

READERS' & LISTENERS' GUIDE

For Audiences of Every Age
(Expanded Version)



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How to Use This Guide

The following illuminating questions are offered to further enrich the experience of reading or listening to the adventures in *Aerial Skye, A Family of Stories, Volume I*. They are designed as clues for your own, fun exploration of themes and hidden treasure buried within the stories, within the illustrations and within the audiobook sounds.

Aligned with the intended audiences for this story series, these questions are best explored without limiting them to any particular age of reader or listener. Have fun on your exploration and don't be surprised at the imagination travels you each will experience, from the simplest questions to the more complex. See what your youngest member might "see" or imagine within the complex questions offered and what fresh insight your more mature member might "discover" among the simplest questions—and vice versa.

The author welcomes each of you to the vast worlds yet to come within the *Aerial Skye Family of Stories* series. We look forward to hearing about your story journeys.



Reflection

QUESTIONS

AA. Can you find the words “savoring” in Korean? In Spanish? In English?

BB. Can you find the word “garden” in six different languages hidden in one of the illustrations?

Can you draw these words in different languages by exploring the various characters of different alphabets?

CC. Can you find the illustrations of tea cups? How many are there?

DD. What kind of tea do you imagine Klipklop drinks from his tea cup?
Have you ever tasted dandelion tea?

Do you know the benefits of drinking dandelion tea?

EE. Can you find examples of plants being compared to musicians?

Can you find examples of plants being compared to cousins?

What kinds of literary devices do these demonstrate?

Do you have your own metaphors that you have used about your own story?

FF. Can you identify Klipklop’s superpower?

Do you know someone who has a superpower?

What is your superpower?

Can you find other superpowers that are described in Aerial Skye?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

GG. Does the story imply that the pond fish “hear” the stories and sounds of the garden?

How does the writing allow this inference?

Can you research to learn whether pond fish can “hear?”

Can you find examples in the story where animals are described as thinking?

Can you find examples in the story where animals make decisions and choices?

HH. Which of Alex’s many questions would you like to also ask?

Which of Alex’s questions would you like to answer creating your own lines to the Aerial Skye stories?

II. How are DNA double helix ribbons similar to the strings on a violin, or the vines of a grape orchard, or the wires inside a piano, or the wispy filaments of a dandelion seed, or the fronds of pond plants or the vocal cords of an opera singer or a crying infant?

JJ. Can you find references in the stories to the number “18?”

Can you research to learn the significance of the number “18” in various cultures and communities?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

KK. Can you detect several layers of sounds in the audiobook portrayed as the background soundscape?

What types of animals can you hear?

What types of insects can you hear?

What human sounds can you hear?

What other Nature sounds can you hear?

LL. Can you find examples in the story of animal emotions expressed?

Can you find examples in the story of human emotions?

Can you research to learn examples of and how human and animal emotions are alike?

MM. Can you find the Little Girl in Pink?

Within how many illustrations does she appear?

Can you find a clue that reveals whether Bartlett and the Little Girl in Pink know one another?

NN. How is the color pink used throughout the illustrations?

OO. Can you find within the story the use of interchangeable words referring to strings, ribbons and threads?

Can you think of the ways you use ribbons, strings and threads in your daily life?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

PP. Do you know what a DNA double helix looks like?
Do the DNA double helix ribbons have colors?
When we look at the DNA helix, must we use a special microscope to see it?

QQ. How many times do you notice among the illustrations the application of a very close-up lens ?
How many times in the story do you notice the use of a very far-away lens?
Do these close-up and far-away compositions expand readers' perspectives by inspiring multiple ways to view a scene or scenes in our daily lives?

RR. Can you find throughout the stories connecting themes, “connecting threads,” in both the illustrations and in the stories shared?

SS. Where can you find the theme of “threads” in different literary and visual uses, for example as portrayed in illustrations and as captured in prose or poetry? (Hint: see the final section, “A Poem”) (Hint two: twine to assist tomato vines, DNA ribbons, a horse bridle, a dog lead, seed silks, a rose vine, string used to send packages to cousins and lines of connections to our ancestors.)

TT. Can you find the theme of “cousins” within the stories?
Can you explore the meanings of “cousin love, care and connection” as may be applied to our sense of connection to the world?
Can “cousin” concepts be useful in discovering our connection to new people we meet?
Can we think of our neighbors each as someone’s cousin?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

UU. Can you find the themes of “hope” that appear within the several stories?

How do we lose hope and how do we find it again?

How do we help others find hope even when its very hard to find?

Can you find descriptions of Nature that remind us how to find “hope” when we face challenging experiences?

VV. Can you research the origins of making wishes while blowing seed pods into the wind?

What are the ways that you make wishes?

How often to you make wishes?

What rituals do you use when you make a wish?

Do you feel a sense of wonder when you make wishes?

WW. What do you think about non-verbal connections among and between people who may not speak the same language?

Why do we communicate with one another when we don’t speak the same language?

Can you describe the ways we communicate with one another when we don’t share common spoken or written languages?

How do outdoor settings in Nature offer common languages to visitors in Nature?

Does music and soundscape create a common language?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

XX. Can you find the story patterns of connections among people and the many elements found in Nature? (Hint: grape leaves and harvesting women, found objects from humans repurposed by Aerial and animals, animal hospital where humans care for animals, Dr. Julie, trees serving to anchor yellow ribbons as a welcome home gesture, Skye and Charles and Bartlett, Aerial and Klipklop, Klipklop and Alex, The Little Girl in Pink and Aerial.)

YY. Can you think of your own stories and memories about ancestors in your life, both near in time and further into your history, that bring a simple joy to you?

ZZ. Can you think of your own stories and memories about friends and neighbors in your life, both near and far away, that bring a smile to you?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

AAA. Can you think of your own stories about animals in your life that you have cherished, both real animals and stuffed animals, and animals in stories? What are the common characteristics in these animals that you remember fondly and that make you laugh, feel warm, perhaps move you to cry, that give you joy?

BBB. Can you use your voice to make the sounds of crickets, birds, foxes, the wind blowing through tree limbs on a breezy day?
Can you record these sounds directly in Nature and listen to these recordings while you are reading or making art or cleaning or caring for loved ones?

CCC. Can you find parts of the stories that describe insects and animals “wondering” with their own curiosity and questions?

DDD. Can you find a full image of Aerial?
Why do you think the author does not include Aerial’s image?
Can you draw images of what you think Aerial looks like?

EEE. Can you see in your imagination the scenery, animals, objects and ribbons that are described in words but not illustrated?
Can you make some of your own illustrations for Aerial Skye, Volume I?
Can you use your memory and imagination to “taste” the flavor of lemonade?
Can you use your memory and imagination to “smell” the fragrance of roses?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

FFF. Can you find an example of humor portrayed in the story that demonstrates the juxtaposition of literal meaning and metaphorical meaning? (Hint: “scratching the earth” is one.)

GGG. Can you find each of the illustrations of dandelions and dandelion seeds throughout the stories?

HHH. Can you research the benefits of eating dandelion greens grown organically and in particular the benefits to the human gut microbiome? Can you research how to organically grow dandelion greens?

III. Where in the stories does Klipklop ask a question?

JJJ. Where in the stories does Alex make a choice?

What are some of the choices you have made?

Do you like to make choices for yourself?

When do you like for others to make choices for you?

When do you like to make choices for others?

LLL. How many languages can you find in these stories?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

MMM. How many times within the illustrations can you find Alex's stuffed baby lamb?

Can you find online the words "baby lamb" in Korean and in Spanish?

NNN. Can you find the words "savoring" in English, Korean and Spanish in the story?

Can you write or draw this word in Korean?

Can you write or draw this word in Spanish?

Can you find these words in the audiobook story?

OOO. Where in the stories can you find the question and answer to the query, "Does a seed make a sound when it is moving through the air?"

Can you find this sentence in English, Korean and Spanish in the written version?

Can you find this sentence in the audio version?

Can you repeat this sentence in these three languages?

PPP. When you hear the sounds in the audiobook version that are played when this sentence above is read in the English audio version, what sounds can you hear?

QQQ. What sounds do you think seeds make when they are taking a ride on the air above the ground? Have you ever seen seeds floating in the air?

Have you seen seeds rushing through the air riding on the wind?

Have you seen seeds rushing through the water after a storm or on the surface of a stream?

Reflection

QUESTIONS

RRR. How many times do you hear singing in the audio version?

SSS. Do you like to sing or hum when you are playing or walking or gardening outside in Nature? Have you ever tried singing or humming when you are alone?

Have you ever heard a group of singers perform music a cappella?

Can you describe the listening experience of hearing a group sing without accompanying musical instruments?

Can you find a performance to attend that features voices singing without the accompaniment of musical instruments?

TTT. How does this listening experience, to a cappella singing, compare to the sounds of a seed moving through the air?

UUU. What are the many benefits of listening to or singing along in a group of people? Think of singing with your friends happy birthday, or songs while you are hiking together, or singing a national anthem, or singing in a choir, or singing call and response to birds as they call from the trees, or singing a lullaby to a small person or an adult person as they drift into an afternoon nap or begin their dream journey for the night.

Reflection

QUESTIONS

VVV. Where in these Aerial Skye stories in Volume I can you find the concept of harmony?

What are the steps artists use to create harmony in music?

What are the steps artists use to create harmony in paintings or sculptures?

What are the steps communities use to create harmony in their schools?

What are the steps communities use to create harmony in their public parks?

What are the steps communities use to create harmony in their animal shelters?

Can you identify similar steps found in outdoor Nature and what can we learn about harmonizing from Nature?

WWW. What are the ideas we can explore to find harmony in our daily adventures and challenges?

