



## Hunt for Freedom: Washington Wolves Return

Summit Expeditionary Academy Thunder Wolves, Grades 3-5

## the return of the wolf.....

Summit Expeditionary Academy's Thunder Wolves (Grades 3-5) spent ten weeks studying how wolves are depicted in literature, writing their own wolf narratives, and researching the return of the wolf to Washington State. They created a timeline for each confirmed pack and learned about differing points of view regarding their return. Collectively, the class determined that they believed wolves should return to Washington and wanted to help protect them as they recolonize.

Through hard work and perseverance, students wrote and illustrated this unique book. It captures their passion and learning about wolves and communicates a positive message about the wolves' return to Washington. Students learned about Wolf Haven International's mission and wanted to support this exemplary organization.

Through a generous gift from a private donor, the Thunder Wolves were able to publish and donate copies of this book to Wolf Haven International. 100% of the proceeds from your purchase will be used by Wolf Haven International to further their mission of providing wolf sanctuary, education, and conservation.

Thank you for supporting our students' work, Wolf Haven International, and the wolves that are howling once again in Washington State.

Thunder Wolves' class motto:

“For the strength of the pack is the wolf,  
and the strength of the wolf is the pack.”

- Rudyard Kipling

Dedicated to the Return of the Washington Wolves

# Table of Contents

- Chapter One: The Huckleberry Pack Survives  
Nelson
- Chapter Two: The Huckleberry Pack  
Winter
- Chapter Three: The Lookout Pack Returns  
John Aram
- Chapter Four: Outcast  
Jake
- Chapter Five: The Famine  
Skywalker
- Chapter Six: Two Wolves Lost  
Grace Anne
- Chapter Seven: The Lone Wolf  
Ronan
- Chapter Eight: The Survival of Two Lost Pups  
Isabella
- Chapter Nine: Trapped  
Elisabeth
- About the Authors

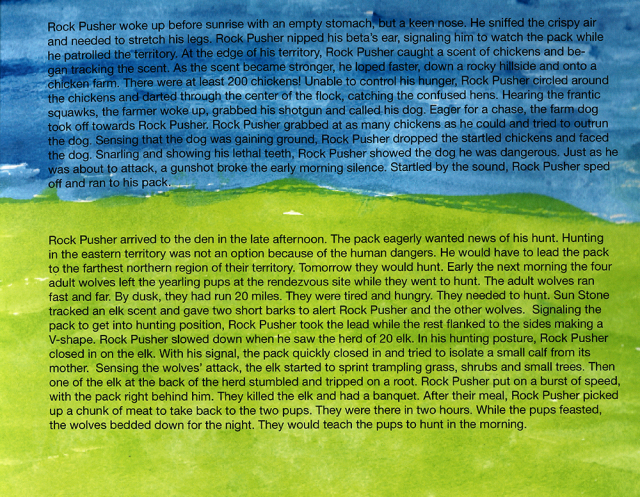
# Chapter One: The Huckleberry Pack Survives

by Nelson

Grade Three



In the cold winter of 2012, a pack of seven gray wolves moved across the border from Canada into Eastern Washington while tracking a herd of moose. They were known as the Huckleberry pack because their new territory surrounded the nearby Huckleberry Mountain in Stevens County, Washington. The alpha female was known as Sun Stone because of her red and gray fur. She was playful and a good mother to her pups. Rock Pusher, the alpha male, was known for his strong muscles and vigor. Together they led a pack of their three yearling pups and two other adult wolves. This winter they were particularly hungry because there was a famine and they were unable to catch any prey in over a month.



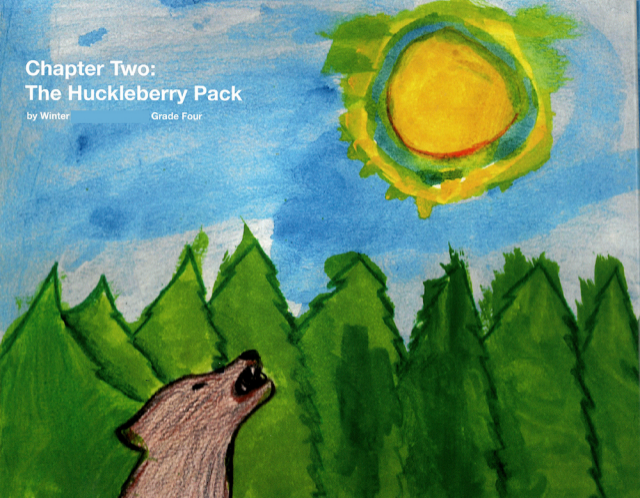
Rock Pusher woke up before sunrise with an empty stomach, but a keen nose. He sniffed the crispy air and needed to stretch his legs. Rock Pusher nipped his beta's ear, signaling him to watch the pack while he patrolled the territory. At the edge of his territory, Rock Pusher caught a scent of chickens and began tracking the scent. As the scent became stronger, he loped faster, down a rocky hillside and onto a chicken farm. There were at least 200 chickens! Unable to control his hunger, Rock Pusher circled around the chickens and darted through the center of the flock, catching the confused hens. Hearing the frantic squawks, the farmer woke up, grabbed his shotgun and called his dog. Eager for a chase, the farm dog took off towards Rock Pusher. Rock Pusher grabbed as many chickens as he could and tried to outrun the dog. Sensing that the dog was gaining ground, Rock Pusher dropped the startled chickens and faced the dog. Snarling and showing his lethal teeth, Rock Pusher showed the dog he was dangerous. Just as he was about to attack, a gunshot broke the early morning silence. Startled by the sound, Rock Pusher sped off and ran to his pack.


Rock Pusher arrived to the den in the late afternoon. The pack eagerly wanted news of his hunt. Hunting in the eastern territory was not an option because of the human dangers. He would have to lead the pack to the farthest northern region of their territory. Tomorrow they would hunt. Early the next morning the four adult wolves left the yearling pups at the rendezvous site while they went to hunt. The adult wolves ran fast and far. By dusk, they had run 20 miles. They were tired and hungry. They needed to hunt. Sun Stone tracked an elk scent and gave two short barks to alert Rock Pusher and the other wolves. Signaling the pack to get into hunting position, Rock Pusher took the lead while the rest flanked to the sides making a V-shape. Rock Pusher slowed down when he saw the herd of 20 elk. In his hunting posture, Rock Pusher closed in on the elk. With his signal, the pack quickly closed in and tried to isolate a small calf from its mother. Sensing the wolves' attack, the elk started to sprint trampling grass, shrubs and small trees. Then one of the elk at the back of the herd stumbled and tripped on a root. Rock Pusher put on a burst of speed, with the pack right behind him. They killed the elk and had a banquet. After their meal, Rock Pusher picked up a chunk of meat to take back to the two pups. They were there in two hours. While the pups feasted, the wolves bedded down for the night. They would teach the pups to hunt in the morning.

# Chapter Two: The Huckleberry Pack

by Winter

Grade Four



A blue-toned illustration of a snowy forest scene. In the foreground, a line of green evergreen trees is visible. The background shows a snowy forest floor with a wolf pack. One wolf is in the center, surrounded by others. The scene is set against a dark blue, textured background.

One beautiful snowy evening, seven gray wolves called the Huckleberry pack were sprinting through the snow covered forest floor. Suddenly, they stopped at the scent of the Nc'icn pack. The alpha male, Black Shadow, halted at the scent markings of the neighboring territory. Moonlight, the alpha female, yipped softly at her five yearling pups to heed Black Shadow's warning. The Huckleberry pack was trying to track elk, but found none in their territory. They cautiously returned to the den with empty stomachs.

Unable to rest on hungry stomachs, the two boldest pups, Alexander and Lucy, quietly snuck out of the den. Alexander invited Lucy to play by lifting his rime-gray rump in the air and lowering his front end. Lucy got up and playfully bit his neck! Alexander jerked back in surprise. By the time the sun dropped behind the trees, the rest of the pack began to worry about Alexander and Lucy. They howled long and loud, strong and proud to call the pups back home. Alexander and Lucy sprinted to the den.

Still hungry, the whole pack set out looking for a meal. After a few hours, the pups returned to the den. Later that silent night, two gunshots awoke Lucy and she noticed her parents Moonlight and Black Shadow were gone. Lucy woke up her brothers and sisters and the five pups took off looking for their alpha leaders. Worried, Lucy led her siblings by tracking Black Shadow's scent. Soon the scent turned sour like a fresh kill. Laying motionless in the sparkling snow were Black Shadow and Moonlight. Howling in despair, the pups lay down next to their dead parents.

In the morning, Alexander heard two wolves howling from the Nc'inc pack! All five orphaned pups started to howl back. The Nc'inc wolves had started a song! The pups quickly followed the song until they found the other wolves! Their names were Orange Blade who is a rusty gold female, and Cloud Wisp who is a white male. After a day and night of getting to know the pups, Orange Blade and Cloud Wisp invited the pups to the pack.

The next morning, Orange Blade smelled elk! Cloud Wisp led the pups to Orange Blade's old rendezvous spot. Orange Blade and Cloud Wisp went to go hunt. They came back later that night and led the pups to the big meal and they feasted all night! Now the Nc'icn and the Huckleberry pack joined together to make a pack of seven strong gray wolves.



# Chapter Three: The Lookout Pack Returns

by John Aram

Grade Four

For the first time in seventy years, grey wolves return to their old territory in Washington state. A strong, dominant male wolf named Riverstone and his mate Midnight return to the northeast Cascades, starting the Lookout pack. The pair moves out to hunt as the silver moon shines brightly on the snowy path. Their stomachs are empty. The wolves have had only a few rabbits to eat in the last week. The scent of moose catches their attention. Riverstone and Midnight start to lope through the deep, powdery snow toward the scent.

Soon a hulking bull moose appears, grazing in the meadow. They need a pack to surround and take down a moose, but they only have two in the pack. Because they are desperate for food, the pair will risk this attack. They do not want to leave this moose. There might not be anything else to eat.

Riverstone halted at the edge of the forest, hidden from the animal, thinking of a plan to attack. They would circle the moose and wait for Midnight to distract the big animal so Riverstone could attack. Midnight did not wait to listen to Riverstone's plan. When Midnight went straight to the rear to bite the moose's Achilles' tendon, the moose heard her and shot out its back leg. Midnight got kicked in the head and flew backwards.

Scared, with head held low and tail down, Riverstone trotted over to see if she was okay. Midnight lay unconscious in the soft snow. Riverstone stayed with her hoping she would get better. He licked the blood from her head and lay down with her, keeping watch. In the cold frosty morning, as the orange sun rose from behind the ridge, Midnight died. The soft, white snow squeaked under Riverstone's pads on his way up to the ridge where he would howl in despair for two days.

Two orphan yearling pups were walking toward Riverstone's territory. When they heard his sad howl, they howled back. Riverstone was thrilled that the pups found him. He was lonely without a pack. He invited the pups to join him with an excited howl. The two female pups, Scout and Gauge, did not know how to hunt. Riverstone taught them not to go in front of big game or they would get run over. They learned how to get the herd running to separate the young from their mothers, and how to go for the Achilles' tendon before going for the throat. Once they learned how to hunt, the pack of three went out to find food to put into their empty stomachs.

They found a herd of elk. They started to lope, hoping not to alert them. The pack tested the herd, trying to find the weakest and the sick. After chasing different elk, they found the weakest one. Riverstone used a quick burst of speed and went in front of the old elk to block its path. The elk slowed down and its only choice was to try to hold off the wolves.



Riverstone went in toward the elk and it charged him. Scout and Gauge came from behind and shot in with a fast bite, forcing the elk to turn and face them. Riverstone did the same thing. They kept going until finally Riverstone broke the Achilles' tendon. Once the injured elk could not run anymore, Gauge punctured the jugular. All the blood drained out quickly and the elk lay there, not a move. The hungry pack began feasting on the carcass. The wolves made this kill their rendezvous site.

Two days later, Riverstone smells another male wolf. He senses that it is a young, lone wolf. Riverstone invites him to join the pack so the pack will be even stronger. His name is Flash, from the neighboring Teanaway pack. It is now a pack of four. After the trees have turned brown, yellow and orange, Riverstone picks up the scent of a new female wolf. He howls to her to see if she is looking for a mate. A howl of yes came back. Her name is "Fire-Eye" and she is a rime-gray, two and a half year old wolf. She left her pack up in Canada to find a male wolf to mate with. The two wolves go out to hunt, getting to know each other. A few days later they mate. Once they have enough food, they return to Riverstone's old rendezvous spot and dig a den.

When the snow has fallen and melted again, the pair has had enough food to have healthy pups. There are five pups in the litter. The pups' names are: Blue-Eye, Water-Flow, Hunter, Sandstone, and Flaming-Eyes. The pups are attached to their den and the area around it. It is a special place where the pups are introduced to the giant world of grass, hills, trees, and food. These five pups are the future of the Lookout Pack!!



## Chapter Four: Outcast

by Jake

Grade Five

Galaxy, the scraggly, black wolf awoke to birds chirping and a grey sky above him. He slowly got up. Last night was exhausting. Galaxy had just watched his whole pack die of rabies in the last few days. In the end, the rabid alpha male quickly chased him off. Galaxy began to loudly sniff. He didn't know what to do. Galaxy was the omega of his pack, the lowest ranked wolf. Others had always led the way and now he must make his own decisions.

Excited at the new sights and smells around him, Galaxy saw a strange red mushroom and took a huge whiff of it. He jerked away at the revolting smell and trotted off. After a few hours of exploration, he felt tired and took a nap in a pile of leaves. Alert to the smells around him, Galaxy smelled another wolf nearby. Before he could get to his feet the wolf was on top of him. He wriggled frantically under the weight and strength of the grey brown she-wolf. He stopped moving. She was just too strong. She let him up when she had proved her dominance. Galaxy stood. He looked around and saw three other wolves. He quietly put his head and tail down, the wolf sign of submission. The she-wolf held her head and tail up high making her a higher rank than Galaxy. He smelled the scent of fresh meat on her and

whimpered to say he was hungry. The she-wolf flicked her tail to say, "Follow me." She trotted off with her pack and Galaxy followed not far behind. In a few minutes, they came across the carcass of a bull caribou. They feasted together. Galaxy then picked out a scent name for the wolves, Squirrel, alpha female of the Diamond Pack, Silver Snow, a breeding female, Rocky, second-in-command, and Silver Snow's mate, and the best hunter of the pack, River Ice. The wolves' stomachs were full. Squirrel shoed Galaxy several hundred meters away before the pack bedded down to sleep.

The wolves jerked awake to the loud crack of a gunshot. Squirrel was the first one to get up, and she started to cautiously lead the pack away. Galaxy got up too, and ran to the pack, but was sent away by a ferocious growl and a glare from Squirrel. But once Galaxy could no longer see Squirrel's pack, he got up and followed them. Galaxy would not be left behind with a startling and scary noise. Another gunshot followed, quickening Galaxy's pace. The wolves were too close to Pend Oreille County civilization.

After a few hours of trotting behind a faint scent trail, Galaxy had not heard another gunshot. Galaxy soon came to a clearing, where the Diamond pack was resting. Galaxy settled down to rest too, but on the outskirts of the clearing. He was still an outcast. If Squirrel did not trust Galaxy, neither did the pack. Pretty soon, the reek of gunpowder and man filled the air, and Squirrel quickly rose with her pack. But just then, a deafening shot rang out, and a whimper followed. Rocky lay on the forest floor, motionless. The Diamond Pack ran, and so did Galaxy. The hunter turned on Galaxy, for his valuable black coat. Galaxy ran and ran, leading the hunter away from the fleeing pack. When the hunter could no longer see him, Galaxy took a sharp left turn, losing the hunter.

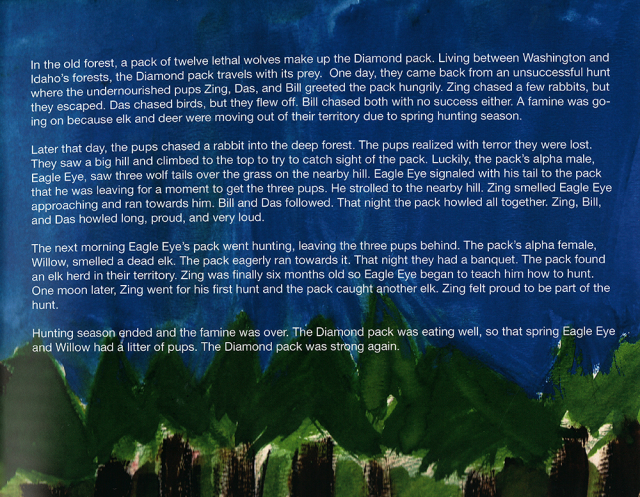
Galaxy ran to find Squirrel and her pack, following his own scent trail. Then he found Squirrel's scent, and followed that. But Galaxy only found Squirrel lying down, grieving for Rocky. River Ice and Silver Snow had wandered off to start a new pack. Squirrel got up, and she and Galaxy began circling each other. Galaxy had saved the pack and had proven his worth and bravery. The two would mate and together extend the Diamond pack.

# Chapter Five: The Famine

by Skywalker

Grade Three





In the old forest, a pack of twelve lethal wolves make up the Diamond pack. Living between Washington and Idaho's forests, the Diamond pack travels with its prey. One day, they came back from an unsuccessful hunt where the undernourished pups Zing, Das, and Bill greeted the pack hungrily. Zing chased a few rabbits, but they escaped. Das chased birds, but they flew off. Bill chased both with no success either. A famine was going on because elk and deer were moving out of their territory due to spring hunting season.

Later that day, the pups chased a rabbit into the deep forest. The pups realized with terror they were lost. They saw a big hill and climbed to the top to try to catch sight of the pack. Luckily, the pack's alpha male, Eagle Eye, saw three wolf tails over the grass on the nearby hill. Eagle Eye signaled with his tail to the pack that he was leaving for a moment to get the three pups. He strolled to the nearby hill. Zing smelled Eagle Eye approaching and ran towards him. Bill and Das followed. That night the pack howled all together. Zing, Bill, and Das howled long, proud, and very loud.

The next morning Eagle Eye's pack went hunting, leaving the three pups behind. The pack's alpha female, Willow, smelled a dead elk. The pack eagerly ran towards it. That night they had a banquet. The pack found an elk herd in their territory. Zing was finally six months old so Eagle Eye began to teach him how to hunt. One moon later, Zing went for his first hunt and the pack caught another elk. Zing felt proud to be part of the hunt.

Hunting season ended and the famine was over. The Diamond pack was eating well, so that spring Eagle Eye and Willow had a litter of pups. The Diamond pack was strong again.

# Chapter Six: Two Wolves Lost

by Grace Anne

Grade Four

Her eyes shining bright green, Water Fur jumped on the deer's back, while her mate, Two Socks, the alpha of the Diamond pack, grabbed the deer's throat with his powerful jaws. That was the signal. Sun Shrub, Drop Blast, and River Water surrounded the deer on all sides. The whole hunting pack soon feasted on their kill. After Two Socks ate his fill, he selected a hind leg to take back to Brown Wood and Blue Grass, the yearlings waiting for them at the rendezvous site. At the end of the meal, the wolves howled a long, happy song to celebrate.

Waiting at the rendezvous site for the other wolves to feed them, Brown Wood and Blue Grass practiced their best howls with their noses pointed up toward the moon. Then, they ran off to play with each other. Brown Wood put his rump and tail up, and his front down, inviting Blue Grass to play. The two young wolves chased two golden brown ground squirrels deep into the forest. When it was time to meet at the rendezvous site, the yearlings were missing! The pack was worried about them.

Night turned into day and the pups realized they were lost because they were in unfamiliar territory. The next morning, they came to a long, big river with a slow, but strong current. They looked across the water. There was no action. Suddenly, a salmon jumped out of the water and then splashed right back in. The two yearlings wanting to know how to hunt, tried their hardest to catch salmon on their own. After many failed attempts, they continued to slowly walk along the shore, exhausted, hungry and whimpering. The two yearlings missed Two Socks, and their mother, Water Fur, along with the rest of the pack.

Two more weeks went by. The two wolves had nothing to eat. They heard a strange noise and studied it for a couple of minutes until they both realized that it was just their aching stomachs. They walked for a long period of time until they came to the carcass of a rabbit. Blue Grass snatched a piece of it, and then shared it with Brown Wood. They thought it would be safe, so they both stepped forward and in ten seconds, they were trapped!

Everything went dark and the wolves were fast asleep. The wildlife biologists had drugged the rabbit. When the wolves woke up they had strange tags and collars on them. But they were free and they smelled something familiar. It was their pack. The people returned Blue Grass and Brown Wood near the rendezvous site. Getting up on all four feet, the pups ran towards the familiar scent of family. Finally, they saw their pack and ran to them. The yearlings were greeted back to the pack with tail wagging and cheek licking. The yearlings were finally back! again.





# Chapter Seven: The Lone Wolf

by Ronan

Grade Five



In the beautiful Cascade mountains, where the flowers grow, the snow comes and goes, and the wolves are happy, one wolf howled followed by all the other wolves. Suddenly, the one and only Flash, a lone wolf spotted chickens on a ranch about one mile away. He ran as fast as he could down to the ranch. He went over by the chickens, circled them, rump up high, ready to pounce. Just then, a big German Shepherd watch dog saw Flash and gave a big bark at the wolf. Flash got mad and gave a big howl. Then the big dog rubbed its head against the closest tree marking its territory. Flash did not back down, the dog did not back down either. Just then, the owner came out with a gun. Flash bit the dog in the leg. The owner tried to shoot Flash, but Flash dodged the bullet and sprinted up the hill to the protection of the trees.

Flash was searching for food in the sunlit forest of the Cascade mountains when he heard the Lookout pack howling. Flash howled back. Riverstone, the alpha of the Lookout pack, gave a loud howl inviting Flash into the Lookout pack's territory. He could tell Flash was a lone wolf. Flash howled yes to join the pack. One afternoon, Flash started a fight with Riverstone. Flash wanted to be the alpha of the pack because he felt his hunting skills were good and he would make a strong and wise leader of the pack. The Lookout pack was powerful with the alpha they had now. Flash charged at Riverstone. Flash missed and instantly Riverstone spun around and bit Flash in the leg. If a wolf fights the alpha and loses, they are forced to leave the pack. Flash was a lone wolf again.

About three days later, while out hunting, Flash saw a wolf by the meadow. They sniffed each other and started playing. They became mates. His mate's name was Softstone and she has brown eyes and orange fur. She had two other wolves with her. Together they formed the Diamond pack. Flash really liked this pack because they would help him survive in hunting season.

Flash's pack lived close to the meadow. One night, Flash was out hunting and heard rustling in the bushes. A lone wolf came out and Flash asked him if he wanted to join his pack. He said yes and they called him New Wolf. Flash asked him what he was doing out so late at night. He said he had nowhere to live so he came to the den.

Flash went searching for food at the west end of the forest. The west end of the forest is the best end to hunt because it has the most food. There was no food there this time. He was starving. Just then, Flash saw a moose run past. He looked the other direction and saw a wolf lying down. Flash forgot about the moose and ran over by the wolf. It was New Wolf. He had been shot by hunters and it was very sad to see. Flash trotted home head down low, but when he got to the den his pups could tell he was sad. They greeted him and made him feel good but he still was very sad. At least he still had his family. Life for wolves can range from exciting to difficult and sometimes dangerous!

# Chapter Eight: The Survival of Two Lost Pups

by Isabella

Grade Four

In the savage northern Cascade forest, there was a litter of pups born to a weak pack. Only two of them survived, a rime-gray pup named Yukon and a black pup named Shadow. At a few months of age, the pups were old enough to leave the den to play. Yukon discovered that she loved the cold, while Shadow discovered that she loved to wrestle with Yukon. One day, Yukon and Shadow, who were too young to hunt, went exploring. When they returned to the den they thought their family would be home from hunting. Instead they found fur scattered everywhere and smelled gunpowder. Yukon and Shadow sensed something dangerous killed their pack! The pups were all alone, which made them feel scared because they did not yet know how to hunt. Each night they howled, hoping to hear another wolf's reply.

As the days passed they got more and more hungry. Yukon and Shadow knew what they had to do. They must look for a new pack to teach them to hunt. Barely alive, the pups traveled down the foothills of the Cascades to find another pack. Lost, hungry, scared and without a pack, the pups howled long and lonely. Finally, an alpha male heard the howling cry and howled to invite them to his pack. Nanook, was the alpha male from the Smackout pack. Nanook had brown eyes, a rime-gray coat, and loved pups. Wanting to expand his pack, Nanook accepted the pups and let them know that he would teach them how to hunt. The pups were relieved to find a pack, but they were not interested in hunting, just in playing. Finally, Nanook showed them how fun learning could be.

One day Nanook, Yukon, and Shadow went on a hunting lesson. He led the pups and the rest of the wolf pack to an elk hunting ground. Suddenly, they spotted a weak elk. Nanook and the pups charged the target. Nanook took the rump while Shadow and Yukon took the sides and herded it to the rest of the waiting pack. Then the pack attacked the weakened animal. In a flash, they killed the elk. They ate until their stomachs were full, howled with happiness, and fell asleep in the snow. Yukon and Shadow were now part of a pack of eight wolves and felt very relaxed because they did not have to worry about surviving on their own, again.



The background of the page is a watercolor illustration. At the top, there's a blue wash representing the sky. Below it, several green shapes of various shades represent trees. On the left side, a bright yellow shape represents the sun. In the bottom right corner, there's a red shape with dark spots, resembling a watermelon. The overall style is soft and artistic.

## Chapter Nine: Trapped

by Elisabeth

Grade Three

One windy night, in the rich gleaming moonlight, a pup was born to the Smackout Pack. She was the only one to live! Her parents were undernourished and had not developed enough embryos for a strong litter. A week later, the parents found a scent name for their precious pup: Willow Storm.

Willow Storm was special because she was the only hope for the Smackout pack's future. Her parents, Rocky Stream and Gleamer Eye, were very protective of her. The pack was too. A month later, she was finally allowed out of the den. She looked at the grass that could swallow her up and wanted to play in it. She heard the birds whose song flowed in the gentle breeze. Willow Storm sat on the grass and panted. She was impatiently waiting until the pack returned from a hunt and her dad would feed her regurgitated food. Then she looked to the right and could see a farm in the distance. Willow Storm looked at the cattle, horses and everything yummy, but she resisted sprinting there even though she was hungry. She did not yet know how to hunt. When her parents and the pack came back, Willow Storm flicked her tail right and whimpered to tell the pack about the farm. Gleamer Eye barked and postured to say that she went there to eat when it just got built. The two people scared her off and she wouldn't go there again. Gleamer Eye looked at the farm remembering her experiences there.



Later on that day, the two farmers that worked on the farm were sitting down on the hay in the horse and cow barn. They were talking about the wolf they had seen.

"Gee, I don't know Phil, that pup didn't look too harmful."

"Don't be silly Bob, she was staring at our cattle."

"Well, I'm gonna catch that wolf."

So, Bob set off to find a way to trap the wolf, but not harm it. But unfortunately that wolf was Willow Storm.

Back in the forest, Willow Storm was happily playing with the omega wolf when he saw wolves fighting. He ran over to stop them. The omega is known as the peacemaker. When wolves are fighting, the omega will go in between them and do goofy stuff. Willow Storm stood without the omega. She cautiously looked around. She saw no wolves looking at her. She decided to explore. Willow Storm quickly loped across the forest, suddenly, SNAP! Her leg got trapped in a box, the work of Bob.

Then out of the bushes, came Bob.

"Yep, this is the wolf" he said. Bob took Willow Storm and placed her in a cage and carried her to the farm. A few weeks later, Bob noticed how sad Willow Storm was. He decided to let her go. He let her out in the woods and became teary-eyed because Willow Storm had not caused harm. She had been a great friend.

"Bye-bye wuffy," he sniffled. Willow Storm trotted up to him, and softly licked his face. Then she ran off. She followed the faint scent of the pack and eventually found the pack. She was happy and had many stories of the man.

# About the Authors



Roman [redacted] - Grade 6

Roman, also known as Flash, is quick and speedy on the playground. He found it interesting to learn how wolves communicate through howling, posturing and playing. He found out that healthy grey wolves have up to seven pups in a litter. Pup's weigh about one pound when they are born. He is proud to finish his story because it was challenging doing so much writing. In the end he showed courage by working so hard.



Isabella [redacted] - Grade 4

Midnight is Isabella's wolf name because she loves the night and howling at the moon. Isabella liked learning about how wolves live and what they do to survive. She learned that wolves hunt much better in a pack because they work as a team to catch larger prey. Isabella is proud of completing the book by the deadline even after many revisions to make her story narrow and manageable. Isabella demonstrated scholarship by taking her story home to work on it.



John [redacted] - Grade 4

John is quick and alert to new sights and sounds so his wolf name is Hunter. He loves everything about wolves from reading novels, to non-fiction, to writing his own story. John learned that wolves bring balance to the ecosystem and are not as scary as they are made out to be. He is proud of his story because it is challenging to edit the story out and over and make changes each time. John showed perseverance because he kept working even when it was really hard.



Winter [redacted] - Grade 4

Winter's wolf name is Fireheart, inspired by her love of the *Paw Patrol*'s series. She is proud of her story and loved writing it. The most challenging part of the expedition was changing her story because she thought the first draft was good. Winter showed perseverance by revising her story 10 times and incorporating all of the feedback from her peers. Winter's favorite wolf fact is how wolves use posture to communicate with other wolves.



Skywalker [redacted] - Grade 3

Eye Eye is Sky's wolf name because he likes to look closely at things to get a new perspective. He enjoyed reading and writing stories about wolves and learned that wolves can swim up to 3 miles. The most challenging part about writing was imagining how wolves might think or feel. Sky is most proud of his story because it was difficult to write. He showed courage by taking out parts that he liked, but didn't fit the story.



Grace [redacted] - Grade 4

Grace's wolf name is Moonlight because of her golden long hair and her love of the moon. She enjoyed coming up with wolf characters and describing what they look like. Grace learned that wolves can smell humans from 15 miles away and can track prey 300 yards away. This makes wolves good hunters, but difficult for humans to track. The most challenging task was revising for voice. She is most proud of her drawing because it was her best wolf picture. Grace demonstrated perseverance through many drafts of writing and illustrating.



Nelson [redacted] - Grade 3

Nelson loves everything about the mountains, so Mountain Wolf is a fitting name for him. He liked learning about the wolves returning to Washington and found it pretty cool that wolves can run up to 50 miles in a day. He is proud of his story because it took a long time and many drafts to get to the final draft. Illustrating the story was the most difficult because it was hard to make the pictures look exact. Nelson shared that our story demonstrates stewardship because we are teaching others to care about the wolves returning to Washington.



Jake [redacted] - Grade 4

Galaxy is a wolf name that captures Jake because it sounds majestic. He discovered that wolves are predators and will eat salmon's brains for calcium. Learning a lot about wolves made it challenging to select what to write about. He is proud of his story because he worked on it so much. Artistry is the Summit that Jake feels he demonstrated the most through his careful work.



Elisabeth [redacted] - Grade 3

Elisabeth's wolf name is Fox Wolf. She likes that packs depend on the alpha pair for leadership.



## learning the writer's craft through the study of wolves...

Given the Thunder Wolves' interest in the topic, wolves became the focus of an intensive narrative writing Expedition titled, "Land of the Lost Wolves." Summit students read high-quality fictional texts to study language and grammar, locate inferences and quotes, highlight powerful character sketches, and explore vocabulary (all while tracking main ideas and narrative structure!). Through collaborative discussions, students developed their own narrative plans and crafted their own stories. Critique, revision, and multiple drafts empowered students to deeply explore the writing process that resulted in the publication of this book.

### **Hunt for Freedom: Washington Wolves Return**

Students spent ten weeks exploring the question: How are wolves portrayed in literature? Book clubs facilitated the study of three wolf novels: "Julie's Wolf Pack," by Jean Craighead George; "Return of the Wolf," by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent; and, "White Fang," by Jack London. Through close reading and small group discussions, students analyzed how each author created wolf characters using vivid word choice and realistic description. In addition, students read informational text about the lives of gray wolves and the return of the gray wolf to Yellowstone. The BBC documentary, The Lost Wolves, provided insight into the gray wolves' return to the Cascade Mountains.

Through their wolf narrative stories, students explored language and the crafting of a quality story. The narratives examine the unifying question: "How will I portray wolves in my writing?" Using their book club authors as mentors, students crafted narratives that combined vivid new vocabulary (i.e. undernourished, vigor, and despair) with an understanding of wolf social behaviors (alpha, posturing, and hunting strategies) to tell the story of returning wolves.

Summit is an Expeditionary Learning school located in Stanwood, Washington. Our students are given time to explore complex concepts through the lens of highly engaging, project-based study. Relevant learning such as the writing of this book creates urgency to student learning and fosters a culture of ownership and responsibility.



Dedicated to the Return of the Washington Wolves

Summit Expeditionary Academy  
[www.summit-ed.org](http://www.summit-ed.org)