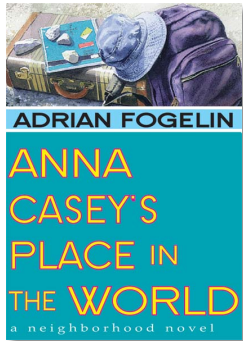


TEACHER'S GUIDE



Anna Casey's Place in the World

Written by Adrian Fogelin

HC: 978-1-56145-249-1

PB: 978-1-56145-295-8

Ages 8–12 | Realistic Fiction | Neighborhood Novels

AR • RC • Lexile • F&P • GRL U; Gr 5

ABOUT THE BOOK

Anna Casey's Place in the World is the story of a young girl's trials and triumphs as she tries to find a home. With warmth and humor, Fogelin has created a memorable character in Anna, who must deal with the loss of her family and adjust to living in a foster home. Feeling abandoned and alone, Anna turns to her closest companion, her explorer journal. With the help of a scrawny new friend named Eb, Anna discovers a sense of belonging...and her own place in the world.

THEMES

- Adoption / Foster parents
- Friendship
- Health
- Conservation

A NOTE FROM THE PREPARER

Anna Casey's Place in the World is a wonderful look into the hearts of foster children. It looks at the difficulty of being a foster parent and the needs of children who have been abandoned. The story is very touching and has a complexity level that would be appropriate for middle grade reader. Most of the issues are those common to middle schoolers such as friendships, moral issues, bullying, and appearance. The book could also be adapted to older readers with issues of conservation and the Vietnam War.

BEFORE YOU READ

- Students should discuss adoption and foster care and why it is appropriate in certain cases.

- Students can share their knowledge of friends or family members who have been adopted. Ask them to explain the differences this person may feel compared to others who have always had a place to call home.
- In a group discussion, ask students what type of problems may someone who has lived in many places encounter?
- Ask students if they think friendships are easy to make when someone has moved frequently?
- Discuss child abuse and why it is appropriate to put a child in foster care when they are being abused.

AS YOU READ

- Students should be encouraged to talk about friendship, bullies, and the need to “fit in.” They should expand upon how some of these issues can be resolved within their own school.
 - Explain what a clique means and how is it different than a friendship?
 - What happens when bullies are confronted?
 - Have the students discuss what is fashionable today and where they purchase their clothing.
 - Ask them if they would ever shop at a thrift store. Why or why not?
- Have students briefly look at the Vietnam War and the effects it had on many veterans.
 - Have the students explain why Sam Miller may have been acting so peculiar.

AFTER YOU READ

- Have the students explain if Anna finally found her place in the world. Support with details from the
-

story including:

- Why or why not?
- Did Miss Dupree do the right thing by giving up Anna?
- From Anna's experiences, would you say Miss Dupree was a good foster parent?
- Did Miss Johnette do the right thing by adopting Anna?
- Ask the students if they have a collection they would like to share with the class.
 - Why do they have this collection?
 - Can they explain why Anna had a collection of rocks and maps?
- Have the students look at conservation.
 - What can they do to help save our planet?
 - If the school does not recycle, encourage the students to start a program.

- What are the effects on running?
- Discuss the following questions with the class:
 - Why did Eb use an inhaler after he finished running against Jemmie?
 - Was Jemmie correct in saying Eb could overcome his asthma?

VOCABULARY

Give each student a copy of Vocabulary Worksheet #1 (Chapters 1–8) and #2 (Chapters 9–18) at the back of this guide.

Answer Key:

Worksheet #1: 1. M; 2. G; 3. I; 4. B; 5. L; 6. K; 7. N; 8. C; 9. D; 10. F; 11. A; 12. O; 13. J; 14. E; 15. H

Worksheet #2: 1. B; 2. E; 3. L; 4. M; 5. H; 6. C; 7. F; 8. J; 9. K; 10. N; 11. I; 12. O; 13. D; 14. G; 15. A

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Have the students keep a journal of their daily lives. They can also add illustrations like Eb did in the explorer notebook. Some topics of interest could be a description of their bedroom, home or the neighborhood in which they live, etc.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Have the students use a map and a compass and let them find their way from one place to another.
- Research local rocks and compare them to the karst rock found in Tallahassee.

MATH

- Let students have a thrift store sale. Mark some items as new and full price and others as used and discounted. Divide the classroom into groups and allow each team to compete for the thriftiest buyers. Afterward, donate the clothes to Goodwill or another charitable organization.
- Have the students bake a cake. Let them measure the ingredients and verbally quiz them on how much would be half or double the recipe.

HEALTH

- Have student's research asthma. Be sure they look for answers to the following:
 - What are some symptoms of asthma?
 - What are some treatments?

RELATED READING

The following books can help expand the understanding of issues addressed in this book:

Adoption

Holding Up the Earth, Dianne E. Gray

The Great Gilly Hopkins, Katherine Paterson

Dacey's Song, Cynthia Voigt

Crossing Jordan, Adrian Fogelin

Cliques / Bullying

Crash, Jerry Spinelli

Conservation / Earth Science

Protecting Our World: A Beginner's Guide to Conservation, Felicity Brooks

Save It! Keep It! Use It Again! R. J. Lefkowitz

Don't Bug Me, Pam Zollman

Health

Asthma: The Ultimate Teen Guide, Penny Hutchins Paquette

Fueling the Teen Machine, Ellen Shanley and Colleen Thompson

Toning for Teens, Joyce L. Vedral

REVIEWS

"Anna has inner pluck and outer charm: she's been through a lot, but knows what needs to be done. Evocative descriptions bubble up from a deep reality...and places are found, if not the ones both kids thought they wanted."

—**Booklist**

"This is a thoughtful coming-of-age story and Anna is an intrepid heroine to whom middle school students will be able to relate."

—**Kliatt**

AWARDS

- Nominee, Mark Twain Award —Missouri Association of School Librarians, Master List
- Best Children's Books of the Year —Bank Street College of Education
- Young Adult Top Forty —Pennsylvania School Library Association
- Carol D. Reiser Book Award for Inspiring Future Volunteers
- Sunshine State (Florida) Young Reader's Award, Master List



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrian Fogelin is the author of nine titles for middle grade and young adult readers. Open one of her books, and you'll meet the kids in her home neighborhood in Tallahassee, Florida, where she and a band of trusty volunteers maintain the Front Porch Library—where local patrons usually arrive by bike or on foot. Adrian is also a songwriter and half of the musical duo "Hot Tamale."

adrianfogelin.com

Adrian Fogelin's Neighborhood Novels:

Anna Casey's Place in the World
The Big Nothing
Crossing Jordan
My Brother's Hero
Some Kind of Magic
The Sorta Sisters

Also available from Adrian Fogelin:

The Real Question
Sister Spider Knows All
Summer on the Moon

Peachtree Teacher's Guide for
ANNA CASEY'S PLACE IN THE WORLD
 prepared by Mary Nessler and Kenyette Kilpatrick

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Anna Casey's Place in the World
Vocabulary Worksheet #1 (Chapters 1–8)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Write the letter of the definition that matches each word in the space provided.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ karst | A. A strong, washable material made to cover floors |
| 2. _____ mumble | B. To produce a tune without opening the lips or saying words |
| 3. _____ knickknack | C. Provide parental care and nurture to children not related through legal or blood ties |
| 4. _____ hum | D. A tender feeling toward another: fondness |
| 5. _____ Arthritis | E. To look quickly or briefly without seeing everything clearly |
| 6. _____ fiddle | F. The state capital of Florida |
| 7. _____ Asthma | G. To talk unclearly, usually in a low voice |
| 8. _____ foster | H. Unable to act or decide quickly: acting with uncertainty or lack of confidence |
| 9. _____ affection | I. A small inexpensive item |
| 10. _____ Tallahassee | J. To breathe with difficulty, producing a hoarse whistling sound |
| 11. _____ linoleum | K. To move one's fingers or hands in a nervous fashion; to fidget |
| 12. _____ shrug | L. Inflammation of a joint, usually accompanied by pain, swelling and stiffness |
| 13. _____ wheeze | M. An area of uneven limestone in which erosion has produced sinkholes, cracks, underground streams, and caverns |
| 14. _____ glimpse | N. A chronic respiratory disease, often brought on from allergies, which causes difficulty in breathing, chest constriction, and coughing |
| 15. _____ hesitant | O. To raise the shoulders, especially in a way to show doubt or indifference |

Anna Casey's Place in the World
Vocabulary Worksheet #2 (Chapters 9–18)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Write the letter of the definition that matches each word in the space provided.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ stutter | A. Prevent someone or something from doing something; keep under control or within limits |
| 2. _____ nudge | B. Talk with continued involuntary repetition or sounds, especially initial consonants |
| 3. _____ retrieve | C. To spread out over a large area in an untidy or irregular way |
| 4. _____ admire | D. Represent something as being larger, greater, better, or worse than it really is |
| 5. _____ cringe | E. To prod gently; a light touch or push |
| 6. _____ sprawl | F. Unable to be separated or treated separately |
| 7. _____ inseparable | G. To run at full speed over a short distance |
| 8. _____ decipher | H. To make a sudden movement from fear of being hit or hurt |
| 9. _____ trot | I. A small water bottle, as used by soldiers or campers |
| 10. _____ terminal | J. Succeed in understanding, interpreting, or identifying something |
| 11. _____ canteen | K. To proceed at a pace faster than a walk |
| 12. _____ filthy | L. To get or bring back; regain possession of |
| 13. _____ exaggerate | M. To regard with respect or warm approval |
| 14. _____ sprint | N. Predicted to lead to death, especially slowly; incurable |
| 15. _____ restrain | O. Disgustingly dirty |