

A Common Core State Standards & Next Generations Science Standards-Aligned Educator Guide

WHEN WE WENT WILD

Publisher: Ivy Kids

ISBN: 9780711262874

About the book:

Nancy and Jake are farmers. They raise their cows and pigs, and grow their crops. They use a lot of big machines to help them, and spray a lot of chemicals to get rid of the weeds and the pests. That's what all good farmers do, isn't it? And yet, there is no wildlife living on their farm. The animals look sad. Even the trees look sad! One day, Nancy has an idea... what if they stopped using all the machines, and all the chemicals, and instead they went wild?

The author's own experience of rewilding her estate at Knepp in West Sussex, England, has influenced conservation techniques around the world that are bringing nature back to the countryside and bringing threatened species back from the brink.

About the author:

Isabella Tree is an award-winning nature and travel author, and conservation pioneer. Her bestselling adult book *Wilding* - the return of nature to a British farm tells the story of Knepp, the groundbreaking rewilding project in West Sussex, UK, that she started with her husband, the environmentalist Charlie Burrell.



About the illustrator

Allira Tee is an illustrator based in Melbourne, Australia. She has worked on a variety of commissions with clients from around the world, including Hygge & West, HarperCollins, Eeboo, L'Affiche Moderne, AHD Paper Co., and Impression Originale. Her debut picture book *Tiger & Cat* with Berbay Publishing, was released in August 2020. Her illustrations are created by hand using ink or graphite and finished with colored markers, pencils, watercolor, or digital techniques.



Pre-Reading Discussion:

Consider the illustration on the cover of the book:

- Identify the animals featured in this illustration. Where do these animals live? How do you know?
- Can you identify the fruits, berries, and flowers in this illustration.
- Who are the people depicted in the center of the illustration? How are they related?
- How does the couple make a living? What are their jobs? How do you know?
- The word *coexist* means harmony, order, and peace. Notice that there is a cow and a wildcat depicted in the illustration. Is it possible for a cow and a wildcat to coexist peacefully and safely in an environment together? Explain your answer.
- Predict what this story is going to be about.





***Nancy and Jake were farmers.
They plowed their fields and planted
crops.
They milked their cows and fed their
pigs. They did what all good farmers do.***

***But then, Nancy had an idea.
“If we can’t go to the wilderness, let’s
bring it here!
Let’s go wild!”***

***But their neighbors were not pleased at
all.
“Look at the mess they’ve made.
It’s nothing but brambles and weeds!”***

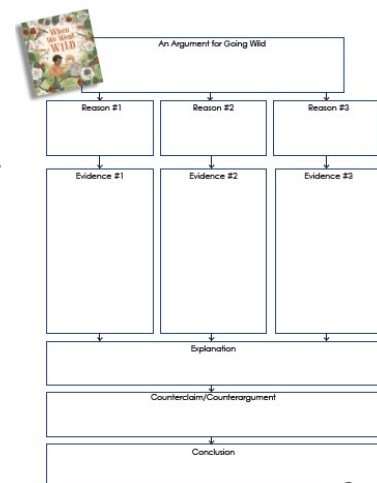
***But the flood never came.
The rain stopped, and the farm and the
village looked like nothing had ever
happened.
All the new trees and flowers on the farm
had drunk up the rain.***

- Describe the difference between a regular farmer and a *good* farmer. What makes a *good* farmer special? How do *good* farmers feel about their crops and livestock?
- If Nancy and Jake are *good* farmers, why do they appear to be so sad in this illustration? Why do their animals seem so unhappy?
- Notice the cluster of colorful barrels with warning symbols printed on them. The content in the barrels is poisonous. Explain why good farmers might use poison to care for their crops and livestock.
- Define the phrase going wild, as it relates to giving up conventional farming practices, providing ecological and community benefits.
- The word *restore* means to replace, return, or give back. Discuss how, by altering their farming practices, Nancy and Jake restored their land, their livestock, and their natural surroundings to become more sustainable for all living things.
- *Habitats* are defined as being a natural home for plants, animals, and other organisms. Examine ways eliminating poisons created a vibrant habitat in which all plants and animals – even for Nancy and Frank – could thrive.
- Explain why Nancy and Frank’s neighbors found wildflowers to be unsightly.
- Observe the expressions on their faces. List reasons why they seem so unhappy.
- Do you think these farmers are using poisonous products to care for their crops and livestock? If so, make a connection between their farming philosophy and their unhappy demeanor.
- Nancy and Frank discovered ways to establish diversity and harmony on their land. Discuss how their willingness to move from away from farming resulted in lasting effects for them and their community.
- Consider how, by going wild, Nancy and Frank allowed for nature to care for the community in a time of trouble.
- Examine how Jake and Nancy’s rewilded land benefited conventional farms nearby.
- Explore ways in which Nancy and Frank’s rewilding project demonstrates an alternative way of managing land that can be beneficial to surrounding nature and people.

Application: An Argument for Going Wild

Use the graphic organizer on the following page to establish a sound argument in support of innovative forms of land management including, but not limited to going wild. Use the grids provided to explore your topic.

- Clarify your position on the issue.
- State three reasons why your position is sound.
- Use evidence to support your position.
- Summarize your finding in an explanatory statement.
- Prove your argument in a concluding statement.
- Write a persuasive essay.
- Present your findings to the class.





An Argument for Going Wild

Reason #1

Reason #2

Reason #3

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3

Explanation

Counterclaim/Counterargument

Conclusion