

Five key ideas in The Wolf and The Wind

1. Friendship is give and take

This book models good and bad friendships. Paige makes a good friendship with Fensive that requires them to trust each other. Fensive has a bad friend in Nalddo. Nalddo takes from Fensive without giving in return. Their friendship is based on a lie. Kids are shown that you don't have to be friends with everyone, especially if they're mean to you.

2. Weaknesses can be strengths

Paige struggles with her double vision caused by her lazy eye. It causes her to fall off the swing and scrape up her knees. It can make it hard to trust what she sees. But when the impossible was needed, Paige used this "weakness" to make the impossible happen and save the day.

3. Magic can be hidden anywhere

Gaeldor was inspired by a real place: Paint Creek Trail in Lake Orion, MI. The further I went into the woods, the more I started seeing the magic hidden behind reality. Magic can help us understand the real world.

4. Bullies don't always win

Heather ruins Paige's new shoes. But telling on her would only make things worse at school. Paige would find a way to deal with Heather later.

Nalddo turns Lexi into a wolf because he's jealous of her. His lies are found out, and he loses his friend, Fensive. He's lost his cousin and his family for what he did to her. He doesn't get punished exactly, but he doesn't win either.

5. Kids should be able to ask their parents for help

It's a sad truth that not every parent is trustworthy, but sometimes kids don't know they can ask. Paige doesn't have bad parents. She has busy parents. When she asks Mom for help cleaning her shoes, she gets help. They're like new again, and their magic is back.