

# ARTIE AND THE WOLF MOON

"A heartfelt, magical family drama you can really sink your teeth into."

—Nilah Magruder, *M.F.K.*



# Discussion Guide for *Artie and the Wolf Moon* by Olivia Stephens

This discussion guide is designed to encourage thoughtful and in-depth conversations among **7th-12th graders**.

## Questions 1-7

### 1. Initial Reactions

- Begin the discussion by asking participants about their initial reactions to the book. What drew them to this graphic novel, and what expectations did they have?

### 2. Themes and Messages

- Explore the themes in *Artie and the Wolf Moon*. Discuss concepts such as self-discovery, identity, friendship, family, and forgiveness.

- What messages or lessons do you think the author intended to convey through the story?

### 3. Visual Storytelling

- Analyze the visual storytelling techniques used in the graphic novel, including panel layouts, art style, and the use of color.

- How do these visual elements enhance the narrative and contribute to the readers' understanding of the characters and emotions?

### 4. Character Development

- Examine the growth and development of the characters in the story. How do their experiences and relationships shape them over the course of the narrative?

- Are there specific character arcs or moments that you found particularly impactful or relatable?

### 5. Panel Layouts and Pacing

- Discuss the panel layouts in *Artie and the Wolf Moon*. How do they impact the pacing of the story and the readers' engagement with the plot?

- Can you identify moments where the panel layout effectively emphasizes key scenes or emotions?

### 6. Artistic Choices

- Explore the artistic choices made by Olivia Stephens. How do character designs, facial expressions, and background details contribute to the storytelling?

- Identify any visual motifs or symbolism used throughout the graphic novel.

**Continued on Next Page**

# Discussion Guide for *Artie and the Wolf Moon* by Olivia Stephens Continued:

## Questions 7-13

### 7. LGBTQ+ Representation

- Reflect on the portrayal of LGBTQ+ characters and themes in the graphic novel. How does the story address issues related to identity, self-acceptance, and coming out?
- Discuss the importance of diverse and authentic LGBTQ+ representation in literature.

### 8. Art as Self-Expression

- Consider the role of art as a means of self-expression in the book. How does Artie use her photography to explore her own identity and cope with challenges?
- Share your thoughts on how creative outlets like art can serve as tools for personal growth and communication.

### 9. Real-World Connections

- Connect the themes and experiences of the characters to real-life situations. Have you or anyone you know faced similar challenges or self-discovery journeys?
- Discuss how stories like *Artie and the Wolf Moon* can contribute to empathy and understanding in society.

### 10. Artie's Journey

- Analyze Artie's character journey. How does she transform, both artistically and personally, throughout the story?
- Explore the challenges she encounters and the choices she makes.

### 11. Your Artistic Expression

- Consider the creative outlets you use for self-expression, whether it's art, writing, music, or any other form. How does your creativity help you understand yourself and communicate your feelings?
- Share any personal experiences related to self-discovery and self-expression.

### 12. Impact of the Story

- Reflect on the emotional impact of *Artie and the Wolf Moon*. How did the story affect you? Were there moments that resonated with you personally?

### 14. Final Thoughts

- Overall thoughts on the graphic novel. Would they recommend it to others? Why or why not?

# GRAPHIC NOVEL CONVENTIONS



Putting ourselves in the shoes of a graphic novel author and illustrator can help us understand the choices they make in both visual and written elements in order to communicate a story. Complete the following activities to demonstrate your understanding of each convention.

## SYMBOLISM

Consider the following colors and list the associations you have with each - this might include moods, objects or symbols, connotations or ideas etc.

Color	Symbolism
Red	
Blue	
Black	
Gold	
White	

## EMOTION

How would you express the following emotions using shapes and lines? Draw a small example under each emotion.

**Anger**

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing an example of the emotion Anger.

**Happiness**

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing an example of the emotion Happiness.

**Stress**

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing an example of the emotion Stress.

**DRAW YOUR  
MYTHOLOGICAL  
CREATURE HERE**

# **MYTHOLOGICAL CREATION!**

**WHAT ARE THEIR SUPERNATURAL POWERS ?**

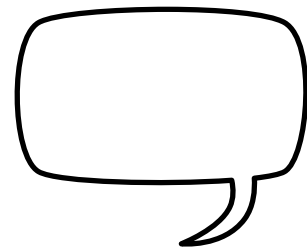
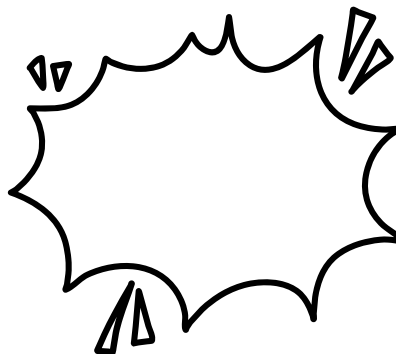
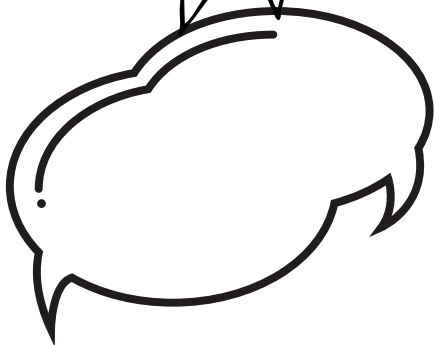
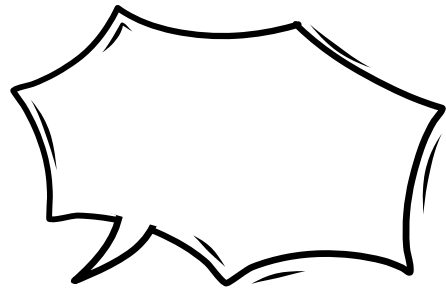
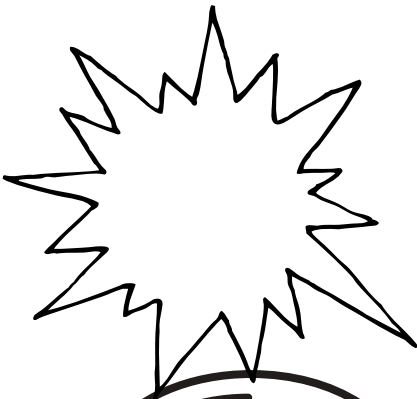
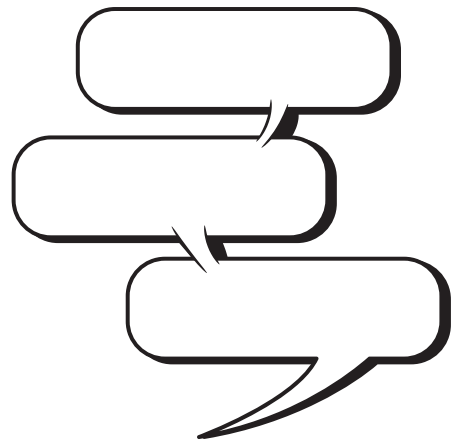
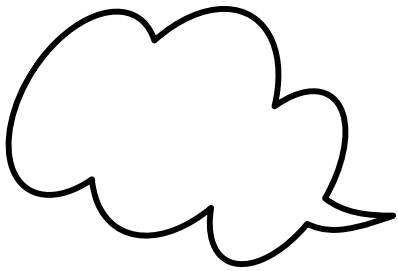
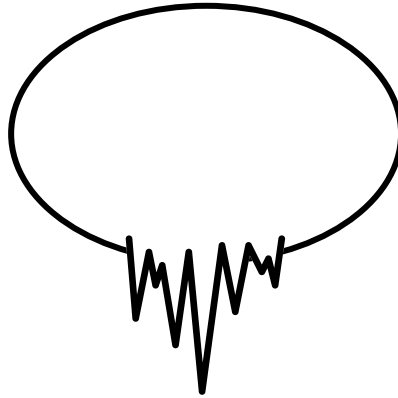
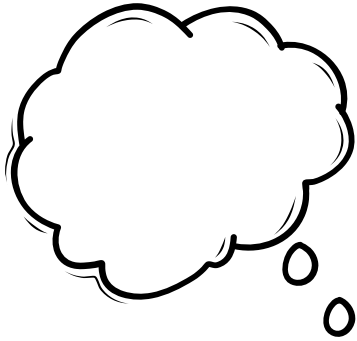
**WHAT IS THEIR NAME?**

**HOW DO THEY OVERCOME THEIR FEAR?**

**WHAT ARE THEY AFRAID OF?**

## SPEECH BUBBLES

Write something appropriate that would best suit each style and shape of speech bubble. Consider the emotion the speech bubble may represent.



## Learn More About the Author



Olivia Stephens shares her creative process and some exclusive early sketches in this blog post: <https://lernerbooks.blog/2021/09/artie-and-the-wolf-moon-an-interview-with-olivia-stephens.html>





Interest: Grade 7 - Grade 9

HC: 978-1-5415-4248-8

EB: 978-1-7284-2020-2

Olivia Stephens is a graphic novelist, illustrator, and writer from the Pacific Northwest. In 2017, she graduated with a BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. Olivia is the author of the middle-grade werewolf graphic novel *Artie and the Wolf Moon* and the illustrator of *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky: The Graphic Novel*. For her work in comics, Olivia has received an Ignatz Award, a Fellowship Award from Artist Trust, and residencies from Tin House, Mineral School, Storyknife, and MacDowell. When not drawing, she enjoys listening to torch songs and observing tree trunks.