

One School, One Book 2023; *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate

Family & Classroom Discussion Questions

Chapters 1-3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the narrator of the book? Describe him/her (including age). Name 3 ways that trees are amazing.
Chapters 4-6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the narrator's best pal? Describe him/her. What is one rule Red has "made it clear" everyone must follow? Which of these would be the best title for chapters 1-5? Explain your choice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Differences between Crows and Trees Getting to Know the Wishtree Mother Nature Introverts and Extroverts
Chapters 7-9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Red's feelings about giving a home to so many animals. How does the tree make others feel safe? How does Red feel about it? How do you know? Why does Bongo give Samar gifts? Why do you think Samar had been crying before she comes outside at 2 a.m.? What clues are given in the text? Why do you suppose Samar wished for a friend?
Chapters 10-12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think Red means when she says, "A few days after Samar's tearful wish, something happened that made me wonder if I'd finally witnessed too much"? Describe the boy who carves a word in the tree. What does the author tell you about him and what assumptions can you make about his character?
Chapters 13-15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think the boy would carve that word into the tree? How does this act affect Red, Bongo, and Samar? Red compares the neighborhood to a garden, "wild and tangled and colorful" (p. 54). Why does the tree compare the people in the area to a garden? Why is the neighborhood not welcoming to Samar's family? What effect does the carving have on Francesca? What are the feelings of the police who come to investigate?
Chapters 16-18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Red's description—"standing tall, reaching deep"—as it applies to the tree and as it applies to Samar (p. 71). Max makes a wish, "I'll tell you what I wish for...I wish I didn't have to investigate things like this." What does he mean by this wish?
Chapters 19-21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Red's question, "How does friendship happen?" (p. 82). What is Bongo's answer? Why do you think Red and Bongo are friends? What makes them special to each other? What qualities do you look for in a friend?

	3. What did BigYou and FreshBakedBread argue about?
Chapters 22-24	1. Describe Red's Plan Number One. Did it work? Why or why not?
Chapters 25-27	1. Describe Red's Plan Number Two and why it failed.
Chapters 28-30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why does Red decide to speak to the children? How does this act change their relationship to the tree and to each other? 2. Discuss Red's statement: "I wanted to make a difference, just a little difference, before I left this lovely world" (p. 126). What difference does Red make by talking to Stephen and Samar? 3. Discuss Stephen's comment: "My parents aren't bad people. They're just . . . afraid of things" (p. 125). What do you think you can do to make a difference in this world?
Chapters 31-33	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe Maeve and her family. 2. What was Maeve gifted at? What qualities did Maeve have that helped her use her gift?
Chapters 34-36	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did the dark-haired woman leave in Red's hollow? 2. Who was Amadora, and what did the name mean?
Chapters 37-39	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did other people react to Maeve's baby? 2. How did Stephen and Samar react to Red's story?
Chapters 40-43	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What deal do Samar and Stephen agree to with each other? 2. What reason does Francesca give for planning to cut down the tree? 3. How do Sandy and Max, the police officers, react to the news that the tree will be cut down? 4. Why does Francesca think that it will be good timing to cut down Red on Wishing Day?
Chapters 44-47	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why will Red not speak to Francesca? 2. How does Stephen help to make a difference in the neighborhood on Wishing Day? 3. What is the message the children in the school deliver with their wishes?
Chapters 48-51	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What stops the tree cutters from using their saw? 2. What makes Francesca change her mind about cutting down the tree? 3. What did you learn from Red's story?