Exploration
- Heroes and Helpers
- How Does It Work?
- Into the Universe
- Lead the Way
- Our Nation
- Travel the World

A short video is included to introduce each theme and motivate students. See page 24 for more information. All books bring varied cultures, backgrounds, and eras to the classroom, motivating students to experience different perspectives.

* Due to publisher availability, there may be times when our team of experts selects substitutions for titles in the classroom library. Please note that substitutions will have the same reading and interest levels as the original titles.



Getting Started with Your Collection

Your *Book Adventures* collection comes ready to use, with each theme conveniently packaged together. You'll find three bins in your set, and you can arrange your books in a way that works best for your students and classroom setup.

Bookmarks (30 copies) aren't just placeholders—they're portable activities. Students can use them to turn every reading session into an interactive journey.



A set of **passport genre stickers** (15 sheets) allows students to track their reading progress with completed genre "stamps." Students can use the included **star stickers** to rate books they've read on the *Share Your Favorite Books* poster and in their *My Book Adventures Passports*.



Two full-color **posters** will transform your classroom walls and inspire students to take off on their next reading adventures.

The ***My Book Adventures Passports*** (30 copies) are provided to help your students celebrate reading. They will use their passports to track and respond to the books they read.



ALL ABOARD: ENGAGE YOUR READERS!

Engaging students in reading is vital for nurturing a lifelong love of learning and equipping them with the skills they need to thrive academically and beyond. When students actively participate in reading through shared read-alouds or choice-driven independent reading, they build confidence and see themselves as capable readers. This sense of ownership boosts motivation, encouraging students to tackle more challenging texts and explore a wider range of genres and subjects.

When reading in the classroom is dynamic through the incorporation of games, creative projects, and peer sharing, students can develop strong vocabulary, fluency, and analytical skills in an environment that celebrates curiosity. Engaged readers are more likely to carry their enthusiasm for reading beyond the classroom, further building skills that will support success in all areas of life.

Here are some practical tips for keeping students motivated and excited about reading.

Learning with the Bookmarks

Encourage students to use their bookmarks as they read. Be sure to discuss their responses to the activity on the back of the bookmarks. You might even want to provide supplies for students to create their own interactive bookmarks!

Interacting with the Posters

Display the posters in your classroom. Throughout the year, encourage students to use sticky notes to add questions to the *What Are You Wondering?* poster. On the *Share Your Favorite Books* poster, each student should add and rate their favorite book at some point during the school year.

Personalizing with the Stickers

Keep the passport and star stickers in a central location where students can access them so they don't get lost or damaged. Students should add the stickers to each page of their *My Book Adventures Passports*. The stickers will help students determine which genres they read most often. The star stickers can also be used on the passport pages or the *Share Your Favorite Books* poster to rate the books they've read.

Empower Choice

Giving students the opportunity to choose their own books empowers them to feel invested and makes reading feel like a personal journey rather than a chore. Set aside a "choice shelf" in your classroom with a rotating mix of genres and reading levels. Encourage students to browse the shelf each week and pick out titles that spark their curiosity. Help students track what books they read using *What Am I Reading?* (page 14).



ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Use these individual, partner, and whole-class activities to guide and enhance students' book adventures.

Sell It!

Have each student design the front and back of a cereal box that "sells" a book they have read. They should include a title, tagline, "nutritional facts" about characters, and a short review. Students can use *Cereal Celebration* (page 17) to organize their thinking and share what they create.

Book Genre Bracket

Set up different stations around the room with books of the same genre. Have students rotate to each station and review the books. As a class, help students fill in *Book Genre Bracket* (page 18). Have students complete their brackets determining which genres they prefer—and ultimately, which genre wins!

Book Scavenger Hunt

Challenge students to complete the *Book Scavenger Hunt* (page 19) activity using any books they're currently reading. Students may also enjoy completing the scavenger hunt in pairs or small groups.



Illustrated Vocabulary Cards

Have students choose five new words they learned from nonfiction books. Then, have them create vocabulary cards with words and illustrations on the fronts and definitions on the backs. Tell students to swap their cards with partners and teach them the new words.

Bingo!

As a class, brainstorm book-related goals for squares in *Book Bingo Card* (page 20). (For example, Read about animals or Read about history.) Create a copy of the *Book Bingo Card* for each student, and have them place a star sticker or cross out a square each time they read a matching book that month.

Book Club

Each month, place 3–4 students into new book club groups. Have groups decide on books and read them aloud together. Give groups enough time to discuss their books. At the end of the month, have each group share what they read and learned in their book club.



Questions! Questions!

Challenge students to reference the *What Are You Wondering?* poster as they create their own questions about the books they're reading. As they think of new questions, have them complete a *Stay Curious!* (page 21) entry and post it in the classroom.



Name: _____ Date: _____

What Am I Reading?

Directions: Write the title and author of each book you read. Then, add a rating from 1 to 5 and write about why you rated the book that way.

Book Title and Author	Rating	Explanation

Searching for the Sky River



By Elise Wallace
Illustrated by Fernando Juarez

Searching for the Sky River



By Elise Wallace
Illustrated by Fernando Juarez

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Chapter One



THE SKY RIVER

Not long ago, on a planet called Gleam, two friends wandered through a vast forest. They were as different as two friends could be. Kira was a girl with a passion for adventure. Bo, a woggle, preferred life at a slower pace. For Bo, comfort was everything.

“I’ve almost reached the top,” Kira called out.

She was climbing a shining tree. Up she went, branch by branch. On Gleam, forests were never dark—every tree sparkled with silvery light.



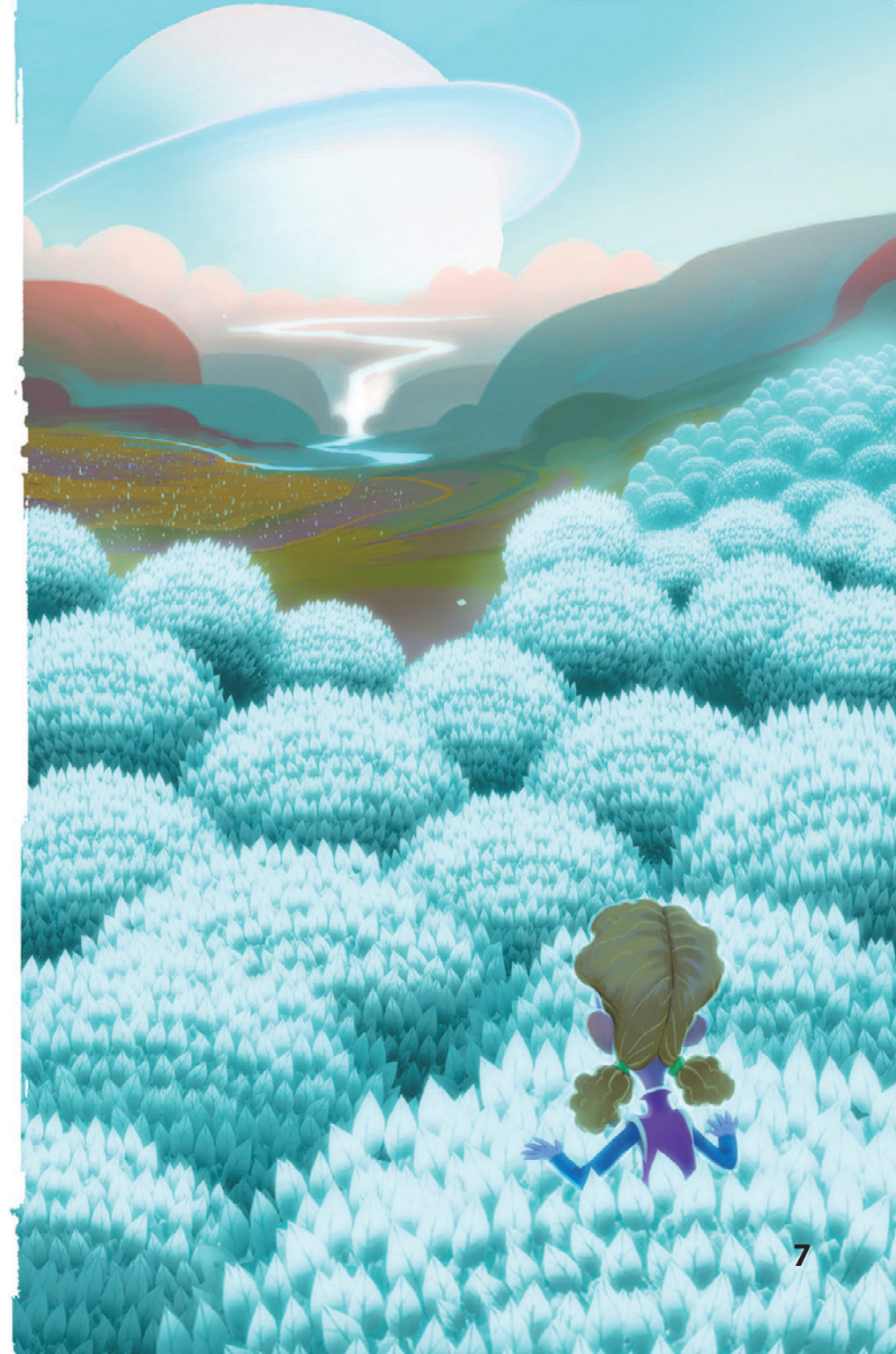
As Kira climbed up, the branches got thinner. It was scary, but not scary enough to make her stop.

Down below, Bo was doing a strange little dance against the tree's trunk.

"I've found the perfect scratching post," he sighed happily. "Not too smooth, not too lumpy!" He wiggled his body against the trunk.

Kira was only half listening. Standing on a branch and poking her head above the leaves, she could see just above the treetops. The view was spectacular.

To the east, beyond the forest, stretched a wide but shallow valley. The valley was covered with brilliant wildflowers. To the west, the forest continued endlessly. It met the horizon with a mild, silver glow. And there, far to the north, was the reason Kira had climbed the tree. She broke into a smile when she saw it: the Sky River.



“Bo, I found it!” Kira cried.

When Bo didn’t answer, Kira peered through the leaves. Where was he? She studied the branches below, mapping her descent. The journey down was quick.

“Wake up,” Kira gently poked the snoring creature. The woggle was half buried in a pile of leaves, fast asleep.

With a lurch, Bo sat up and said, “I wasn’t asleep, I promise.”

Kira giggled, “You were definitely asleep! But never mind that.” Kira took a deep breath. “I think I finally found it.”

“Found what?” Bo shook leaves from his fur.

“The Sky River!” Kira said. “I saw it from the tree. It’s just like the old stories say. There is a river in the clouds. It was up in the sky, pouring from an enormous cloud.”

“That sounds like a storm,” Bo said.

“It wasn’t a storm—believe me. I know what a storm looks like. This was the Sky River. If we hurry, I think we can reach it in half a day.”

“But it’s past lunchtime already,” Bo said. “Aren’t we going home?”

“Go home—are you crazy?” Kira exclaimed. “We’ve been looking for the Sky River forever. We may never have this chance again!”

Bo sighed and shook his head. Kira was always being dramatic. “Well, you know I can’t go on an adventure with an empty stomach.”

Kira was silent, and the two friends stared at each other. Then, Kira laughed.

“Why are you laughing?” Bo frowned.



“Because I brought snacks,” Kira grinned. “I knew we would need them. Like you said, you’re useless on an empty stomach.”

Inside Kira’s knapsack was a treasure trove of delicious treats. Bo eyed each eagerly. There were juicy limaberries, sweet figs, pickled veggies, green juice, and two loaves of oat bread.

“So,” Kira said as she studied her friend. “Are you in?”

Bo struggled to respond—his mouth already full of limaberries. He nodded enthusiastically.

“Yay!” Kira cheered.

Chapter Two



A PUZZLING DISCOVERY

Hours later, they were still trekking through the forest. Kira's store of snacks had long been eaten, and Bo was starting to get hungry again.

"Do you think we're almost there?" Bo asked.

"I think so," Kira responded. "The river looked close from the last tree I climbed. It must be just ahead."

"Good—my paws are sore," Bo grumbled.



Kira's feet hurt, too, but she wasn't going to admit it. If she did, Bo would insist on turning around and going home. *Left foot, right foot*, Kira thought as she watched her feet take each step. *Just a little farther and we'll be there.*

"Maybe we should just—whoops!" Bo stumbled and rolled across the path ahead.

"Bo!" Kira hurried toward her friend. "Are you OK?"

"Yeah, I just tripped over that," Bo said as he brushed himself off and pointed to something behind him. "I think it was a rock."

Kira squinted and saw a large lump covered with leaves. When she dusted it off, she saw that it wasn't a rock at all. The two friends stared in wonder at a large, glowing egg.

Kira picked up the egg carefully—it was surprisingly light. Turning the egg in her hands, she studied its warm surface inch by inch.

"Do you think that's safe?" Bo said, eyeing the egg nervously. "What if something dangerous hatches?"

"Nothing this beautiful could be dangerous," Kira said, smiling at the egg.



“Kira, that’s just what you said about the nettle flower!” Bo exclaimed.

“The what flower?” she asked.

“Don’t you remember? When we were exploring that creepy cave, there was a tunnel covered with weird, black vines. I thought it looked suspicious. But you said it was fine because the vines had beautiful flowers and that meant it was safe,” Bo rolled his eyes. “I had a rash for a whole month!”

“Oh, Bo, I’m sorry! I do remember,” Kira patted her friend’s shoulder. “But that was so long ago...I was just a kid. I didn’t know any better.”

Bo shook his head. “I think we should head back. If we don’t go home soon, we’ll have to camp here.”

“But we’re so close to the Sky River,” Kira protested.

“I want to go home,” Bo said firmly.

“Please, just a little farther?”

Bo was silent.

“Fine,” Kira sighed. “If you really want to go, then go.”

Bo’s eyes widened with surprise. Then, with a huff, he turned on his heel. Kira watched Bo as he stormed away. In a few moments, he had disappeared into the trees, leaving her all alone.



Chapter Three



DANGER IN THE FOREST

Bo had never explored the forest on his own. He had never wanted to. Now he realized why. Without Kira, the forest felt dangerous.

“It’s too quiet,” Bo grumbled. He tried not to think about the other creatures in the forest. He knew there were many creatures with big claws, rough scales, and sharp teeth out there.

Maybe he shouldn’t have left Kira. Weren’t they safer together? But then Bo remembered all the times she had gotten him into trouble.

For example, there was the time she had convinced Bo to camouflage himself with mud. He had caught a cold, and his fur had smelled awful for a week.

“Why do I go along with her crazy ideas?” Bo wondered aloud.

He listened to the *crunch, crunch, crunch* of the leaves beneath his feet. The forest was too quiet. Even though he was still annoyed with her, Bo was beginning to miss his friend. Their adventures weren’t all bad. Most of the time, they were fun. And, when things went wrong, she always made it up to him. Like when Bo had gotten that rash from the nettle flower. Kira had baked him a wonderfully delicious limaberry cake. *Maybe I should go back*, Bo thought.

Then, out of the silence, a scream rang through the forest.

Kira! Bo thought. She was in trouble. He turned and ran toward the sound of his friend's scream.

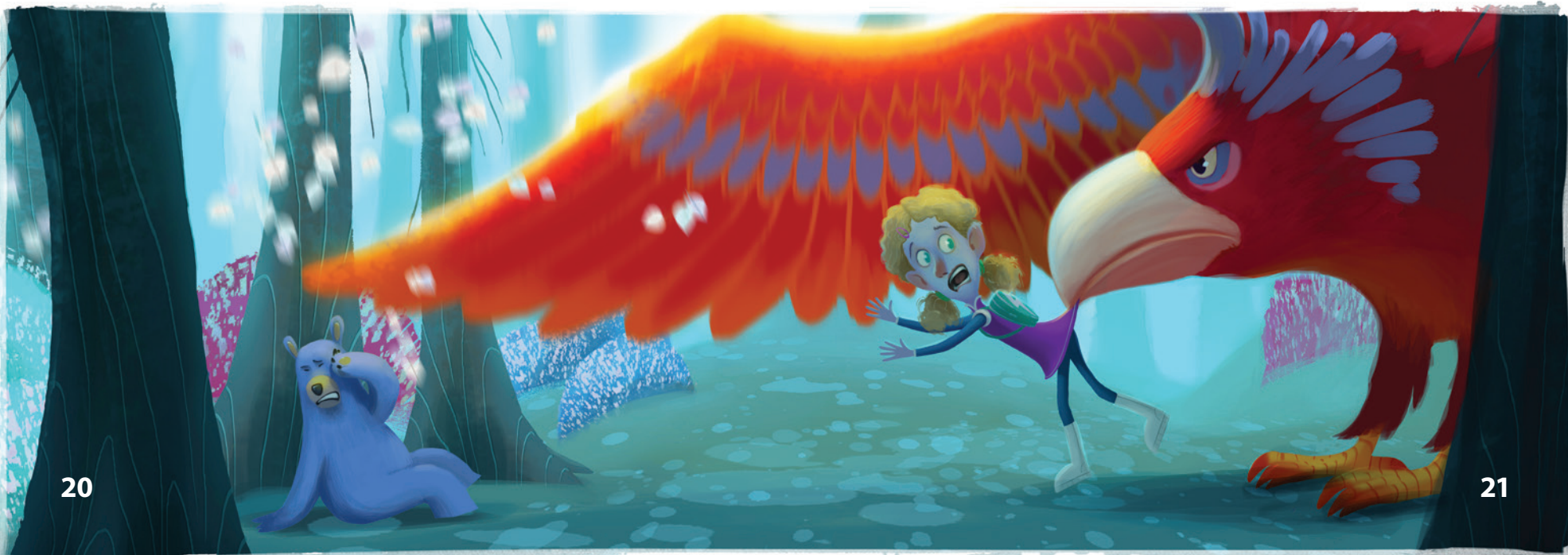
"Someone, help!" Kira yelled.

Bo barreled through the trees, running as fast as he could. Branches scratched his face as he stumbled through the bushes. Then, he stopped. He saw Kira—she was in the mouth of a gigantic bird.

"Bo!" Kira cried with relief.

The bird's massive wings flapped angrily, creating a powerful gust of wind. Bo was knocked flat on his back. Quickly scrambling to his feet, he shouted, "Put her down!"

The bird shook its head, flinging Kira back and forth like a rag doll. The creature's wings glinted in the sunlight. Their brilliant color reminded Bo of something—the egg! The bird's wings glowed just like the egg Kira had found.





“Kira, give it the egg!” Bo yelled.

The bird stopped shaking Kira. It focused its enormous eyes on Bo.

“She has the egg,” Bo said softly. “We weren’t going to hurt it.”

Bo stared up at the creature with pleading eyes. Slowly, the bird bowed toward the ground. Then, Kira leaped out of its mouth. She landed with a stumble next to Bo.

“Thank you,” Kira said, hugging her friend.

“I shouldn’t have left,” Bo began.

“No, it was all my fault,” Kira said, hugging him tighter.

The bird crowed overhead, startling Kira and Bo.

“Give me the egg!” the bird squawked, flapping its giant wings menacingly.

Chapter Four



A JOURNEY'S END

“It’s in my knapsack,” Kira said, her voice shaking. She pointed to her bag, hidden under the bushes.

“Show me,” the bird insisted.

With her eyes on the gigantic creature, Kira slowly walked toward her knapsack. Bo held his breath. He watched his friend as she carefully took the egg from the bag. Kira stepped toward the bird and held the egg up to it.

The bird circled the egg, inspecting it closely. Finally, the creature brushed the egg with its feathery cheek.



“I’m sorry I lost you,” the bird whispered. Then, turning toward Kira and Bo, the bird said, “I dropped my egg while flying—I thought I had lost it forever.”

“We’re very sorry,” Kira said. “We never meant for you to worry.”

Bo nodded nervously, “Yes, we’re very, very sorry.”

The bird looked at Kira and Bo. “I’ve treated you poorly,” the bird said. “I was worried about my egg. I only lay one a year, and they take a very long time to hatch. This little one is just about ready,” she motioned to the egg. “I was flying to the Sky River to let it hatch.”

“Wait,” Kira gasped. “Did you say what I think you said...you’re headed to the Sky River?” She looked eagerly over at Bo. He was already bouncing with excitement.

“Oh yes,” the bird said. “It’s just beyond these trees.”

Kira and Bo smiled at each other. They were almost to the Sky River!

The bird offered its wing, and Kira and Bo climbed onto its back. On their short journey, they learned more about the enormous bird. She was an ancient creature, over a century old. Her name was Elderfowl. Her family had lived near the Sky River for generations.

“Has the river always been here?” Kira asked.

“No, not always...it moves every few decades or so. We birds always follow the river, migrating to wherever it rests.”

“Does it look like the old stories say?” Bo asked.

“Take a look for yourself,” Elderfowl nodded ahead.



And there it was: the Sky River. Kira and Bo gasped at the strange and wonderful sight before them. A river made of light wound through the clouds and poured like a waterfall into the valley below. Around a crystal clear lake, giant birds wandered. They looked just like Elderfowl.

“Wow,” Kira sighed. “It’s beautiful.”

When they landed, Bo pointed at some bushes. “Are those limaberry bushes?” he asked excitedly.

“They are,” Elderfowl smiled.

“Kira! We can pick some for the journey home. Actually, I think I might have some now,” Bo said as he scurried off to the bushes.



“Thank you for bringing us here,” Kira grinned up at the giant bird.

“It was my pleasure—oh my!” Elderfowl said, looking down with surprise.

A large crack had almost split the egg in half. *Crick, crick, crick*: three more cracks. A tiny beak appeared.

“Hello, little one,” Elderfowl said softly as the chick began to peep. “Welcome to the Sky River!”



About Us

The Author

Elise Wallace lives in Southern California with her husband and their two silly spaniels. She loves reading fantasy books about strange creatures from even stranger worlds. Her favorite book is Phillip Pullman's *The Golden Compass*.

The Illustrator

Fernando Juarez is from Madrid, Spain, where he works as an illustrator and an art supervisor at an animation studio. He studied graphic design and illustration. He has three kids, and when he has time left after work and family, you might catch him playing guitar in a rock band.

Book Club Questions

1. What happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?
2. How are Bo and Kira different? How are they similar?
3. Do you think Bo was right to leave Kira? Provide reasons to support your opinion.
4. What is the genre of this book? What characteristics of this genre do you notice?

Searching for the Sky River

Kira and Bo live on Gleam,
a faraway planet. One day,
the two friends make a
surprising discovery.

Reading Levels

Guided Reading: P

DRA Level: 34

Lexile® Level: 600L

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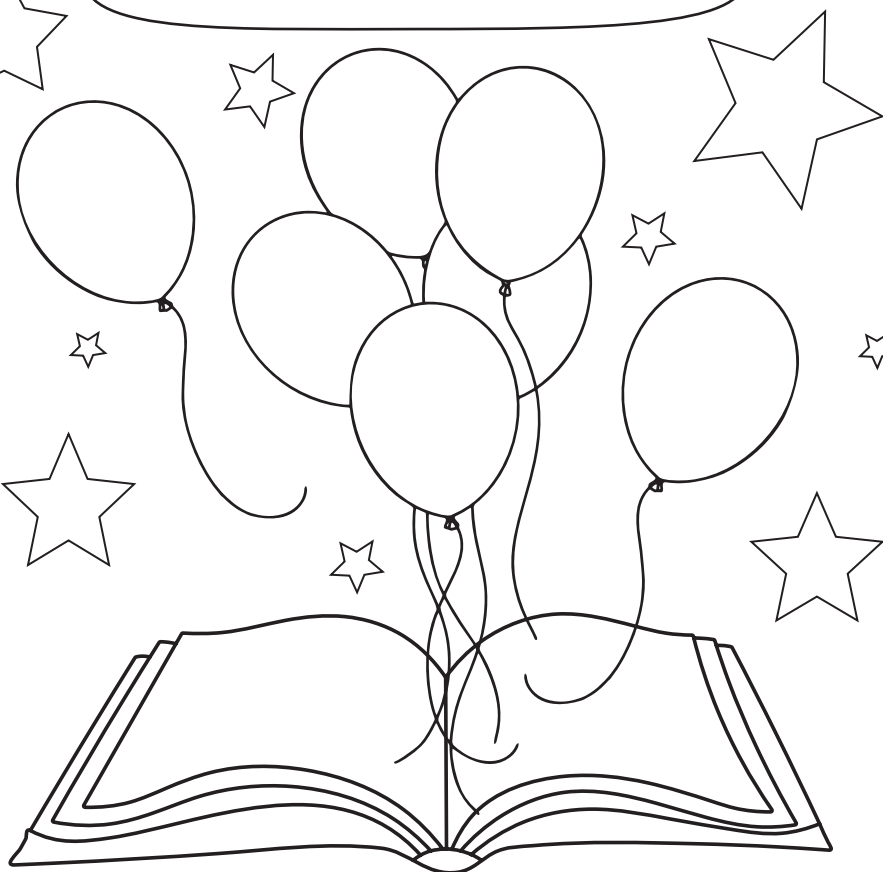
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MY BOOK ADVENTURES Passport



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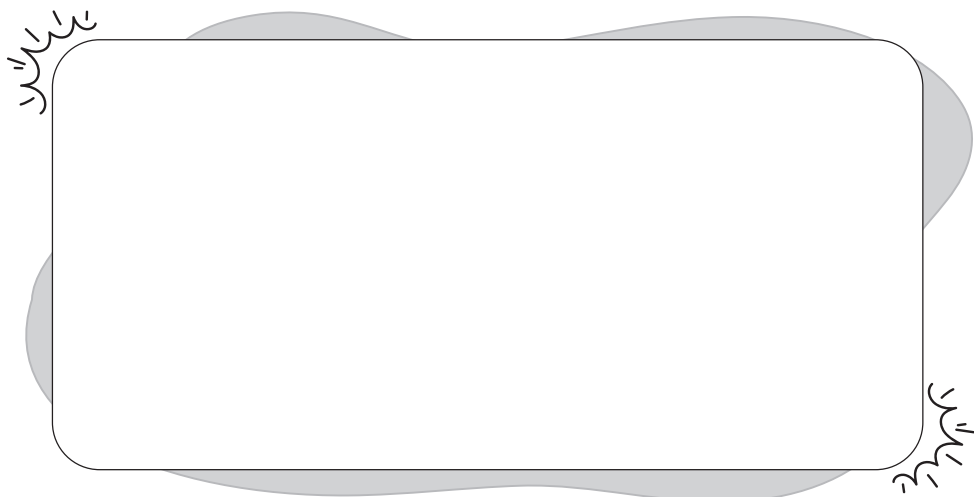
Title _____

Author _____

Rating



Directions: Draw the main characters or people in the book. Describe an interesting character trait they have.



Title _____

Author _____

Rating



Directions: Describe the setting or location of the book. Include details about what makes the setting or location interesting.



