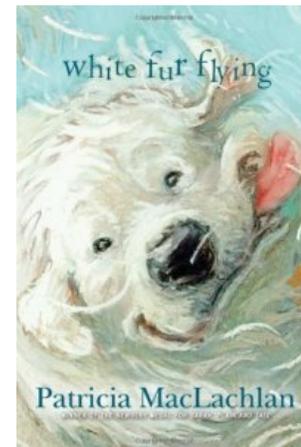# Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

White Fur Flying by Patricia MacLachlan

Recommended for grades 4 to 5

Summary: Zoe and Alice live in a happy household that always includes at least one dog and usually more than one. Their mother helps find new homes for abandoned Great Pyrenees, huge (but friendly) white dogs. When nine-year-old Phillip moves in next door with his stiff aunt and uncle, he doesn't talk to people but he does respond to the dogs. Zoe and Alive, who befriend Phillip, learn one wild stormy night why he is silent. And that dramatic night shows them just how important a dog can be in the life of a lonely boy.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Zoe's home like? What is the house like where Phillip is staying? Compare and contrast them.
2. The dogs and the parrot play important roles in this story, which is about how important pets can be. How is Jack important to Phillip? Describe other examples in the book of how the pets help people.
3. The dogs in the book have personalities – can you describe each one and how they differ from one another?
4. How do the dogs affect what happens in the book?
5. What is Phillip like at the beginning of the book? How does he change by the end of the book?
6. In her journal, Alice calls Zoe a hero for going out to find Phillip and Jack. How does Zoe show courage? Does anyone else in the book show courage?
7. Describe Alice and Zoe using examples from the book. How are they similar or different?

Further Resources:

The Publisher's Weekly book review: https://dar.to/2D3hCVR
More about Patricia MacLachlan: https://dar.to/2rbgQmS

Activities:

1. Write a short paragraph about a pet you would like to have. Draw a picture of the pet, and the different adjustments you might have to make to your home for the pet, such as adding roads, gates, fences, shelves, or other things.
2. Draw how you imagine the farm and home in the book to look. BONUS: Add in the route that Zoe took on the night that Phillip and Jack went missing. OPTIONAL: Add a map key.