



# THE WINGFEATHER SAGA

*On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*

Book Club Kit

**Hello from Madame Sidler!**

Can I help you?

Andrew and I are thrilled that you're interested in reading these books together! One of the things I love best is reading with friends. This book club kit contains some tips to get started, a bunch of discussion questions, two recipes, tons of ideas for activities, and a craft. We have more digital resources and lore at [WingfeatherSaga.com](http://WingfeatherSaga.com)! If you need anything, you can find me lurking about the [Official Wingfeather Saga Fan Group](#) on Facebook. And of course, we'd love to hear your thoughts, both about the books and about your book club!

Now, let's get started! As Jinto Qweb so famously said, "Hurry! Reading is fun!"

—Madame Sidler

## How to run a book club

1. Decide together where and how often you'd like to meet. Once per week, per month, per book? In a library, a coffee shop, a park, someone's house?
2. Decide together if you'll have one person leading the club, or if you'll take turns.
3. Set a couple of simple ground rules for discussion. Rules might include, "Only one person talking at a time," and "No biting." The leader can make sure everyone gets a chance to participate by noting whether someone has been very quiet, and sometimes asking them a specific question, so they don't feel like they're interrupting. Don't be afraid to talk about things not in the discussion guide! It's just there to get you started.
4. Snacks are always a good idea! The leader can bring snacks, or ask different people to bring snacks each time.
5. If you want to do an activity or craft during your club time, the leader can make sure everyone knows what to bring.
6. Most of all: **Have fun!** And come to the [Official Wingfeather Saga Fan Group](#) on Facebook if you need any help.

**Note:** This book club kit is designed to be used after you have read *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*. If you have not yet read the book, you will find spoilers in the discussion questions and activities.

## Discussion Questions

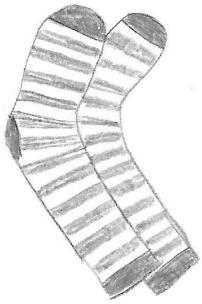
1. Which character is your favorite so far? Why?
2. Janner has been feeling restless in Glipwod, and he longs for adventure. Mr. Reteep says that if he can't find peace in Glipwood, he won't find it anywhere. (p 29) Can you identify with Janner? What do you think about what Mr. Reteep said?
3. Do you ever feel like Janner does when he is frustrated by having to take care of Tink and Leeli? What is that like? What do you do?
4. Who did you think threw the rock at the Fangs? (ch 8) Were you surprised about the answer to that mystery? (ch 37)
5. Janner sometimes feels something he thinks of as homesickness, a joy that hurts. Have you ever felt that? What made you feel that way? (ch 10)
6. Is Podo right that there's always a way out of a difficult situation? (ch 12)
7. What would you do if you found a secret map? (ch 18)
8. Leeli feels compassion for two characters that nobody else has seen as worthy: Slarb, and Peet. These interactions end up resolving very differently, though. What do you think would have happened if Leeli had had a chance to show kindness to Slarb? Do you think it's possible for people to change? (chs 27-28)
9. "Maybe Podo didn't have a plan, but knowing that his grandfather was with him, even in the face of the Fangs of Dang, made Janner feel like he could be more than he was." Is there anyone who gives you strength when you're afraid? Who makes you feel like you can be more than you are? Tink was a good model to Janner in this scene, too. Do you think you have ever been an example like this? What does bravery look like in your regular life, without swords and Fangs? (ch 40)
10. Think about the different characters in the book: Janner, Tink, Leeli, Nia, Podo, Oskar, Peet, Commander Gnorm, General Khrak, Slarb, Zouzab. What do they treasure? How does that guide their actions? What do you treasure?
11. A lot of people feel anger in this book. Janner is angry about taking care of Tink and Leeli, and about Nia and Podo keeping secrets. Oskar is angry about Skree being overrun by Fangs. Podo is angry at Peet. Nia is angry at Podo. When is that anger fair, and when is it unfair? When is it dangerous to hold onto anger? Is anger ever a good thing? Can it be useful? How?

12. Oskar quotes a lot of books, and more show up in the footnotes. Did one stand out to you, one you wish you could read? What makes you want to read it?
13. What do you think about Nia's decision not to tell the kids about their father?
14. Nia's not the only one keeping secrets. There are a lot of secrets in this book. When are secrets helpful? When are they hurtful? Can they be both? What about keeping a secret for someone else? Is it ever right to tell that secret? How do you decide?
15. What was the funniest part of the book? What was the saddest? What was the most scary? What was the most wonderful?
16. Was there a part of the book you couldn't stop thinking about? What was it? What do you think about it?
17. Was there something that happened in the book that you expected, or wished, had happened differently? What do you think would have happened if things had turned out the way you expected?
18. What do you think will happen next?

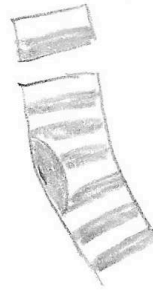
## Ideas for Activities

1. Think about some of the games that are played, or talked about, in this book—zibzy or handyball, for example. Make up rules for your own version of this game.
2. Play Ships and Sharks.
3. Make the craft in this kit. See who can walk on their hands the longest.
4. Have everyone make a treasure map, then swap maps and find the treasures!
5. Make one of the recipes in this kit, or come up with your own recipe!
6. Design a tree house.
7. Make Annieran jewelry.
8. Practice your T.H.A.G.S.! Here are some suggestions:
  1. Pick a book—something Oskar quotes from, or one mentioned in a footnote. Write a chapter from that book. Or write a poem, or start a journal. Think of how something could have gone differently in the book, and write about what might have happened next.
  2. Go outside and look around. Draw what you see. Pick one thing and draw it from several angles. Spend some time looking carefully at something, and then go inside and draw it from memory.
  3. Make up your own melody to the song Leeli sang to the dragons. Or, make up a song of your own about the Igibys' adventure.
9. Make costumes and have your own adventure!
10. Create your own Dragon Day Festival. Invite the neighbors!
11. Make a Glipper Trail fishing game: Cut out construction paper fish and put paper clips on their noses. Fish for them with a magnet on the end of a string. (Be sure to include some squid and small sharks.)
12. Start your own story. Make a map, name some characters (and monsters?), and send them on an adventure.
13. Have a readaloud together! This is extra fun if you do the voices.
14. Send Andrew a letter or email to tell him what you thought about the books, or to share your artwork, costume photos, recipe, or some other Wingfeathery thing you have been working on. (Find his contact information on the Wingfeather website at <https://www.WingfeatherSaga.com/contact>.)

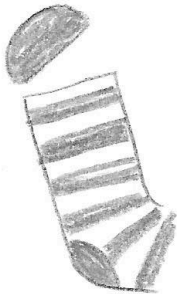
## Craft: Peet's sock-hands



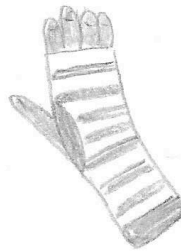
1. Find a pair of knee-high socks, and some scissors. That's all you need! (You can just wear the socks as they are, but if you want your talons to show, keep going.)



5. Cut off the part that you marked.

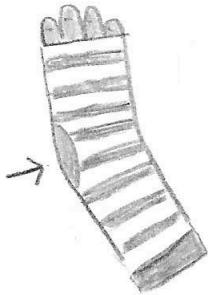


2. Cut off the toe of one sock.

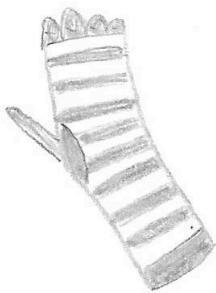


6. Try it on again. Perfect! Now do the other one!

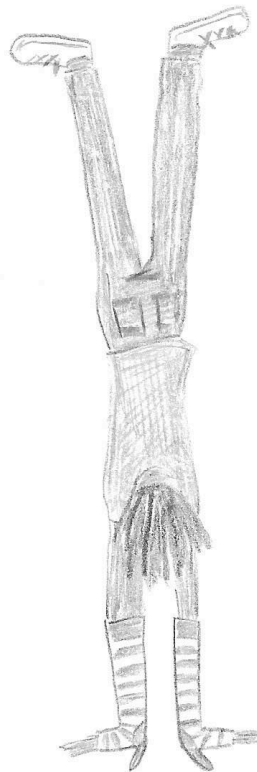
Tip: Use the one you just finished as a pattern.



3. Try on the sock, and see where your thumb lines up with the heel. Take it off, and cut a tiny slit there. Try it on to see how it fits. If it's too tight, cut a *tiny* bit more—not too much; it will stretch some.



4. How much of your fingers do you want to be covered? If it's already perfect, you're done! If not, mark where you'd like to cut it. Use a pin, or a pen, or just fold it.



7. Go outside, walk on your hands, and say "Wings and dings and purple things" over and over until you're dizzy. Then go find a toothy cow to ride, or someone who needs protecting.

## **Recipe: Nia Igiby's Maggotloaf**

Note: This recipe takes a few days to prepare. Be sure to start early, to be safe!

Two slabs hen meat

1 c. firebugs

3-4 c. earthworms

Fingernail clippings

One dash dog fur (any dog is fine; preferably not one recently washed)

Three days in advance, place the henmeat on a compost pile.<sup>1</sup> On the second and third day, if there has been no rain, water the pile frequently. On the fourth day, the meat should be whitish, moist, and teeming with maggots.

Preheat oven to 350°. Mash the firebugs and earthworms with a mortar and pestle, or grind in a food processor for a finer texture. Bring the henmeat inside and chop finely. With your hands, mix henmeat, maggots, firebug-earthworm paste, and fingernails to taste. Place in a loaf pan and bake for one hour. Garnish with dog fur.

Serves: One.

<sup>1</sup> If you have no compost pile, prepare one a day in advance by mixing vegetable scraps, dead leaves, barnyard nuggets, eggshells, grass clippings, and shredded paper into a mound of dirt. Pour two cups of water over all, and then bake in a roasting pan at 150° for seventeen hours, stirring every hour. Then transfer the pan's contents, and the henmeat, to a sunny place in the backyard or on the patio.

## **Recipe: Cheesy Chowder**

This is Andrew's mom's legendary cheesy chowder, which is so good that its deliciousness cannot be contained in one reality but must be enjoyed in multiple worlds. Thank you, Mrs. Peterson!

Tips: Double this recipe, if you want a vat (and you do)! And don't forget the butterbread. :-)

2 c. water  
2 c. diced potatoes  
1/2 c. diced carrots  
1/2 c. diced celery  
1/4 c. diced onion  
1 t. salt  
1/4 t. pepper

For white sauce:

1/4 c. butter (half of a stick)  
1/4 c. flour  
2 c. milk  
2 c. cheddar cheese, grated  
1 c. cubed ham

Combine water, potatoes, carrots, celery, onion, salt, and pepper in large kettle. Boil 10-12 minutes. Meanwhile, in small saucepan, make white sauce by melting the butter. Add flour and stir until smooth (about 1 minute). Slowly add milk and cook until thickened. Add grated cheese to white sauce; stir until melted. Add white sauce and cubed ham to vegetables and liquid. Yields 6 servings.