

Seamless STEM Book Club

The Wild Robot
October 2019

Every family reads books differently. That's awesome and completely expected. My goal in putting together this book club guide is to foster excellent family conversations that can feed into amazing community conversations. With five Tuesdays in October, I've divided the book into five sections where each section has its conversation starters. All of the chapters in *The Wild Robot* are extremely short.

Section 1: Chapters 1-16

The book opens with Roz encountering the island for the first time. We learn that it is a particularly wild place.

For discussion:

- How did Roz arrive on the island? Why is packaging so important?
- What happens to free Roz from her crate?
- How did the crab help Roz climb the ledge? What do we learn about how Roz learns?
- How was Roz able to escape from the bears? How strong do you think Roz's legs are? How might her legs work?

Do share about how you and your family incorporate hands-on activities while you're reading this section of the book!

Section 2: Chapters 17-31

Roz starts finding her way around the island and realizing that she is different from everyone else. The animals reject Roz, calling her a monster.

For discussion:

- Where did Roz learn about camouflage? How was she able to camouflage herself? (For a really interesting discussion of the History of Camouflage for humans, check out these three videos from Green Label: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#).)
- What do you think you would observe if you were camouflaged? How would you need to camouflage yourself?
- What challenges does Roz have in caring for the egg? What does Roz do to make her job easier?
- How do the beavers modify the landscape of the pond?

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Section 3: Chapters 32-48

Roz and Brightbill settle into life in the Nest, making all sorts of friends along the way.

For discussion:

- How did Tawny help Roz plant a garden? How did the garden bring the animals together? How do humans gather around food?
- What strategies do birds use to swim? Do all swimming birds use similar strategies?
- How do birds fly? What kind of things did human airplane designers learn from birds? (For a fun fact, check out this discussion of the Wright Brothers' [1899 kite experiments](#).)
- Why did the animals need to try multiple times to make Roz a foot she could rely on?

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Section 4: Chapters 49-64

The seasons change, and the animals left on the island need to come together in order to survive a harsh winter.

For discussion:

- Where is the ON/OFF button on various appliances? Why would engineers put the button there? Why do you think Roz's button is on the back of her head?
- How do different bird species migrate? What can you learn about their migration paths? How can humans safeguard migrating birds?
- Why was Roz able to help animals on the island survive the winter? How do human homes help us survive?
- Why is it important to measure and record weather patterns? How is our climate changing?

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Section 5: Chapters 65-80

A celebration takes a frightening turn when robots from the mainland appear to capture Roz.

For discussion:

- Why can bonfires be seen at such a great distance? How do we properly care for bonfires when we build them?
- How do the RECOs search the island? Why do you think they were programmed to search in this way?
- How did the animals work as a team to protect Roz? What strategies were most effective?
- Why would technology companies offer take-back programs to repair damaged and defective units?

Do share about how you and your family incorporate hands-on activities while you're reading this section of the book!

Book Club Challenge Ideas

- Design a crate that is large enough to transport a human. What would the human need in order to be safe and comfortable?
- Experiment with different camouflage strategies. What works best for an epic game of hide and seek?
- Plan a dinner party where all of the guests get to eat food they enjoy.
- Research and prepare an emergency weather preparedness kit. What kinds of weather are important to be prepared for where you live?
- Research bird migration paths in your area. What can you do to make your community safer for migrating birds?