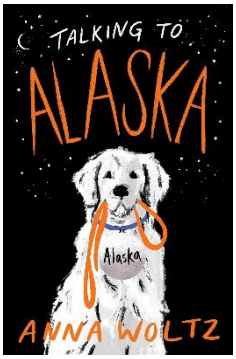
The Children's Bookshow



Delve deeper into the world of Sven, Parker and Alaska with these creative activities inspired by *Talking to Alaska* by Anna Woltz. Explore the characters, themes and ideas in the book, and discover new ways to engage with the story. We'd love to see what you come up with, so don't forget to share your work with us!



Explore

- Anna Woltz researched assistance dogs when writing Talking to Alaska. Find out how these amazing dogs are trained, the different jobs they do and how they help people in their everyday lives.
- Would you know how to help someone if they were having a seizure? Find out how you can help keep someone safe by following the guidelines from Epilepsy Action: www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/first-aid.
- Become a detail detective! Like Parker, practise being more observant. Spend five minutes looking, listening and noticing things you might usually miss. Write down or sketch five details you discover.



Draw

- Draw an inside/outside portrait of Sven or Parker. Draw the outline of their head and shoulders, then split the face down the middle. On one side, use pictures and symbols to show the character's own thoughts and feelings; on the other side, show how other people see them.
- Create a black-and-white line drawing for each chapter, showing an important character, object, place or moment from the story. Keep your drawings simple but full of meaning, capturing what each chapter is all about in one picture.



Create

- Use Parker's observations of Sven's bedroom to create a story setting in a shoebox. Add miniature furniture, decorations and personal belongings to bring the room to life.
- Create a poster warning your friends about the dangers of sharing personal information, photos or videos on social media. Include clear messages, eye-catching images and top tips to help people stay safe online.
- Make a pet passport for Alaska. Draw a portrait, a paw print and include a list of the special skills he has.



Write

- Use Parker's account on pages 66-67 to write a newspaper report about the robbery. Include an attention-grabbing headline, the key facts about what happened, eyewitness accounts and quotes from people involved.
- Describe your animal best friend, explaining what makes them special and why you love spending time with them. If you don't have a pet, describe your ideal pet instead.
- Create a 'Wanted' poster for the robbers using the descriptions on pages 79–80. Include their physical features and any distinguishing details that might help people recognise them.

Further Activities to Try...

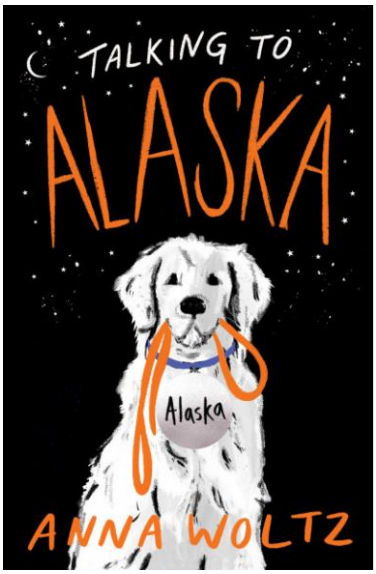
1. Keep a Resilience Journal. Like Parker and Sven, we all face challenges that take courage to overcome. Write about times when you were brave, tried something new, kept going when things felt tough, or asked for help. Record what happened, how you felt and what you learned. Look back regularly at your journal to remind yourself how strong and resilient you can be!

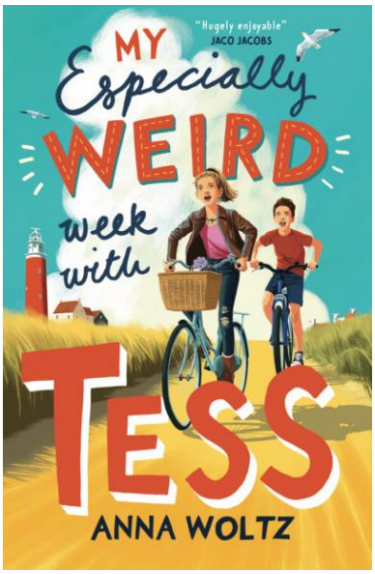
2. Difference is a key theme in Talking to Alaska. Sven explains that he feels like an alien but Parker points out that: 'Everyone is walking around on Mars...we're all different.' Write a poem about the unique qualities which make you different.

3. Anna Woltz is from The Netherlands. Find out more about her home country by visiting The Kids World Travel Guide online.

4. Discover more about Anna Woltz on our website: The Children's Bookshow | Anna Woltz.

More Books by Anna Woltz







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