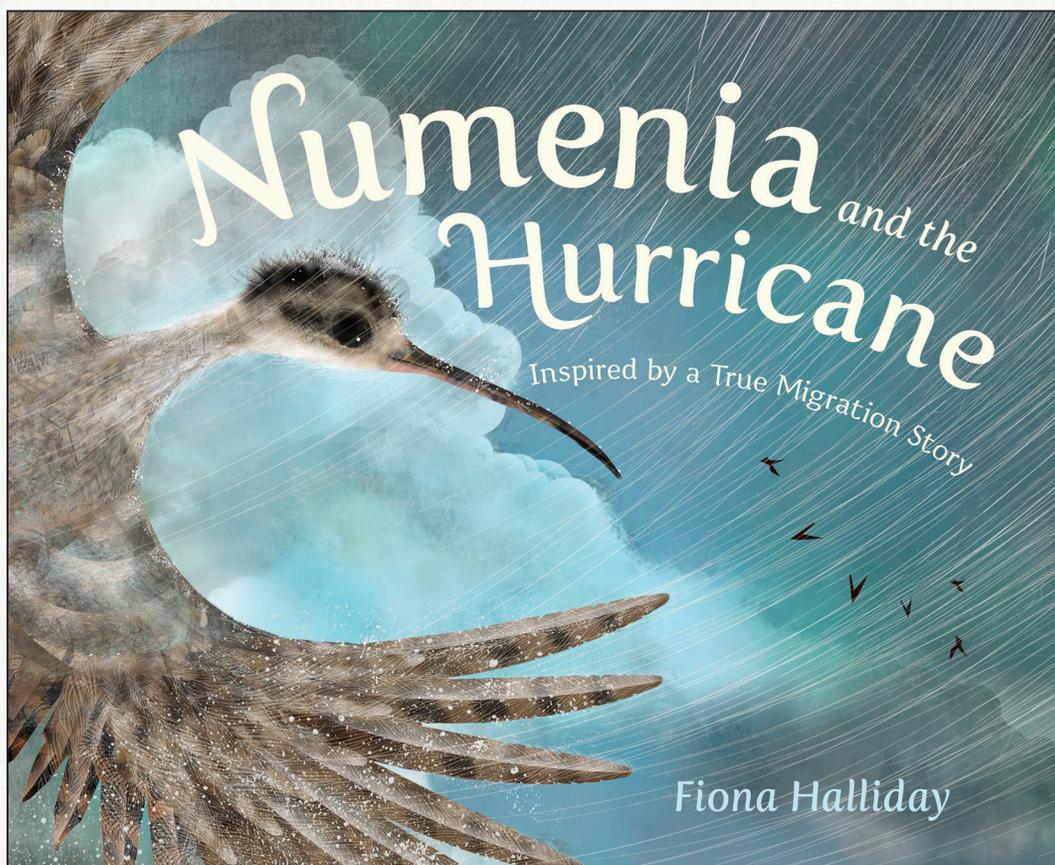


Classroom Guide

Numenia and the Hurricane

Inspired by a True Migration Story

Written and Illustrated by *Fiona Halliday*



Published by

**PAGE
STREET
KIDS**

Classroom Guide

Introduction

Fiona Halliday is an author, illustrator, and animal lover! All three of her passions blend together to create her beautiful debut picture book—*Numenia and the Hurricane*. She tells a remarkable story of a whimbrel, Numenia who beats the odds and reunites with her sisters in their winter home. Using rhythm, rhyme, and beautiful illustrations to tell the story, Fiona Halliday creates a masterpiece that takes you on the journey of Numenia's migration. Educators can use this book as a springboard to open a discussion about animal behavior and the role it plays in our environment. Younger readers will cheer at the end when Numenia succeeds! Middle-grade readers can dive deeper into the poetic verse as well as discuss climate change and its effect on our planet. This book is perfect for all ages and is sure to leave a lasting impression whenever it is read.



Classroom Guide

Essential Questions

The following discussion questions with suggested grade levels may be adapted to best fit the ages, needs, abilities and learning styles of your students.

Grades K-3

- *What is the setting of this story?*
 - How does it change throughout the book?
 - Why is this element of the story so important?

- *Numenia and her sisters are a certain type of bird. Name the species and some of its characteristics.*
 - How do the characteristics of this bird affect the outcome of the story?

- *What is migration?*
 - Why do some animals migrate?
 - Are all birds migratory? Why or why not?

- *What is the timeline of this story?*
 - How long do you think it takes Numenia to reach her destination? Find examples from the story that can help you answer this question.

Grades 3+

- *After reading the book, discuss the importance of whimbrels and other migratory birds.*
 - Why is it important to tell this story?

- *What are examples of imagery in the story?*
 - How does the author activate your 5 senses with the use of imagery?

- *Can you find evidence in the text where Halliday uses personification?*
 - Why do you think she chose to give human-like qualities to the birds?

- *What is the author's purpose for writing this book? To entertain, to persuade, or to inform?*
 - Can a book have all three types of purpose?
 - When reading a book, which purpose is your favorite?
 - Do you like when an author combines information, entertainment, and persuasion? Why or why not?

- *Can you name the literary style of this book?*
 - Does this story tell facts or does the reader need to infer to learn about the birds?
 - Why do you think Fiona Halliday chose to tell the story in this way?
 - Give examples from the book that show how Halliday accomplishes this style.

- *How can this story be used as a motivational tool?*
 - How could Numenia's story help someone that is feeling hopeless?
 - What example does Numenia set for readers?

Activities

Nonfiction Connection

Numenia and the Hurricane was inspired by a real life bird! Her name is Hope and she had some amazing adventures. At the conclusion of the book, Fiona Halliday briefly shares the story of the whimbrel that motivated her to write her book. Readers can learn more about the famous whimbrel and her experiences by visiting the Center for Conservation Biology’s website and searching “Hope” (<https://cbbirds.org>).



Assign articles from the website to small groups. Each group is responsible for reading the article and determining the main idea and recording it on an index card. Each card should include the publication date as well as the main idea. Once all of the groups have completed their work, the entire group can come together, share what they learned and create a timeline of the events of Hope’s life. Discuss the progression of Hope’s trip. How does it compare to Numenia’s trip?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Inference to Information

Engaging, poetic language fills the pages of this book! The rhythm of the story helps the reader ‘fly’ with Numenia, but the style of the book also tells a story that includes facts. The facts are not obvious, but they are essential for the reader to gain meaning and understanding. Invite readers to look through the text and find poetic language that they can match to nonfiction facts. Create a simple T-chart to match the poetic text to facts. Choose a line from the book and identify the fact that is meant to teach the reader. Offer resources for readers to fact check—books from the library or reliable internet sites (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Whimbrel/overview>).

See sample below:

Poetic Language	Inferred Fact
“Five weeks old, They’ve reached the sky” (p. 2)	Whimbrels begin to fly when they are 5 weeks old.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.5

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Classroom Guide

Perseverance Posters

Persistence is certainly a word that can be used when telling the story of a whimbrel's migration. If a tiny bird can fly through a hurricane, imagine what people can do when things get tough! Explore this idea with students after reading the story of Numenia's journey. Encourage discussion of personal examples of perseverance and tenacity. After brainstorming ideas, supply readers with art supplies and poster board so that everyone can record their own moments of working through challenges and succeeding. They can fill the poster with their greatest triumph or make a collage of many achievements. Invite the group to share their successes and strengths. This would make a great inspirational hallway display!



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Budding Authors

With great skill Fiona Halliday uses poetic language and beautiful illustrations to tell an amazing author story. Young readers can be intimidated by this and see this type of writing as challenging. After reading *Numenia and the Hurricane* turn your readers into authors and illustrators by teaching them a shorter, simple form of poetry, the Haiku. Haiku is a traditional Japanese form of poetry that consists of three lines. The first and last lines have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. The link below gives a description of Haiku and a few tips for young writers. Once their writing is finished they should complete their piece with an illustration. Take another look at Halliday's illustrations. Her beautiful artwork enhances her words. Discuss how your young writers can enhance their own writing with thoughtful illustrations. Wrap up the writing process with peer edits and revisions. Once the final touches have been made, compile the poetry and illustrations into a class book. Add this poetry collection to a classroom library or share it with another group of readers and writers. Be sure to note that the work was inspired by the talented Fiona Halliday! (<https://www.poetry4kids.com/lessons/how-to-write-a-haiku>)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.5

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Classroom Guide

Reproducibles/Worksheets

Amazing Adaptations

Animal adaptations are fascinating! Introduce readers to other animals besides Numenia that have unique characteristics that help them survive in our world. Cut, sort, and glue the animals next to the description of the adaptation that makes sense. This activity is sure to spark some amazing conversations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Awesome Acrostics

Acrostic poems are simple, but they say a lot! Use Numenia's name to write about her characteristics. Writers can think of her physical traits as well as her 'personality'. There are so many beautiful words to describe this tiny bird. Encourage your writers to find the perfect words or phrases to describe our heroine.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Amazing Adaptations

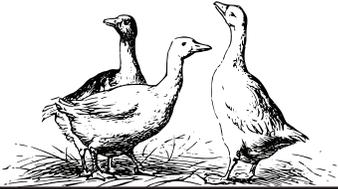
Animals adapt to their environment so that they can survive and thrive.
Read each description below and match the animal to the adaptation.

<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Animal</i>
Camouflage Some animals can blend into their surroundings to protect themselves.	
Hibernation During the cold months with little food, some animals go into a deep sleep until spring.	
Hair Hair keeps mammals warm, cool, and protected from the elements.	
Migration The ability to move around the globe for food and mating is the key to survival for some animals.	
Living in Communities Many animals live in groups for mating, protection, and raising their young.	
Flight The evolution of flight has enabled birds to hunt, protect themselves, and travel to their food.	

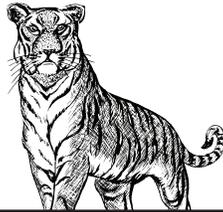
Name: _____

Date: _____

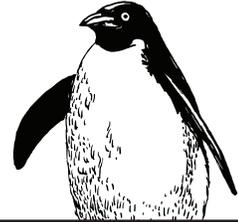
Geese



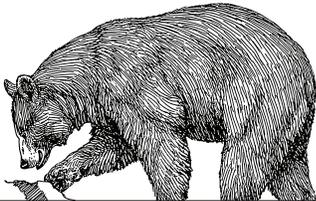
Tiger



Penguin



Grizzly Bear



Yak



Cardinal



Photos credited to <https://publicdomainvectors.org>

Name: _____ Date: _____

Awesome Acrostics

Acrostic poems are a great way to celebrate someone or something. Choose a word for each of the letters in Numenia's name. Think about her characteristics. Write a poem that begins to tell her story. Be creative!

N _____

U _____

M _____

E _____

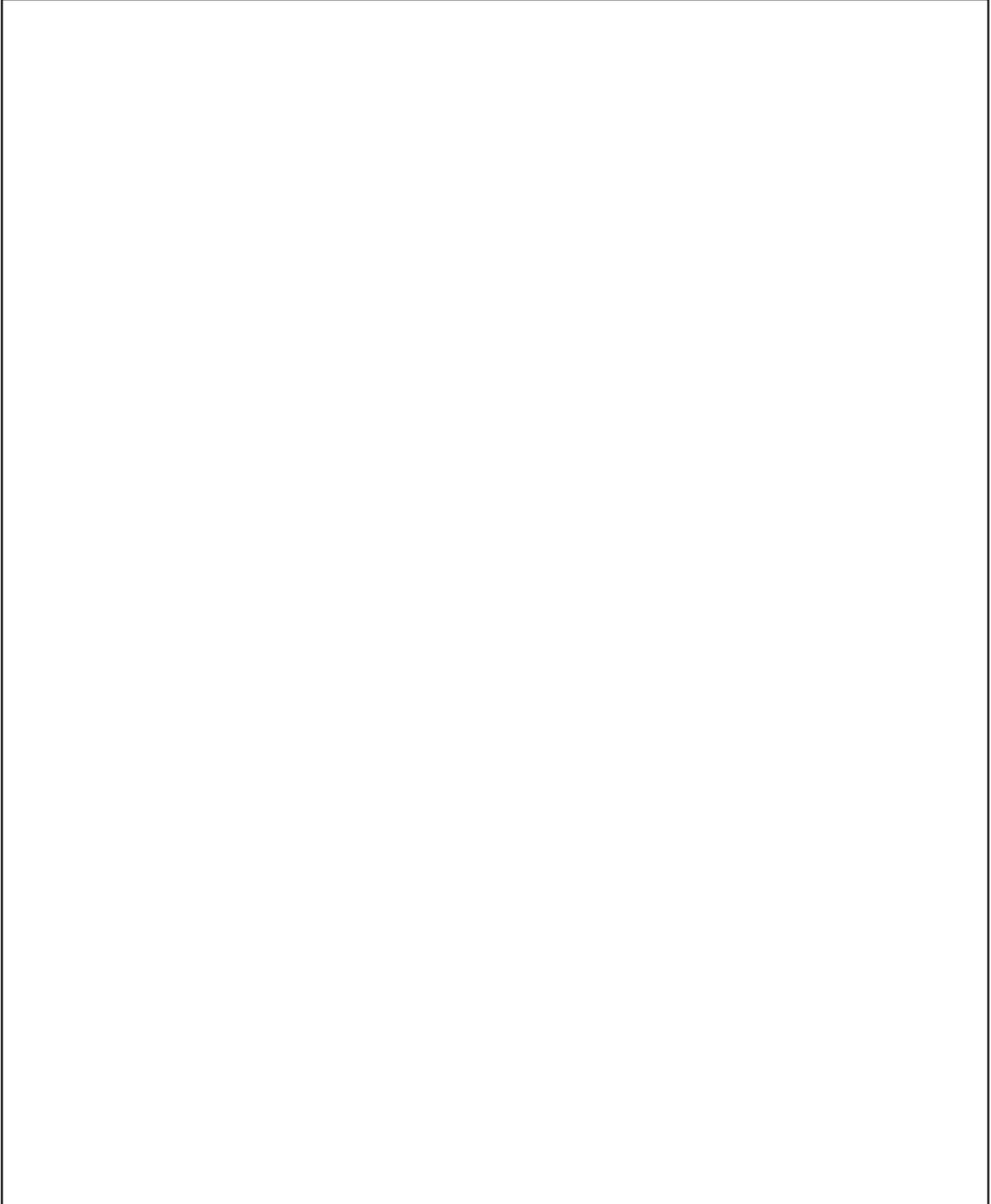
N _____

I _____

A _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Illustrate your poem:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration related to their poem. The box occupies most of the lower half of the page.