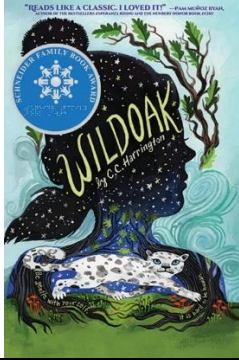


Proposed Core Literature Titles

The following Summary is provided by the California Department of Education's "Recommended Literature List". And the top three Google searches of the book title and author name (e.g., title by author) that produced a description of the title.

<u>Wildoak</u> Proposed Grade Level: 7	
	Title: Wildoak Author: Harrington, CC First Published: 2022 Proposed Grade Level: 7 Lexile Measurement: 970-1120
California Department Education, Recommended Literature List: 2023 Updates California Department of EDU Not on current lists.	
Descriptions From Top 3 Google Searches:	
https://www.amazon.com/Wildoak-C-Harrington/dp/1338803867	
When the fates of a snow leopard, a child, and an ancient forest collide, the unimaginable can happen. Perfect for fans of <i>Pax</i> and <i>The One and Only Ivan</i>.	
**Winner of the 2023 Schneider Family Book Award! **	
* "Nuanced and empowering." - Publisher's Weekly, starred review	
* "Memorably atmospheric." - <i>Kirkus Reviews</i>, starred review	
"Immersive." - <i>The Horn Book</i>	
"Vibrant, emotional storytelling." – <i>School Library Connection</i>, highly recommended	
Maggie Stephens's stutter makes school especially hard. She will do almost anything to avoid speaking in class or calling attention to herself. So, when her unsympathetic father threatens to send her away for so-called "treatment," she reluctantly agrees to her mother's intervention plan: a few weeks in the fresh air of <i>Wildoak</i> Forest, visiting a grandfather she hardly knows. It is there, in an extraordinary twist of fate, that she encounters an abandoned snow leopard cub, an exotic gift to a wealthy Londoner that proved too wild to domesticate. But once the cub's presence is discovered by others, danger follows, and Maggie soon	

realizes that time is running out, not only for the leopard, but for herself and the forest as well.

Told in alternating voices, *Wildoak* shimmers with beauty, compassion, and unforgettable storytelling as it explores the delicate interconnectedness of the human, animal, and natural worlds.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/59806092-wildoak>

Maggie's stutter makes going to school hard. She will do almost anything to avoid speaking in class – even if that leads to trouble. Sent to stay in the depths of Cornwall with a grandfather she barely knows, Maggie discovers an abandoned snow leopard hiding in the nearby Wildoak Forest. Sheltered by the ancient trees, the two of them build an understanding in secret. But when the cub is spotted by local villagers, danger follows - threatening everything she has come to believe in. Can Maggie find an answer before time runs out - not just for the cub, but for herself and the forest as well?

<https://www.wellesleybooks.com/book/9781338803860>

Christina grew up in the UK. She spent her summer holidays in Cornwall where she loved to climb trees and run barefoot along pebbly beaches. She loves the natural world and believes that stories, much like the roots of an ancient forest, can connect readers and listeners in essential ways. *Wildoak* is her first book. She graduated from Oxford University with a degree in English Literature and has since worked for a newspaper, taught literacy to children with learning differences and studied printmaking. She now lives in Maryland with her family and a dog who loves to eat manuscripts. You can learn more about her work at ccharrington.com.

Praise for *Wildoak*:

Winner of the 2023 Schneider Family Book Award

* "Themes of compassion and conservation form the heartbeat of Harrington's eloquent 1963 England-set debut...Both character arcs sparkle with life thanks to Harrington's poignant, immersive prose...nuanced and empowering." - Publisher's Weekly, starred review

* "Harrington packs her memorably atmospheric debut with compelling issues, but her sharply felt portrayals of two vulnerable youngsters of different species bonding as they find their ways in hostile worlds will make the deepest impression. Tugs on ethical sensibilities and heartstrings with equal strength." - *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Harrington humanizes Rumpus with compassion but not preciousness, inviting readers to acknowledge his wildness but still recognize his shared experiences with Maggie. Beyond the well-integrated themes of environmentalism and animal conservation, the resonating factor behind the story is Maggie's connection to Rumpus, making this an easy read like Pennypacker's *Pax* or Earle's *When the Sky Falls*." - *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"Maggie's deep connections to animals and the natural world are her greatest strengths, enabling physical bravery and creative problem-solving. The theme of diverse varieties of communication braids the narrative together and deepens its impact. Generous back matter alerts readers to resources on stuttering, big-cat conservation, and reforestation efforts worldwide. Chapter decorations and the occasional pen-and-ink illustration add to the richness of this immersive experience." - *The Horn Book*

"A poignant story about finding your voice and standing up for those who are unable to stand for themselves... By the end, readers will have fallen in love with Rumpus and be cheering as Maggie takes a stand to save him... Echoing the vibrant, emotional storytelling of classic children's tales, Maggie and Rumpus's story will resonate with those struggling to make themselves heard in a world where differences can overshadow what truly lies within." — *School Library Connection*, highly recommended

"This tender and hopeful story, with a whisper of magical realism, reminds the reader that everyone struggles with something. C.C. Harrington's prose is beautiful, and she writes with a deep affection for the natural world. *Wildoak* reads like a classic. I loved it." - Pam Muñoz Ryan, bestselling author of *Esperanza Rising* and the Newbery Honor Book *Echo*

"*Wildoak* is one of those novels that makes us believe the world may well be as mysterious and as lovely and as possible as we had hoped. Maybe we can speak to animals in ways we never anticipated, and maybe we can sense consciousness in places we had never imagined, and maybe deep hurts can be overcome--the hurts of war, of humiliation, of pride. The rambunctious and sometimes frightening and sometimes incredibly funny story of Maggie and Rumpus is a story of how we might connect more deeply and more humanly--and so it is a story of immense hope. Read it and be enlarged!" - Gary Schmidt, Newbery Honor winning author of *The Wednesday Wars* and *Just Like That*

"This well-told story of a girl's stuttering journey leaps and purrs on the back of a beautiful snow leopard." - Vince Vawter, author of the Newbery Honor book, *Paperboy*