

Session 1: Pre-reading

- Discuss what you think the book might be about just from looking at the title. Complete the sentence...“This book is about...and how...”
- Now look at the artwork on the cover. Where do you think the story is set? Why?
- What sort of characters do you think the story might contain? Why?
- Now read the blurb on the back cover or inside flap. Return to your discussions about the plot and the characters and add to your existing ideas.
- Consider the map - discuss what information it gives you.
- Read the extract.
 - What information does the reader learn about the characters in this story?
 - Discuss any words that you do not understand.
 - What questions do you have?

Challenge Task 1:

- Research - Shackleton’s Trans Antarctic expedition and Amelia Earhart.

Session 2:

Chapters 1-11

1. Why is Chapter 11 a good place to stop and reflect on what has happened so far?
2. You have only 50 words - summarise the story so far.
3. Tell me about Maudie and Arthur’s father. Is he guilty? What are your thoughts so far?
4. What have you learned so far about The Wide? In what way is it similar to our own world and in what ways is it different?
5. Tell me about the explorers and explorer’s families you have met so far. How many have you met? What are ‘new blood’ explorers? What do you know about the family symbols? Do you trust all the explorers?
6. What do you understand about the animals called ‘sapient’? Parthena?
7. Arthur has only one arm. How has this happened?
8. What words and phrases show that this story is not set in our world?
9. What questions do you have prior to continuing the story?

Challenge Task 2:

- As you read Chapters 12 - 22, plot the journey the Aurora takes on the map provided. Add notes to this as you read.

Session 3

Chapters 12-22

1. Feedback from Challenge 2
2. By the end of this section discuss what more we have learned about the explorers families and in particular, Eudora Vane and her family?
3. What is the advantage that the aurora has over other ships? Is there a message here about clean energy?
4. Ch 16 pg 169 nobody noticed....what device does Vashti use here? Has done this before and on pg 194 213 - last line again and page 233
5. In these chapters the two main characters - a and m are beginning to show Differences - discuss what these are and how the author shows this.
6. How does the dialogue on pg 173 help to move the action on?
7. Pg 196 - 'Perhaps the reason you came all this way wasn't just about your father' - explain.
8. What additional information do we learn about Eudora's 'sapient' creature? What does this word mean? How is it used here?
9. Summarise in 50 words the meeting between Arthur and the Thought Wolves. What new information is revealed?
10. Why is it a good place to finish this section here? What questions are forming in your mind?

Challenge Task 3

- Research information about the aurora borealis.

Session 4

Chapters 23 - end

1. Feedback from Challenge 3
2. What clues are there in Chapter 22 as to what happened during the final hours of the crews' lives? Why did Maud and Arthur's Dad escape the same fate?
3. In what way do the twins differ in their reasons for coming on this expedition?
4. Pg 308 -What is family? What is love?
5. Summarise what was discovered as the two lockets are opened.
6. Pg 318 Rehearse in summary form what the children say to their dad as a goodbye.
7. Consider the chapter titles. In what way do they help to structure the story? Remind yourself of the endings of the chapters also. How does the author use these?
8. Consider the ending. In what way has the author set the scene for a sequel? Discuss what the plot might be.

Challenge Task 4:

Consider what themes and ideas are explored within this book. What big questions does the author want to raise?