

Maggie & Abby's Neverending Pillow Fort Educator's Guide

About the Book

Six. Weeks. That's how long Maggie's been waiting for her best friend, Abby, to return home from Camp Cantaloupe. Only when Abby finally does, she's. . . different. Instead of diving back into their usual epic spy games, Abby wants to talk about camp. *Only* camp. She even has the nerve to call Maggie's award-worthy pillow fort a "cabin."

But at least Abby's excited to build a "cabin" of her own. And when Maggie discovers that a pillow in her fort mysteriously leads right into Abby's new one, the two friends are suddenly just an arm's length away. Soon they're adding more forts and having a blast, until Maggie looks behind one pillow too many and finds herself face to face with. . . the authorities. Turns out their little pillow fort network isn't the first to exist, or even the hundredth. Linked-up forts already span the globe, and the kids who run them are not happy.

With just three days to pass the Fort Alliance's outrageous entrance tests or lose the links forever, Maggie and Abby pull out all the stops to try to save their network. But the kids on the Council have their own agenda, and it just so happens Maggie's fort could hold the key to a mystery that's gone unanswered for generations. There's only a little summer left to burn, and Maggie and Abby are determined to win their pillow fort freedom—so long as their friendship can survive the mission.

PUBLISHER: HarperCollins
AGE RANGE: 7-12
GRADE LEVEL: 3-7
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AUDIOBOOK ✓

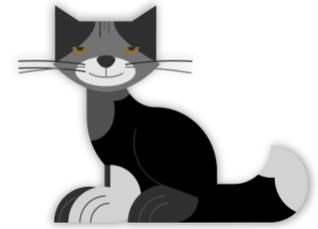


About the Author

Will Taylor is a reader, writer, and honeybee fan. He lives in the heart of downtown Seattle surrounded by all the seagulls and not quite too many teacups. When not writing he can be found searching for the perfect bakery, talking to trees in parks, and completely losing his cool when he meets longhaired dachshunds. His books include *Maggie & Abby's Neverending Pillow Fort*; *Maggie & Abby and the Shipwreck Treehouse*; *Slimed [as Liam Gray]*; *Catch That Dog!*; and *The Language of Seabirds*.

Pre-Reading Activities

- Pretend you wrote a book called *Maggie & Abby's Neverending Pillow Fort!* Brainstorm what you think would happen in it, then write a 1-2 sentence beginning, 3-4 sentence middle, and 1-2 sentence conclusion. Design a cover for your book or draw a picture of your main characters in action. Share with the class or in groups.



- In groups or as a class, discuss why you think kids build pillow forts. Can you come up with five reasons?

- The cover shows three animals that appear in the book: a cat, a moose, and a whale. If you were writing a book, what three animals would you include? Why? What would each of them add to your story?

Vocabulary

Maggie loves dreaming up imaginary adventures as much as Abby loves going out on real ones, which means both friends need a good supply of seriously epic language. See how many of these terms you can work into a dramatic story or poem about pillow forts, summer camp, changing friendships, quirky pets, or all of the above! Bonus points for comedy!

Forlornly	(2)	Gargantuan	(80)	Enthralled	(116)
Lurking	(33)	Exasperated	(82)	Mundane	(136)
Elite	(34)	Solicit	(86)	Censure	(169)
Brandishing	(51)	Regal	(86)	Moping	(215)
Tundra	(60)	Glowered	(88)	Hodgepodge	(255)
Solidarity	(73)	Amok	(93)	Pandemonium	(284)
Covert	(75)	Ominous	(95)		
Clamoring	(80)	Gilded	(102)		



Discussion Questions

- Maggie and Abby see things pretty differently when Abby first comes home from summer camp. Do you think they handle it well? Have you ever had a similar experience with a friend? Do you have any advice for Maggie and Abby?
- Do you think Maggie would have gone to camp on her own like Abby if their circumstances had been reversed? Use evidence from the text to explain why or why not.
- How do Maggie and Abby feel about all the new kids on their first trips into the Hub? What does this tell us about how each of them sees the world? Do they resolve these differences?
- Pick one of the three main grownups in the book—Maggie’s mom, Abby’s dad, or Uncle Joe—and describe how they relate to the pillow fort networks. How much do they find out, and when? How do they feel about it? What choices do they make? Do you think your chosen grownup’s reactions are realistic? Why or why not?
- Do you think Maggie did the right thing getting her mom involved near the end of the book even though it was against NAFAFA rules?
- How has Maggie and Abby’s friendship changed by the end of the book? Are they closer after their adventures or have they grown apart? Support your reasoning with examples from the text.



After Reading Activities

- Uncle Joe turned his obsession with whales into a job he loved. Pick an animal you would want to study and design your own research cabin. What kind of environment would it be in? How would you decorate it? What supplies would you need?
- If you ran a pillow fort network, what would it be like? Come up with a name and territory and design your own banner to hang in the Hub.
- Maggie believes a map is essential for all good plans and adventures. Draw a map of your dream pillow fort network, labeling all the places you would want to link to. Include a compass, scale, key, border, and network name.
- If you had three days to complete a “good deed” challenge, what would you do? Brainstorm five good deeds you could do right now, then five more you could do if you had access to your dream pillow fort network.



Don't miss *Maggie & Abby and the Shipwreck Treehouse!*

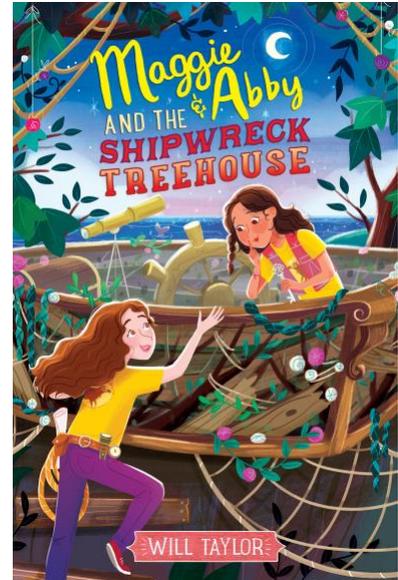
More danger! More secret societies! More Samson!

Nine long months after being kicked out of the pillow fort networks, Maggie Hetzger and Abby Hernandez have finally arrived at the infamous Camp Cantaloupe.

And they've brought a certain key...

It's been a year of big changes for Abby, and while she is curious about the Oak Key, all she really wants is an easygoing, restful summer break.

Maggie, though? Maggie is going to *burst* if she has to wait one more second to start investigating the mysterious trap door in Camp Cantaloupe's historic Shipwreck Treehouse. And Abby is too tired to argue.



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What neither of them knows, however, is that their very first night at camp is going to become the biggest disaster in all of Cantaloupe history. And when an accident separates them by more than just a few pillow forts, our heroes will have to call on friends both old and new to uncover the ultimate secrets of the linked-up networks and find their way back together before Camp Cantaloupe itself gets shut down, cutting off their only way home... for good.

The activities in this guide fulfill the following Common Core Anchor Standards
(please refer to www.corestandards.org for grade-specific equivalents)

Reading:	R.1, R.2, R.3, R.6, R.10
Writing:	W.1, W.2, W.4, W.7, W.9
Speaking & Listening:	SL.1, SL.3, SL.4
Language:	L.3, L.4

Guide prepared by the author. Say hello or ask questions at willtaylorbooks.com