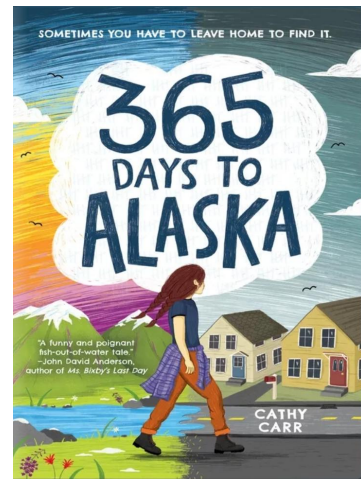


# Novel Study Overview:

## *365 Days to Alaska*

by Cathy Carr



### Before Reading:

- Show map of U.S.A.; locate Alaska & Connecticut
- Read aloud one of the listed picture books; discuss the theme/topic of moving or finding friendship
- Discussion Questions

### During Reading:

- Take notes on how Rigel describes Alaska vs. Connecticut
- Discuss the differences between the two states/settings

### After Reading:

- Compare/Contrast one of the picture books & the novel
- Complete a Venn Diagram: Compare/contrast the novel's settings (Alaska vs. Connecticut)
- Read *I'M A HARE, SO THERE!* by Julie Rowan-Zoch
- Create Informational Brochure on 2 similar animals
- Write Persuasive Essay (to move to new place or not)
- Introduce students to similar books about moving

\*This guide was created with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class in mind, but feel free to modify it for grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

# Common Core Standards

## Reading:

### -Key Ideas and Details:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3

Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

### -Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.9

Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

## Writing:

### -Text Types and Purposes:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.A

Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.B

Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

# Common Core Continued...

## Writing:

### -Text Types and Purposes:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.C

Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., *consequently, specifically*).

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.D

Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

### -Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.7

Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.8

Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work and provide a list of sources.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

# Common Core Continued...

## CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.9.A

Apply *grade 5 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or a drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., how characters interact]").

# Before Reading:

## Read a Picture Book with a Similar Topic

Note: Picture books are a great way to introduce topics and background knowledge to students before reading a novel. Choose one of the listed picture books and discuss the topic with students.

Topic: MOVING

-*Florette* by Anna Walker

-*Way Past Sad* by Hallee Adelman


-*Lenny & Lucy* by Philip C. Stead

-*A New Kind of Wild* by Zara Gonzalez Hoang

-*Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes* by Jef Aerts and Sanne te Loo

-*Southwest Sunrise* by Nikki Grimes

Tip: Before buying any of these books, check them out from your local library instead.



# Before Reading

## Discussion Questions:

-Have you ever moved to a new place? What was it like?

-What do you think would be difficult if you moved to a new state?

-Would you want to move to a new state? Why or why not?

-Do you have family or friends in another state? Have you ever visited them? Tell your partner/classmate how visiting family/friends was different from your home state.

-If you're new to a place or school, what strategies would you implement to make new friends?

# During Reading

## Discussion Questions:

Have students take notes on how Rigel describes Alaska vs. Connecticut:

- What does Rigel like about Alaska?
- What does Rigel dislike about Connecticut?
- How does Rigel describe the sunset in Connecticut?
- What is the weather like in Alaska? In Connecticut?
- What is Rigel's house like in Alaska? In Connecticut?
- What friends does Rigel have in Alaska? What's her relationship like with those friends?
- What friends does Rigel have in Connecticut? What's her relationship like with those friends?
- How do people in Alaska treat Rigel?
- How do people in Connecticut treat Rigel?

## After Reading

### Compare/Contrast the Novel & a Picture Book:

Reread one of the picture books. Discuss how it's similar to and different from the novel:

Title of Picture Book: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Who was the main character?
- 2) What was the setting?
- 3) What was the problem in this story?
- 4) How did the main character solve his/her problem?
- 5) What was this book's topic?

Novel: 365 Days to Alaska

- 1) Who was the main character?
- 2) What was the setting?
- 3) What was the problem in this story?
- 4) How did the main character solve his/her problem?
- 5) What was this book's topic?

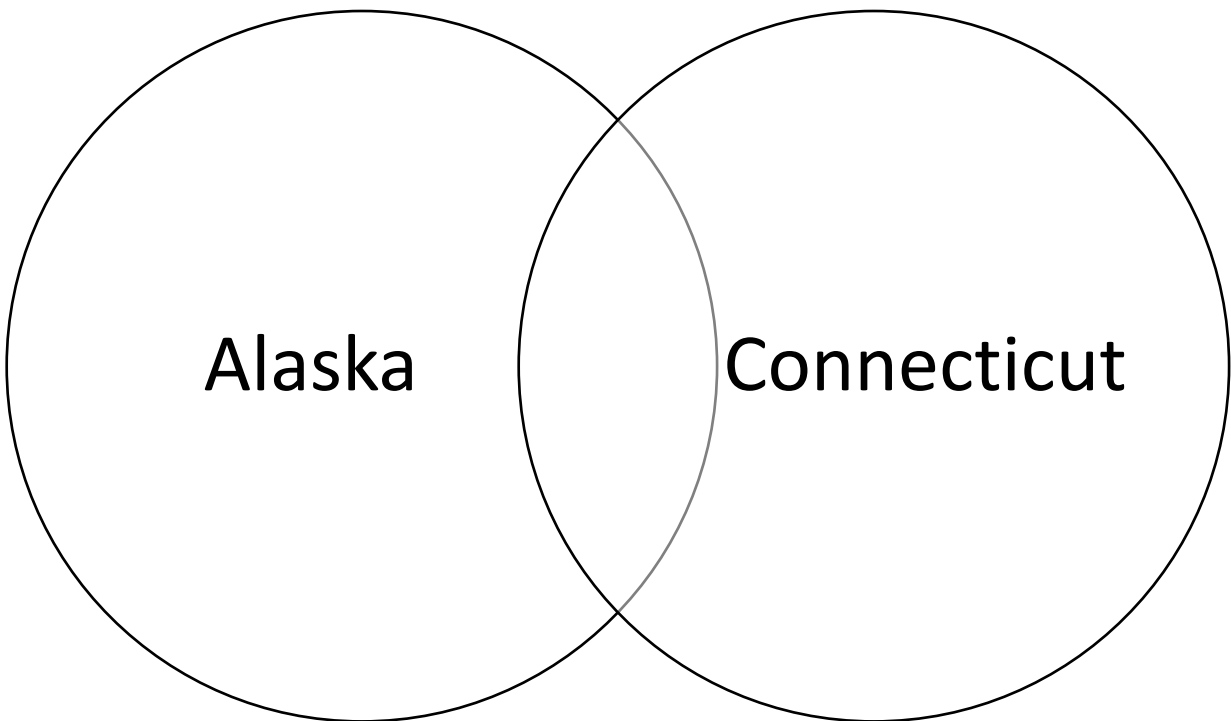
HOW ARE THESE BOOKS SIMILAR/DIFFERENT?



## After Reading

### Create a Venn Diagram:

Review your notes from the "During Reading Discussion Questions." Based on Rigel's experiences, fill out the diagram by placing the differences between Alaska and Connecticut in the outer circles and the similarities in the inner circle.



# After Reading

## Create an Informational Brochure:

- 1) Read *I'M A HARE, SO THERE!* by Julie Rowan-Zoch
- 2) In the novel, Rigel compares and contrasts ravens and crows. Pick two similar animals to research (ex: tortoise vs. turtle; bison vs. buffalo; hare vs. rabbit; etc.) Conduct research on each animal and write up an informational brochure. To avoid plagiarism, write the information in your own words. Be sure to include the following:

### Cover:

- colorful title
- pictures of both animals
- your name

### Inner Flaps:

- at least 3 headings (bolded & black)
- at least 2 subheadings (bolded and blue) under each heading
- facts that relate to each heading & subheading

### Back Flap:

- cite at least 2 different sources

# After Reading

## Sample Informational Brochure:

Inner Flaps:

<p><b>Appearance</b> Crows and Ravens are both black, but they look different in other ways.</p> <p><b>Crows</b> Crows have a more square-shaped tail feather. Their beaks are smaller.</p> <p><b>Ravens</b> Ravens have a triangular tail</p>	<p>feather. They have a larger, thicker beak.</p> <p><b>Location</b> These birds reside in different places.</p> <p><b>Crows</b> Crows can be found in cities and places with people.</p> <p><b>Ravens</b> Ravens can be found in places where</p>	<p>There aren't a lot of people.</p> <p><b>Sounds</b> It's easy to recognize a crow versus a raven based on the sounds they make.</p> <p><b>Crows</b> Crows make a caw-caw sound.</p> <p><b>Ravens</b> Ravens say "gronk-gronk."</p>
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Back Flap:

**Sources:**  
<http://naturemappingfoundation.org/>  
<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-tell-raven-crow>

## After Reading

### Write a Persuasive Essay:

Prompt: Pretend your parents are thinking about moving to a new city, state, or place. Convince them to either stay where you are or to move.

- 1) Create a bubble map or chart to brainstorm reasons to stay or move.
- 2) Research the new city/state/place if you need facts to support your opinion.
- 3) Fill out the Prewriting Template:
  - a) Write your opinion statement.
  - b) List three reasons why your opinion is valid.
  - c) List two facts to support each reason.
  - d) Write a concluding statement.
- 4) Write a draft of your essay.
- 5) Review the rubric when revising and add any missing features. (Ex: add transition words to each body paragraph such as "for example" or "specifically").
- 6) Share your writing with a partner and ask for feedback. (Ex: What did you like about my essay? What could be better?)
- 7) Write your final draft.

# After Reading

## Persuasive Essay Prewriting Sample:

### Desert Winds

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-winters aren't very cold</li><li>-no snow to shovel</li><li>-sunny and great weather most of the time</li><li>-play outside because of good weather; get lots of exercise</li><li>-all my friends live nearby</li><li>-big house with a big backyard and pool</li><li>-I get to swim with friends in the backyard or I can swim by myself if I want privacy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-super hot summers (116 degrees)</li><li>-desert landscape; lots of dirt; not very green</li><li>-have to put on sunscreen a lot or I'll get sunburned</li></ul>

### Coastal Springs

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-near the beach</li><li>-great weather all year round (summers only get up to 90 degrees)</li><li>-pretty landscape (ocean &amp; palm trees)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-small houses</li><li>-no backyard</li><li>-new place; would need to make new friends</li><li>-new school; wouldn't know anyone</li><li>-I would have to put on sunscreen a lot or I'll get sunburned; super sunny</li><li>-earthquakes</li></ul>

Note: These are make-believe places. ☺

# After Reading

## Persuasive Essay Prewriting Template

### Sample:

**Prompt:** Pretend your parents are thinking about moving to a new city, state, or place. Convince them to either stay where you are or to move.

**Opinion statement:** Desert Winds is the best place to live.

**Reason #1:** It has great weather.

a) **Fact #1:** It's sunny most of the year.

b) **Fact #2:** It never snows, so you don't have to shovel snow or worry about blizzards.

**Reason #2:** In Desert Winds, we have a luxurious housing situation..

a) **Fact #1:** We have a big house with four bedrooms and three bathrooms. If we moved to Coastal Springs, we'd only be able to afford a house with two bedrooms and one bathroom.

b) **Fact #2:** Our backyard has a private pool that allows us to swim whenever we want, and it provides great entertainment for our guests when we host parties.

**Reason #3:** We should stay in Desert Winds because we have quality relationships here.

a) **Fact #1:** All of my friends live in this town, and I've known them since kindergarten. I don't know anyone in Coastal Springs, so I'd have to make all new friends, which is stressful for me.

b) **Fact #2:** All of our family members live in Desert Winds. If we moved, we'd only see them once or twice a year. And that'd make me sad.

**Concluding statement:** It is clear that Desert Winds is the most suitable place for us to live, and we shouldn't move to Coastal Springs.

# After Reading

## Persuasive Essay Prewriting Template:

Prompt: Pretend your parents are thinking about moving to a new city, state, or place. Convince them to either stay where you are or to move.

Opinion statement: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason #1: \_\_\_\_\_

a) Fact #1: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Fact #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason #2: \_\_\_\_\_

a) Fact #1: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Fact #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason #3: \_\_\_\_\_

a) Fact #1: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Fact #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding statement: \_\_\_\_\_

# After Reading

## Persuasive Essay Rubric:

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Introduction Paragraph	Opening sentence hooks the reader. Opinion statement includes an opinion detailing where the student wants to live.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.
Body Paragraph #1	Body paragraph #1 includes reason #1, which contains an opinion. Two facts support this statement.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.
Body Paragraph #2	Body paragraph #2 includes reason #2, which contains an opinion. Two facts support this statement.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.
Body Paragraph #3	Body paragraph #3 includes reason #3, which contains an opinion. Two facts support this statement.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.
Concluding Paragraph	Closes the essay with concluding statement. Final sentence gives a call to action.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.
Transition words	Transition words are used between paragraphs and before the facts.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.
Spelling, Grammar, Conventions, and Neatness	Spelling and grammar are correct. Essay has complete sentences and is written neatly.	Almost all components included.	Some components included.	Very few components included.	Barely any components included.	No components included.



# After Reading

Refer students to similar books  
to keep them reading!

## Books about Moving:

- *A Soft Place to Land* by Janae Marks (published 2021)
- *Over the Top* by Alison Hughes (published 2021)
- *Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year* by Nina Hamza (published 2021)
- *Partly Cloudy* by Tanita S. Davis (published 2021)
- *Violets Are Blue* by Barbara Dee (2021)
- *Glitter Gets Everywhere* by Yvette Clark (2021)
- *While I Was Away* by Waka T. Brown (2021)
- *Across the Pond* by Joy McCullough (2021)
- *Not All Heroes* by Josephine Cameron (published 2021)
- *The House that Wasn't There* by Elana K. Arnold (2021)
- *Hope Springs* by Jaime Berry (2021)
- *The Many Meanings of Meilan* by Andrea Wang (2021)
- *One Kid's Trash* by Jamie Sumner (published 2021)
- *A Place to Hang the Moon* by Kate Albus (2021)
- *Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renee Watson (published 2020)
- *Center of Gravity* by Shaunta Grimes (published 2020)
- *Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte & Ann Xu (2020)
- *No Vacancy* by Tziporah Cohen (2020)
- *Dear Sweet Pea* by Julie Murphy (published 2019)
- *For Black Girls Like Me* by Mariama J. Lockington (2019)
- *Trace* by Pat Cummings (2019)
- *Roll with It* by Jamie Sumner (2019)
- *The Fresh New Face of Griselda* by Jennifer Torres (2019)
- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga (2019)
- *Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry (published 2017)
- *Blooming at the Texas Sunrise Motel* by Kimberly Willis Holt (2017)
- *The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street* by Lindsay Currie (2017)
- *Let's Pretend We Never Met* by Melissa Walker (2017)
- *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling (2017)
- *Far from Fair* by Elana K. Arnold (published 2016)
- *Book Scavenger #1* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman (published 2015)



# Let's Stay in Touch!

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