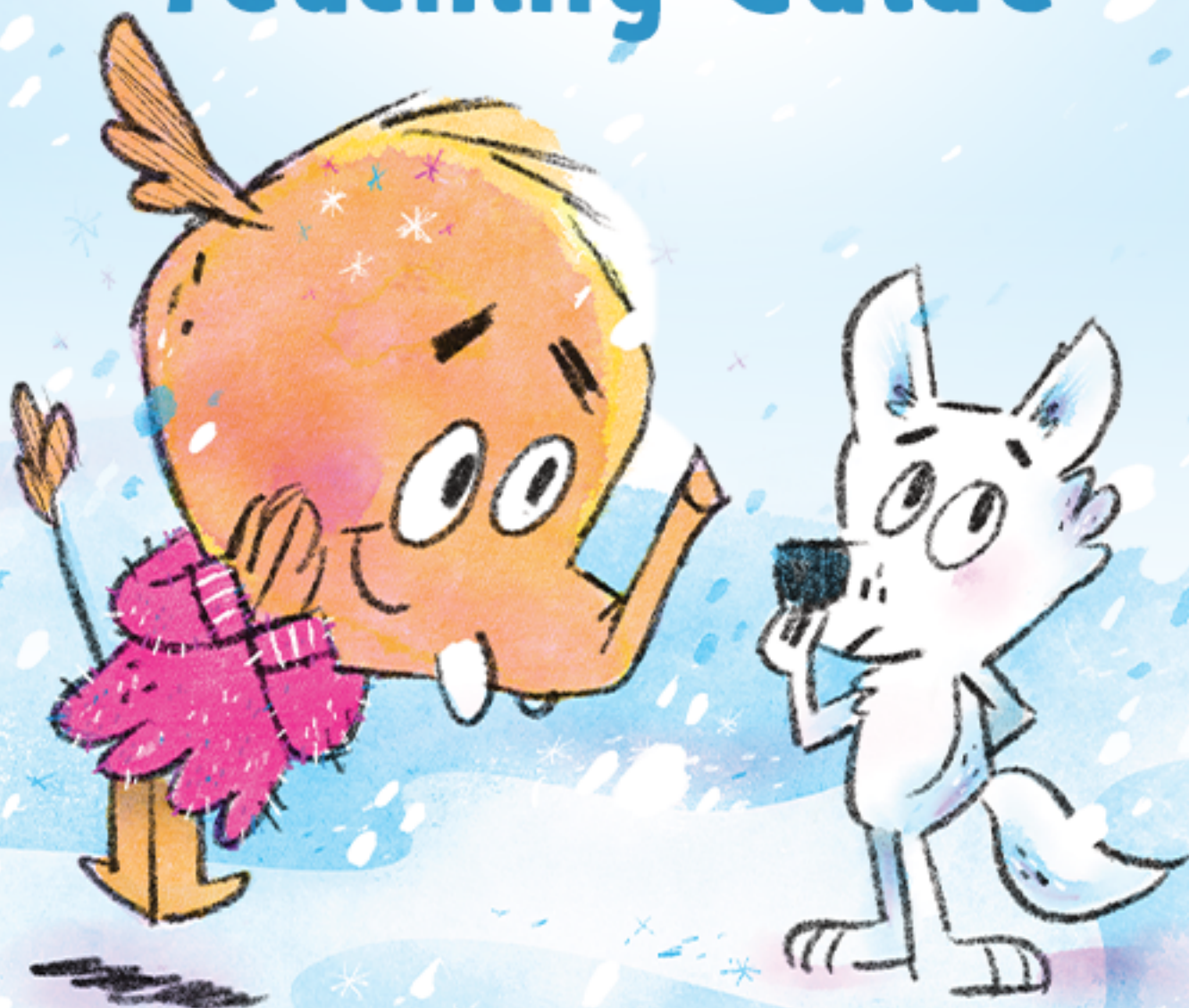


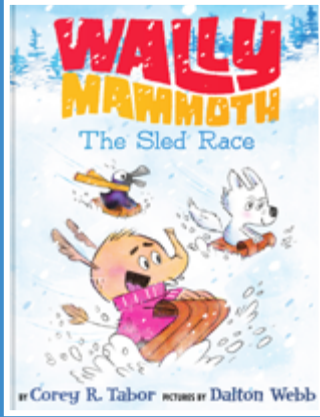
WALLY MAMMOTH

and friends

Teaching Guide



About the Books



Wolf wants to win the sled race. He loves winning. Otto wants to win, too. Wally Mammoth is . . . not so sure. A giggle-inducing story about friendship and cupcakes that is perfect for emerging readers by multiple Geisel Award winner Corey R. Tabor and illustrator Dalton Webb. For fans of *Elephant and Piggie* and *Narwhal and Jelly*.



Welcome to the Nice Age! In the second installment of this laugh-out-loud funny, comic-inspired series about a group of unforgettable friends, Wolf and Wally are playing hide-and-seek. But hiding is hard for mammoths, and seeking is even harder!



Corey R. Tabor

is the author and illustrator of the Caldecott Honor-winning *Mel Fell*, three-time Geisel Award winner for *Fox Has a Problem*, *Fox at Night*, and *Fox the Tiger*, and Geisel Honor recipient for *Fox versus Fox*. His other acclaimed titles include

the young graphic novel chapter books *Sir Ladybug*, *Sir Ladybug and the Queen Bee*, and *Sir Ladybug and the Bookworms*; the picture books *Cranky*, *Crabby Crow (Saves the World)*, *Ursula Upside Down*, *Simon and the Better Bone*, *Snail Crossing*, *Fox and the Bike Ride*, and *Fox and the Jumping Contest*; and the I Can Reads *Fox versus Winter*, *Fox Is Late*, and *Fox Plays Ball*. Corey R. Tabor lives in Tacoma, Washington, with his wife and son and spends his time making pictures and stories.

coreyrtabor.com



Dalton Webb

(1972 – 2025) loved telling stories for children and their grown-ups. He wore many hats in the world of illustration—he was a colorist, graphic designer, font designer, painter, and comic artist. He was also a beloved

father and husband, a writer, a tinkerer, a raconteur, and a gardener. Dalton Webb was the co-creator of *Wally Mammoth*, a picture book series about an unforgettable group of Ice Age friends, which was a collaboration with his friend, Corey R. Tabor.



Common Themes

Friendship

Good friends support one another in lots of different situations! In *The Sled Race* and *Hide-and-Seek*, Wally and his friends support each other, even as they compete. To help your readers think about friendship, have them point out ways that each character exemplifies being a good friend. What does it look like when someone isn't being a good friend?

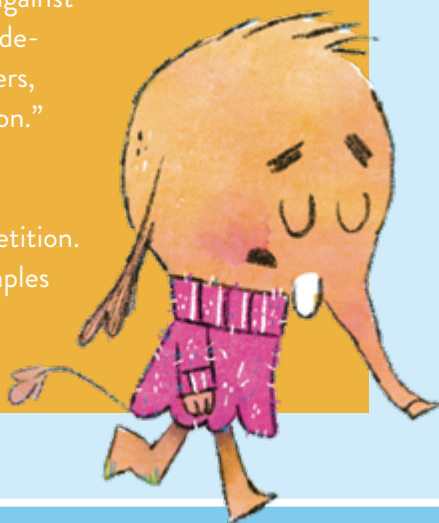


Different Perspectives

The Sled Race features three friends with very different perspectives. To help your readers think about differing perspectives and how that might affect a friendship, point out some of the ways that Wally and his friends disagree with each other. Does this make it easier or harder for them to be friends? What things can they do to continue to be respectful toward each other even when they disagree?

Competition

When children play, sometimes it can get competitive—and sometimes competition can lead to disagreements and frustration. In *The Sled Race*, Wally and his friends are racing against each other to see who can get down the hill first, and in *Hide-and-Seek*, Wally and Wolf compete against each other in a game of hide-and-seek. With your readers, define “healthy competition.” Point out the ways that Wally and his friends are engaging in healthy competition. Ask your readers for examples of healthy competition in their own lives.



Playing Together

One of the ways that friends enjoy each other's company is by playing together. Wally and his friends enjoy playing together, whether the play is competitive or just for fun. In *The Sled Race*, the three friends are competing against each other to get down the hill first, and in *Hide-and-Seek*, Wolf and Wally take turns hiding as a game. Discuss the importance of play with your readers by having them identify how each of the characters benefits from playing with each other (aside from cupcakes and trophies!).



Classroom Activities

Picture Walk

A picture walk—previewing a book by looking only at the pictures—can be an excellent way for a young reader to activate prior knowledge and make predictions. These skills will both be used to aid comprehension as they read the text.

When doing a picture walk, have your reader flip through the book looking at pictures only. Ask the following:

- What do you notice about the characters in the story?
- What do you notice about what is happening in the story?
- What do you predict will happen in the story?

Partner Reading

Use the suggestions below for partner reading with Wally Mammoth:

- Students choose who reads each of the characters: Wally, Wolf, and Otto.
- Preview the book: How can you tell who is saying what? Are there any pages that are confusing? What confused you and why?
- After the partner reads, students discuss what their favorite part of the story is.
- Readers switch roles and reread the story. This time, students can come up with voices that match their characters.

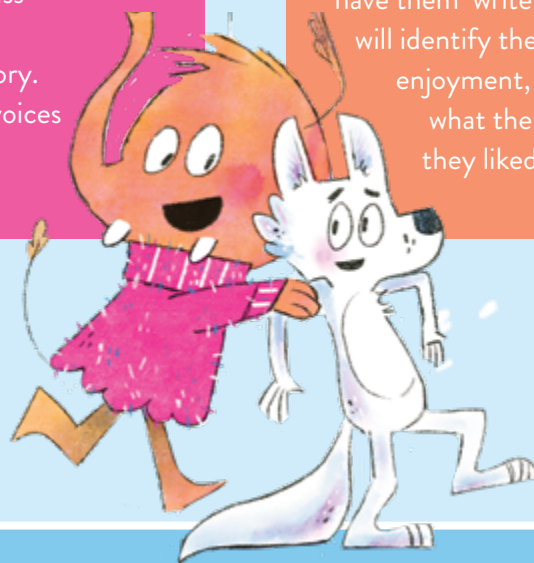
How to Read a Graphic Novel

As early graphic novels, *The Sled Race* and *Hide-and-Seek* are written using simple speech balloons, sound effects, and words found in the illustrations. Showing young readers how to navigate this format can be an important step for a successful reading experience. To help your readers understand the format, introduce the following:

- **Speech Balloons:** Have your readers point to the speech balloons in the first few pages. Explain that these are read from top to bottom and left to right. Use the first few pages to model and practice together.
- **Sound Effects:** Flip through the book again and look for words that add sound. They might be added in creatively, like in *The Sled Race*, where they look like falling snow. Explain that these sound effects can be read before or after the dialogue.

Book Review

As students read each book independently or with a partner, use the included Book Review template to have them write about what they read. Readers will identify the title of the book, rate their enjoyment, write down the characters and what the story is about, and explain what they liked or didn't like about the story.



Classroom Activities

Wally vs. Wolf

Wolf and Wally want very different things from the sled race: Wolf wants to win more than anything and Wally just wants his friends to win. Ask your readers if they would be more like Wolf or Wally if they were in a sled race. Using the Graphic Novel Page template, have them draw themselves in the race. Help them create speech balloons to show what they would say.

Change the Ending

At the end of this book, all three characters cross the finish line at the same time and nobody wins. Discuss with your readers how they would have ended this story differently. Using the Graphic Novel Page template, have your readers create new pages to add to the story. Tip: Talk through with your readers where they would put their new pages so that the story flows and the plot makes sense.

Speaking Extension: When they are done, have the students read the whole book aloud to each other with the new endings.



Discussion Questions

Prediction

In *The Sled Race*, three friends race each other down a hill. Before you start reading, who do you think will win the race? Give at least one reason that explains your answer.

Character

Wally just wants his friends, Wolf or Otto, to win the race. Why do you think Wally wants both of his friends to win and not himself?

Some of the characters in this story are more competitive than others. Which character is the most competitive? Give at least one reason that explains your answer.

Plot (Story)

In the middle of the story, Otto and Wolf get caught in a giant snowball, leaving Wally in the lead. How did these two get caught in a snowball and why was Wally able to stay out of it until the end?

At the beginning of the story, Wally told his friends that he wanted them to win. But in the middle of the story, he finds himself in the lead. How do you think he feels about being in the lead? Give examples from the words or illustrations that explain your answer.

Theme: Friendship

Wally, Wolf, and Otto are all really good friends to each other in *The Sled Race*. How are the characters in this story showing that they are good friends? Give an example for each of the characters.

Post Reading

In the end, all three characters cross the finish line at the same time, so nobody wins. Everyone still seems to have a great time! What do you think is the message of this story?

Guide prepared by Louie Lauer, a library media specialist in the Fargo Public Schools school district in Fargo, North Dakota.



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My Book Review



By _____

The **Title** of this book is: _____

I **Rate** this book:   

The **Characters** in this book are: _____

This **Story** is about: _____

I **Like/Dislike** (circle one) because: _____

Graphic Novel Page

