

Flight

By Nadia Wheatley & Illustrated by Armin Greder

Publisher: Windy Hollow Books

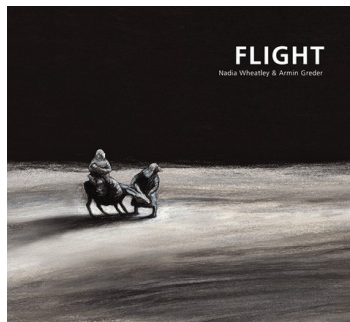
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Tonight is the night.

The family has to flee.

They've been tipped off that the authorities are after their blood..

As the fugitives set off in search of a new home, an ancient story becomes a fable for our times.



Teacher notes have been adapted from those supplied by the publisher, Windy Hollow Books.

Before reading:

- What does the title make you think of? Does the word 'flight' have different meanings? What are they?
- Discuss the colours that the illustrator has used. Do you think this is going to be a story to make you laugh, or a story to make you think?

On first reading:

- As you read the first few double-page spreads, what does the book's time frame (historical period) seem to be? Does this change as the story goes on? At what point does the reader become aware of a shift in the story's time-frame? How has the illustrator dramatized this?
- Describe the landscape through which the characters are travelling. Is it flat or hilly? What other features does the landscape have? Is the weather hot or cold? What sounds do the characters hear?
- Draw a map of the journey, showing the various types of country that the family passes through on their journey.
- Make a timeline of their journey, showing the various events that happen along the way and how the characters feel at different times.
- The young woman and the man don't seem to talk very much. Why not?
- What difficulties do the characters have to face during the journey? Why is the loss of the donkey such a problem?
- How does the story end? Do you think the characters will soon find a home?
- What tense has the author used to present the story? Does this make the story seem urgent? Does it increase the sense that this is a story 'for our times'?
- What are the differences between the characters of the woman and the man? Do they have different roles and priorities during the journey? Rewrite the story in the first person from the point of view of either the woman or the man.
- How has the illustrator portrayed the relationship between the story's two adult characters? How has he portrayed their relationship with the baby?
- Find examples of things mentioned in the text but not in the pictures, and vice versa.