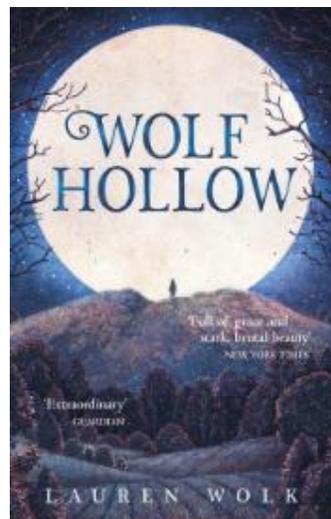


## 2017 Carnegie Medal shortlist Talking Points

Title: **Wolf Hollow**  
Author: **Lauren Wolk**  
Publisher: **Corgi**



### WOLF HOLLOW (THE SETTING)

How important is this particular setting – rural Pennsylvania, at the time of the Second World War – to the story that happens there?

How well does the author bring this particular place and time to life?

Is the backdrop to the story portrayed as a safe place, or a threatening one?

### ANNABELLE, THE NARRATOR

“The year I turned twelve, I learned how to lie.” A good first line?

How close is Annabelle to the family she lives with?

How believable did you find her as a character, and how distinctive is her voice?

Does she always do the right thing?

### BETTY AND TOBY

Betty and Toby couldn't be more different, in so many ways – but as people who come into Annabelle's life and unsettle the balance, do they have things in common too? (Some have compared both of them to wolves, too, in different ways – why do you think this is?)

Does the author try to make Betty at least partly sympathetic, or is she just all bad?

The author has compared Betty's evil bullying to what was happening on a more massive scale in the war – can you see the connection?



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## PREJUDICE, SECRECY

There are lots of things we don't know (what happened to Betty's father?) – do you think it's good that the author keeps some information from us? Why do you think she does it?

Why is Toby reluctant to talk about his First World War experiences?

In part this is a book about prejudice and bigotry, and judging people by appearances – who's guilty of this? What happens when these judgments get out of hand?

## RIGHT AND WRONG

“The year I turned 12, I learned how to lie” – why is this a significant moment in her life?

Annabelle decides that she might need to do wrong to do right – and that in certain circumstances lying might be necessary and justified. Do you agree with her? Is it a brave decision?

This is described as a coming-of-age story – so how does Annabelle grow in it, and what does she learn about the moral complexity of the world?

## ENDINGS

The ending of the book isn't a simply happy ending, but is it the right ending for this story?

The reader may hope for justice to be served at the end of the book – is it?

How did you feel about Betty's eventual fate? Mixed feelings at all?

## AND FINALLY...

Does this Carnegie-shortlisted book deserve to win? Why, or why not?



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