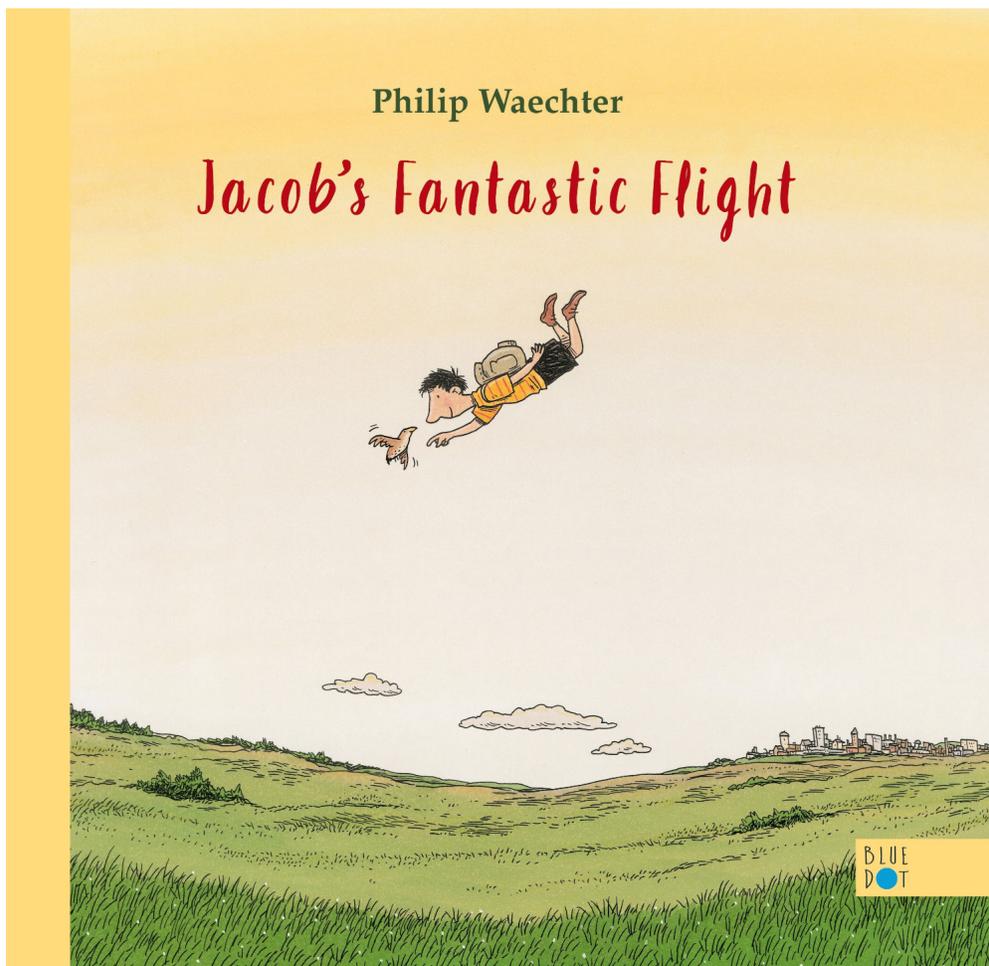


Grades K-4



# Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press



**“High-flying humor and heart.”**

— *Kirkus Reviews*, STARRED REVIEW

*Jacob's Fantastic Flight*

Written & Illustrated by Philip Waechter, Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer

Published October 2020 | ISBN 9781733121262 | Ages 3-8



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## Before Reading

### Discussion

Discuss the title and cover illustration of *Jacob's Fantastic Flight*.

- How do the title and cover illustration help you understand what the story will be about?
- What does *fantastic* mean?
- Give examples of things that you think are fantastic.
- How do you know who Jacob is by looking at the cover illustrations and title?
- Will this book be fiction or nonfiction? Why?
- Predict what the story will be about.

### Mini Lesson

Ask students to explain the various *story elements* and describe why they are important in reading literature. Have students apply the story elements to a specific book.



### STORY ELEMENTS:

SETTING

PLOT

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

THEME OR CENTRAL MESSAGE

## Cause-and-Effect Relationships

A *cause-and-effect relationship* is when something happens that makes something else happen. Identifying cause-and-effect relationships in stories helps readers understand what is happening and why.

Discuss these cause-and-effect examples:

- I stayed home from school because I was not feeling well.
- My brother studied all night and got an A on his test.
- My feet got all wet when I jumped in the puddle.

*Brainstorm some examples on your own!*

## During Reading

Read to find out why Jacob's flight is

Fantastic!



Use information gained from the illustrations and words to understand the characters, setting, and plot.

Think about the story elements of *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*:

- Why is Jacob special?
- What kind of person is he?
- What is the setting of the story? How does the setting change?
- What major events happen in the story?
- What challenges does Jacob face?
- How does Jacob respond to major events and challenges?
- What is the relationship between Jacob and his parents?
- How does author Philip Waechter create humor in the story?
- What is your opinion of Jacob?
- Do you think he would make a good friend?
- What are the themes in the story?
- How are the themes developed?

## After Reading

### Discussion

Discuss the themes of appreciation of family, independence, kindness, embracing the unknown, and empathy. You may want to chart the answers:

EMPATHY	KINDNESS	INDEPENDENCE	APPRECIATION OF FAMILY	EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN
				

Find examples of each from the story.

- How can you personally relate to the themes?
- How does Jacob show appreciation of family, independence, kindness, and empathy? Explain what parts of the story you are referring to.
- How do you show appreciation of family, independence, kindness, and empathy?
- Explain how Jacob embraces the unknown in the book. How do you feel about embracing the unknown?
- What are Jacob's strengths and differences?
- Is being different OK? Why?
- If you could spend the day with Jacob, what would you want to do?

*Who Said It in the Story and Why?*

“I’ll fly there myself!”

“I wish Jacob would crawl.”

“Jacob is perfect just the way he is.”

“I’m the most talented and terrific birdcatcher around!”

“I love a window seat.”

“I need to be well rested for school on Monday.”

“I can see the sea!”

“I am so happy to see you!”



*Remember What Happened*

Jacob had a great time on vacation. Use the words and illustrations from the story to find six things that Jacob did on vacation. Write them in the boxes:

1	2	3
4	5	6

## Cause-and-Effect Relationships

A *cause-and-effect relationship* is when something happens that makes something else happen. Go back to the story to find the cause for each effect on the chart:



CAUSE (WHY IT HAPPENED)	EFFECT (WHAT HAPPENED)
	Birds stick together.
	Jacob flew to meet his parents.
	Jacobs parent got on an airplane.
	Jacob disguised himself as a bird.
	Mr. Mortar's birds escaped.
	Jacob said goodbye to his bird friends.
	Little Hubert joined Jacob.
	Jacob and his parents were so happy.

## Further Discussion

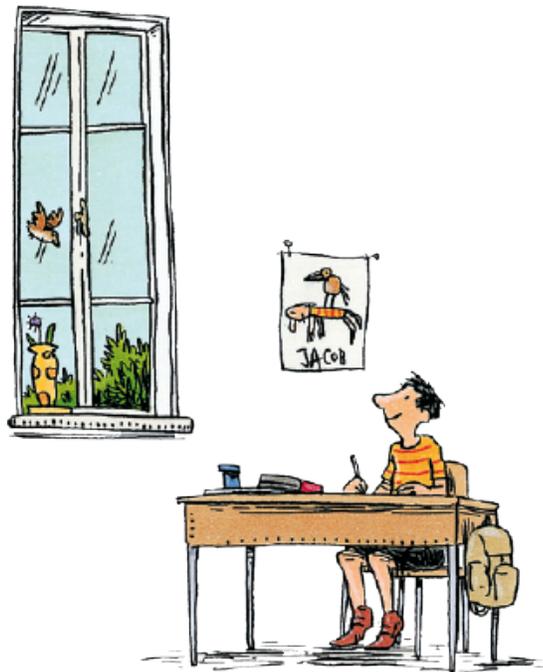
- Imagine that you wake up one day and can really fly. How would that change your life?
- What would your parents do, or how would they react if you could fly?
- How should families treat other members who are special and have differences?
- What is the funniest part of the book?

## Exercise

- Write an essay—or share with your class via a presentation—about a place you would like to visit with your family.

*Would you go to the sea? The mountains? The desert?*

*What would you do on your family vacation?*





**Blue Dot Kids Press** inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

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