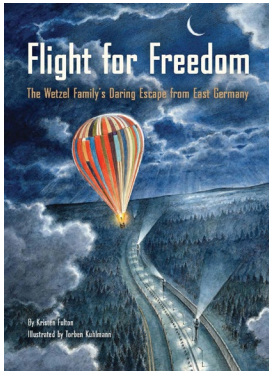




2021 – 2022
Children's Book Award Finalist
Elementary Grade Levels 3-5



Flight for Freedom
Chronicle Books



Kristen Fulton
Author



Torben Kuhlmann
Illustrator

Summary

"Peter was born on the east side of Germany, the side that wasn't free. He watches news programs rather than cartoons and wears scratchy uniforms instead of blue jeans. His family endures long lines and early curfews. But Peter knows it won't always be this way. Peter and his family have a secret. Late at night in their attic, they are piecing together a hot air balloon—and a plan. Can Peter and his family fly their way to freedom? This is the true story of one child, Peter Wetzel, and his family, as they risk their lives for the hope of freedom in a daring escape from East Germany via a handmade hot air balloon in 1979." (amazon.com)

Genre

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Book Conversation

After reading the story aloud, you may use the following questions to prompt a book conversation with students.

- How did the Peter and his family feel during their escape from East Germany? Which details in the text helps you know?
- How long do you think it will take them to put their plan into action?
- How would you describe the lifestyle of people living in West Germany and people living in East Germany?
- What do you predict will happen to the Wetzel Family on their journey to escape East Germany? How does it differ from current times?
- How do you think young people today would respond to the events Peter experienced?



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Florida Statute 1003.42.2 requires that K-12 public school instructional staff teach specific character education, cultural, and historical topics. This book may assist teachers in partial fulfillment of that requirement.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html

Extension Activities

1. Before reading, the students will write down their predictions for the beginning, middle, and end of the story on a foldable that will be provided. After reading the story, have the students write whether their predictions for the beginning, middle, and end of the story were right. If any of their predictions were wrong, have the students write down what happened for that specific part of the book.

	Beginning	Middle	End
Prediction			
Correct or Wrong? Explain.			

2. Before reading, have the students create and design their own hot air balloon based on what they think the Wetzel Family’s hot air balloon would look like.
3. After reading, have the students fill out a Venn Diagram to compare the differences and similarities of West and East Germany based off what they saw in the beginning of the story.
4. For the vocabulary of the book, have the students draw a picture for each word to help the remember what each vocabulary word means.
5. Read the book, “The Harmonica”, by Tony Johnston. Have students make connections between the texts.

Websites

Meet the author – Kristen Fulton: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Kristen-Fulton/547715888>

Meet the illustrator – Torben Kuhlmann: <https://www.torben-kuhlmann.com/profil/>

Watch a read aloud of the book: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In_emufrikI

Diversity and Multicultural Features

Author: female

Illustrator: German

Character(s): East Germans fleeing to West Germany

Setting: East Germany; West Germany