

# SERIES FAVORITES

heroes, scamps, and sidekicks

## Guardians of Ga'Hoole

by Kathryn Lasky

### ***Students' Writing Skills Will Take Flight with a Traveling Class Story!***

Kathryn Lasky incorporates facts about owl behavior, anatomy, and family dynamics throughout the Guardians of Ga'Hoole series. Have students choose animals they are interested in learning more about. Group students so that they may work cooperatively to complete the KWL chart provided. Supply a variety of nonfiction books and science magazines that students may use to research animals. Provide a list of child-friendly websites, such as [kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids) and [owling.com](http://owling.com), for students to access as well.

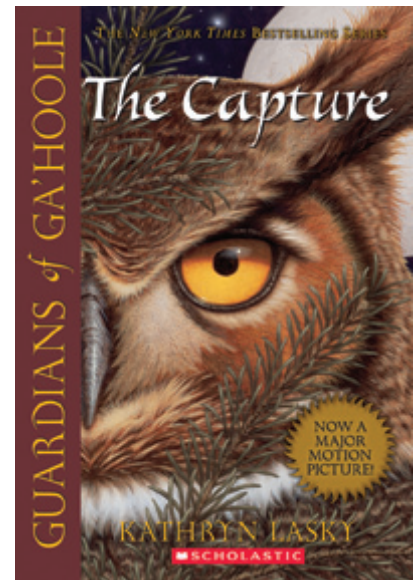
Once they've completed their research, encourage your students to work together to create a fictional class story that incorporates the factual material they have gathered. When the story is completed, send it to another class in your school, district, or even a class across the country! Ask the class that receives your story to add to it. Be sure to send them a letter describing your project and let them know how much time they have to complete their part of the project. If sending materials by mail, be sure to provide a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want them to return your original work.

Read the returned story with your class. Discuss what the other class added, and talk about the content and style of the story in its newly completed state.

### ***Guarding Our Natural Resources***

Invite a representative from a local nature conservatory to your classroom to discuss the preservation and care of animals indigenous to your area.

Help support endangered species! Get your students involved in the Adopt a Species program at the National Zoo. Check out [nationalzoo.si.edu/Support/AdoptSpecies](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Support/AdoptSpecies) for more information.



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### Questions to Ponder Before Reading *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*

**"Ignorance is perhaps the source of all evil....Knowledge is the most powerful weapon of all."**

—Ezylryb (*Guardians of Ga'Hoole* Book 9: *The First Collier*, prologue xviii)

- Learning and the quest for knowledge are forbidden at St. Aegolius Academy. The owlets are also told that questions are not allowed. How do you think you would feel if your teacher told you that you were not allowed to ask any questions for one whole day in school? What kinds of problems do you think you might encounter?
- Owlets brought to the St. Aegolius Academy for Orphaned Owls are told that they are going to be taught the Truth. What is truth? What is the difference between truth told and truth learned? What might happen if you never questioned what others thought?
- What do you treasure in life? What are you willing to guard?

### Questions to Ponder During and After Reading *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*

- Ask the students to discuss who influences their beliefs—parents, teachers, their peers, the media, etc.—and how they decide for themselves what to believe. Talk about how different people try to shape our minds to believe what they perceive as the truth, and what causes us to accept or reject a certain set of beliefs.
- The relationships between siblings in the books of the *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* series shape personalities and actions. Examine some of the relationships between siblings in the books: Soren and Kludd, and others. Which of these relationships are strong and supportive; and which are competitive? How has each individual's life been affected by his or her sister or brother?
- Ask them to talk about friendships they have. How far would they go to help a friend? Would a real friend put another at risk?
- The values of the *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* include patience, dedication, working hard, and being compassionate. See if the students can think of anyone in history or living today, or of a character from literature or film, who embodies all or most of these ideals. How close do the students think they come to being "Guardians"? Which owl do you identify with most? Which character traits do you share?

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KWL CHART

What I Know	What I Want to Find Out	What I Have Learned