

Peter H. Reynolds'

The North Star

Film Activity Guide

Summary

A young boy awakens to his journey and begins exploring the world – wandering, discovering, and napping. But eventually, he is interrupted by a cat who informs him that there is a “path” to follow, and that he is, in fact, falling behind many others on the journey. Taking the well-worn path, he finds that “some parts of the journey were easy and some were very difficult.” The boy eventually ends up in a swamp - unsure which way to go. With the help of a wise bird, the boy discovers a bright shining star and a constellation of stars that provide a new way to navigate forward. He also helps others along the way, and learns that everyone has their own unique path to follow. In doing so, he charts his own meaningful, lifelong learning journey.

Objectives

- Students will discuss the concept of journey, navigation, life choices.
- Students will chart their own “personal” constellations.
- Students will compare and contrast two books and videos.

Themes:

Growing Up

Following Dreams

Leadership

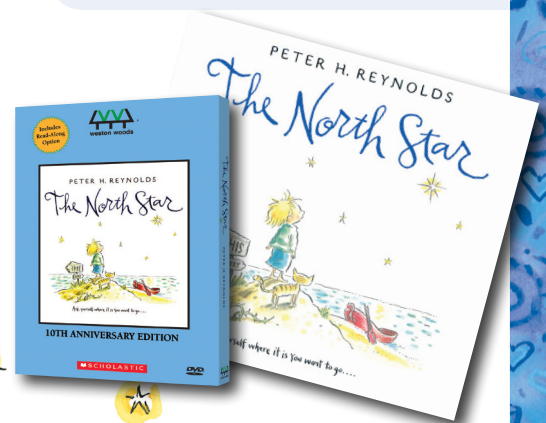
Character Education -

Responsibility, Altruism, Patience,
Perseverance, Courage, Empathy,
Self-Reflection

Activity Guide for




Ages: 5-8; Grades: K-3

DVD Running Time: 15 min.



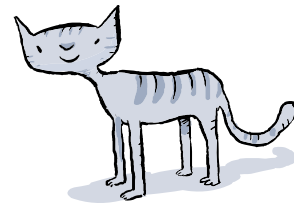
You can find *The North Star* book, DVD, and other resources at:
www.fablevision.com/northstar

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Before Viewing Activities:

Discuss the concept of “journey” and “navigation.” How do we make choices about where we go and why? How do we learn? How do we use our gifts, talents, and strengths on our learning journeys?

Guiding Questions:

- How did sailors in ancient times navigate without modern technology?
- Have you ever been lost? How did you find your way again?
- What things are you good at doing? Do you have special talents?
- What are your life dreams? What do you want to do/be when you grow up?

After students have had a chance to share their answers, tell them that they will be watching a movie about a boy who starts on his path of life and must make decisions for himself about the best way to go. Encourage students to think about what they would do in his situation and which way they would go.

Read aloud or show the Weston Woods movie of *The Dot* – another story by Peter H. Reynolds. Encourage students to pay attention to Vashti’s learning journey.

Guiding Questions:

- Why won’t Vashti draw any pictures?
- Why does she get upset? What does she do?
- What does the teacher do to help her see that she really can “make her mark”?
- How does Vashti help the little boy on his creative journey at the end of the story?

Tell students to watch and listen for ways that Vashti’s journey is similar to *The North Star* boy’s and ways that it is different.



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After Viewing Activities

Explain the terms “compare” and “contrast.” Ask students to share with partners or with the class the ways in which they thought the boy in *The North Star* and Vashti from *The Dot* had similar journeys, and the ways in which their journeys were different. After students have had some time to talk, use a Venn diagram to record some of their ideas.

Guiding Questions:

- How were Vashti’s and *The North Star* boy’s journeys the same?
- How did they feel different?
- Who led or guided Vashti and the boy? Did they both guide themselves?
- Did either character help anyone? Whom did they help, and how?
- What happened at the end of their journeys? What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that?
- Why does *The North Star* end with the words, “The Beginning”?
- How does *The Dot* end? Could *The Dot* end with the same words?

Discuss ideas of leading a meaningful lifelong learning journey with the students.

Guiding Questions:

- Have you ever felt lost or struggled with something you thought you couldn’t do?
- Vashti and the boy discovered their gifts, talents, and strengths – their “bright stars” in their learning constellations. What are your brightest stars?
- While on his journey, the boy helps the rabbit when she is stuck. How can you help others on their learning journeys?
- Do you know people – in your family, community, or throughout history – who have followed their dreams? Did they encounter challenges that they had to overcome to succeed?
- Reflecting on your own personal “stars,” can you see patterns that might tell you what you will do, learn, or accomplish in your life?
- Where have you been? Where are you now? Where are you going? Where do you WANT to be going?

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Additional Activities Available for Download

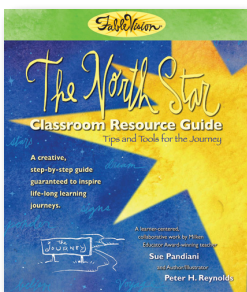
There are two other great North Star activities available online for download to extend the themes of the film. Ask your students to create their own **North Star "Learning Journey" Constellation**. Download the reproducible and have students label each of the stars with things that are important to them, things that interest them, and talents they have. Or, have students **create one star** and label it with their own "North Star" dream ("My North Star dream is to be a writer/save the world/play pro-football" etc.).

These reproducibles can be found at:
www.fablevision.com/northstar/dvdresources

These activities are based on *The North Star Classroom Resource Guide*, a yearlong activity kit developed by Peter H. Reynolds in collaboration with award-winning educator Dr. Sue Pandiani.

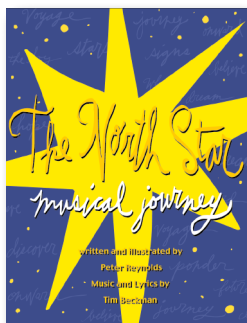
Visit www.fablevision.com/northstar to find more powerful North Star resources, including:

The North Star Classroom Resource Guide



Dr. Sue Pandiani, a Milken Educator Award-Winning 3rd grade teacher, collaborated with Peter on this kit, which is chock-full of activities, mini-posters, and ideas celebrating the themes of *The North Star* story. Bring your students on a yearlong voyage as they discover the meaning behind *The North Star* — and how to apply it to their own personal learning journeys. Grades K-5 teachers can also tap into this wealth of inspirational ideas and resources!

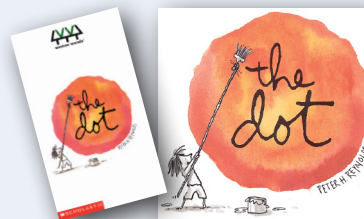
The North Star Musical Journey



A musical performance kit based on the award-winning book, *The North Star*, featuring music and lyrics by Tim Beckman. Includes performance script, musical score, student lyric sheets, original soundtrack/artwork CDs, and Tips & Suggestions for Staging Your Musical.

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Other Stories by Peter H. Reynolds:



The Dot

One little dot marks the beginning of Vashti's journey of surprise and self-discovery. This story captures the power of the caring teacher!



Ish

This powerful story shows how a careless remark can derail someone's creativity. *Ish* presents a positive message that releases all of us from the inhibitions of "not getting it right."

Order these titles online at:
www.FableVisionLearning.com

