



A young girl's kindness, compassion, and honesty overcome bullying.

A 2017 Newbery Honor Book

New York Times Bestseller

- ★ An NPR Best Book of the Year
- ★ A Booklist Best Book of the Year
- ★ An Entertainment Weekly Best Middle Grade Book of the Year
- ★ A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year
- ★ A Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year
- ★ A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year
- ★ A Wall Street Journal Best Children's Book of the Year
- ★ An ALA Notable Children's Book

Introduction:

Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice while tensions mount. Brilliantly crafted, *Wolf Hollow* is a haunting tale of America at a crossroads and a time when one girl's resilience, strength, and compassion help to illuminate the darkest corners of our history.

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<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/531665/wolf-hollow-by-lauren-wolk/9781101994849/>

Discussion Questions for WOLF HOLLOW

1. The author has a clever way of revealing some of Annabelle's physical characteristics: "I [Annabelle] had a hard time imagining why Hitler disliked so many people. 'Who does he like?' I asked. My father thought about his answer. 'People with blond hair and blue eyes,' he said. Which made me glad to have hair that was brown. Eyes, too." (pg. 18) How else would you describe Annabelle's appearance? How would you describe her personality?
2. Annabelle says, "The year I turned twelve, I learned that what I said and what I did mattered." (pg. 2) Give some examples of how the actions of one person can affect the lives of others from the story and from your own experience.
3. Think about how photography is important in the story.
4. What are some thoughts and actions that cause Annabelle to feel guilty? Do you feel she holds any responsibility for what happened to Betty or Toby? Explain why or why not.
5. Describe Betty and her behavior. What reasons would she have to kill the quail? Why do you think Betty acts like such a bully?
6. Aunt Lily says, "Your faith in that man is a mystery to me, Annabelle. He's hurt two little girls—Ruth and Betty both—and maybe others." (pg. 209) Why is Aunt Lily so convinced that Toby has caused all the trouble? Why are Annabelle and her mother not afraid of Toby?
7. When Ruth gets hurt, Annabelle's mother says, "What happened to her was just bad luck." Annabelle thinks this explanation "only made things worse. How was anyone supposed to stand up straight and open-eyed when luck could decide everything?" (pg. 72) Do you believe in luck, good or bad? Explain why or why not.
8. Annabelle's mother says, "... think about how it feels when your hands are so cold that they go numb. How it's only when they start to thaw out that you realize how much they hurt." (pg. 278) Explain what Mrs. McBride means by this statement. How does it relate to the story?
9. How and why does Annabelle's relationship with her brother Henry change throughout the book?
10. What surprised you about the ending? Why do you think the author chose this final outcome for her characters? How else could this story have ended? Would any alternative ending feel as truthful?