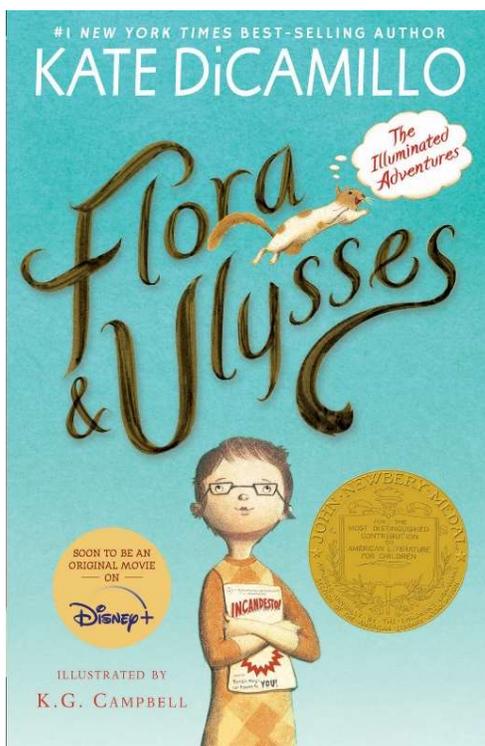


Family Fun Pack

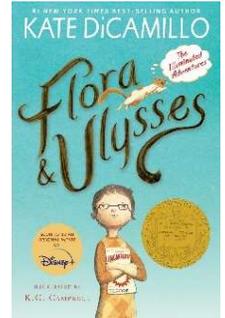


Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo

Visit our Digital Resource Hub

Kahoot! quizzes, Flipgrid interactions, the #OneBookConnects blog, and a national contest.

Link: www.readtothemresourcehub.org/
Password: **Bagumba6**



Read-Aloud Tips For Families

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo

- ✓ **Make reading time a priority** – Sit down as a family and decide on a daily reading time, and then consider it an appointment that needs to be kept. Some families might find that right before bed is the best time, but early risers might enjoy reading at breakfast. For younger listeners, bath time can be great! Build it into your daily routine and soon you will find that everyone is ready and waiting to hear what comes next in the story.
- ✓ **Show emotion that matches the story** – All of the books from Read to Them capture a range of emotions over the course of the story. When reading aloud, mirroring the emotions felt by the characters will make the story more meaningful to your listener.
- ✓ **Vary your rhythm** – Have fun with the language in your book. During suspenseful sections, slow down and let the suspense build. During a particularly meaningful moment, pause and let the impact settle. During emotion-packed scenes, drop your voice to a whisper. When you are reading aloud, you are performing the story. Authors don't want their stories performed in monotone!
- ✓ **Don't be afraid to be silly** – Accents, funny voices, and sound effects are all great tools to use to make reading aloud more engaging. Character-specific voices or mannerisms also help listeners follow the dialogue. It might be a challenge, but it's worth the effort to make your story come alive.
- ✓ **Stay engaged with your listener throughout your reading time** – Stop from time to time to explain an unfamiliar vocabulary word, discuss an important point, or ask your child to make a prediction. You don't want to derail the story too much, but you do want to make reading together interactive.
- ✓ **Expect some fidgeting** – Listening during reading time does not have to be a stationary activity. Some listeners will sit still as stones with eyes and ears fixed on you, and that's great. But other listeners stay more engaged with something in their hands like a small toy, some crayons, or a stuffed animal. Some children might listen better if allowed to walk around the room, or even bounce on the bed a bit. Work together to find the way that works best for your child.

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

www.readtothem.org

@readtothem



B

Use the [Connection Guide](#) to contact the author and let her know you're reading *Flora & Ulysses*!

Check out the Digital Resource Hub readtothemresourcehub.org/
Password:
Bagumba6

Create a scrapbook page profile of one of the characters from the book.

Hot Seat!
Pretend to be a character from the book and let someone interview you.

Build a reading fort together!
bit.ly/readfort

I

Draw a squirrel.

Design a new cover for the book.

Get your whole family to read together in your pajamas!

Watch squirrels in your area and share your observations with Project Squirrel.
bit.ly/skwurl

Go to your local public library and get library cards for the whole family.

N

Write a poem about a character from the book. Try a haiku, acrostic, or limerick!

Get out of your house and read a chapter out "in the wild" together!



Draw a new superhero.

Design a squirrel feeder.

G

Pitch in and help with the vacuuming at your home.

Find a quote in the book that's worthy of being shared. Put it on a banner, poster, or t-shirt!

Play charades!
Reenact a scene from the book without using words.

Try out one of the activities in the [Family Fun Packet](#).

Write a book review of *Flora & Ulysses* for your teacher or school librarian.

O

Make bookmarks together!
bit.ly/diybmarx

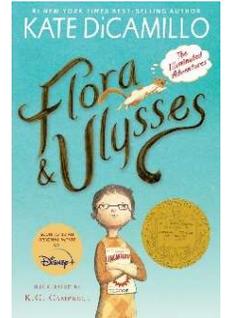
Read a comic book or graphic novel together.

Write a letter to one of the characters in the book.

Make a list of new words you discover while reading together and learn their definitions.

Share a picture of your family reading with [@readtothem](#).





Family Fun Cards

Pages 1-75

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo

What do you know?

- What is Flora's favorite comic book?
- What does Flora's mom call her favorite lamp?
- Who says, "I am at the mercy of the winds of fate"?

What do you think?

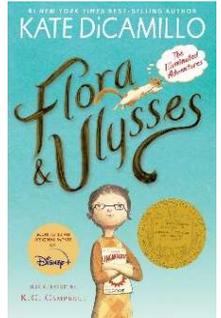
Flora has learned from comic books that "impossible things happened all the time." (p. 21) Do you think that is true? Can you think of some magical things that have happened or might happen in your life?

What can you do?

Make Your Own Superhero

"Alfred T. Slipper becomes a righteous pillar of light so painfully bright that the most heinous villain trembles before him and confesses." (p. 6)

Kate DiCamillo created a squirrel who receives his super powers by being caught in a vacuum and an unassuming janitor who gains his super powers by falling into a vat. Now let your imagination run wild and create a new superhero. Draw a picture of your superhero and write the story of the beginning of their super powers. You can even put it in the form of a comic book like *The Illuminated Adventures of the Amazing Incandesto!*



Family Fun Cards

Pages 76-161

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo

What do you know?

How does Ulysses escape from the waitress's hair?

What did Dr. Meescham call Flora?

Flora made herself into what to eavesdrop on her mother and William Spiver?

What do you think?

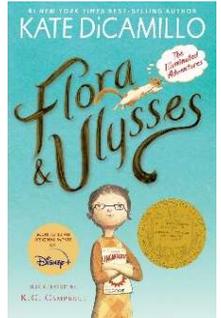
“Your father is very capacious of heart.” (p. 129) Dr. Meescham describes Flora’s father this way, saying that his heart is “capable of containing much joy and much sorrow.” (p. 129) How would you describe your heart? What about the hearts of the others in your family? Your friends?

What can you do?

A Night at the Diner

“The Giant Do-Nut smelled like fried eggs and donuts and other people’s closets.” (p. 94)

Celebrate reading *Flora & Ulysses* by having Diner Night at your home. Name your diner with a catchy name and design a logo. Make some menus listing your favorite diner foods (Do you like fried eggs and donuts?) Make paper placemats and nametags, and put some music on the jukebox (or the radio). Who will be RITA! the waitress, and who will be the knife-wielding cook? Let’s hope you don’t have a squirrel fly through your dinner.



Family Fun Cards

Pages 162-232

Flora & Ulysses

by Kate DiCamillo

What do you know?

Who thinks the first poem by Ulysses is “swell”?
How does Flora plan to get Ulysses back from her mother?
What is the title of Ulysses’s poem?

What do you think?

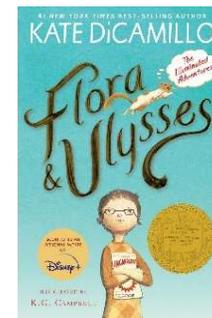
“Normalcy is an illusion, of course. There is no normal.” (p. 227) So says William Spiver. What do you think he means by this? Do you agree?

What can you do?

Be a Poet, too!

“He will defend the defenseless. He will protect the weak. He will write a poem!” (p. 180)

If a squirrel who gets sucked up into a vacuum cleaner can emerge as a superhero poet, you can write poetry, too. Just give it a try. You can follow the lead of Ulysses and write a poem for a person who is as special to you as Flora is to our favorite squirrel. Or you can channel the ever-hungry squirrel and write an Ode to Food. Or maybe you would rather write an Adventure Epic! It doesn’t have to rhyme or have any specific form. Just let your creativity flow and find words for your feelings.



Family Fun Cards Answer Key

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo

Pages 1-75

What is Flora's favorite comic book?
*The Illuminated Adventures
of the Amazing Incandesto!*

What does Flora's mom call her
favorite lamp?
Mary Ann

Who says, "I am at the mercy of the
winds of fate"?
William Spiver

Pages 76-161

How does Ulysses escape from the
waitress's hair?
He flew!

What did Dr. Meescham call Flora?
Little Flower

Flora made herself into what to
eavesdrop on her mother and
William Spiver?
A Giant Ear

Pages 162-232

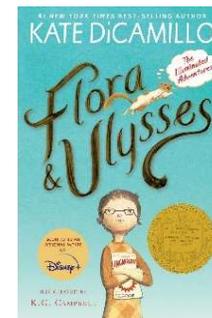
Who thinks the first poem by
Ulysses is "swell"?
George Buckman

How does Flora plan to get Ulysses
back from her mother?
*By trading Mary Ann for the
squirrel*

What is the title of Ulysses's poem?
Words for Flora



Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo



Connection Guide

Connect with Read to Them

Hashtags: [#ReadtoThem](#), [#OneBookConnects](#), [#FloraandUlysses](#)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & Pinterest: [@readtothem](#)

Email: programs@readtothem.org

Website: <https://www.readtothem.org/>

Connect with author Kate DiCamillo

Are you enjoying reading about Flora and her new squirrel sidekick? Tell the author!

Facebook: [@KateDiCamillo](#)

Website: www.katedicamillo.com

Connect with the publisher, Candlewick Press

Facebook: [@CandlewickPressBooks](#)

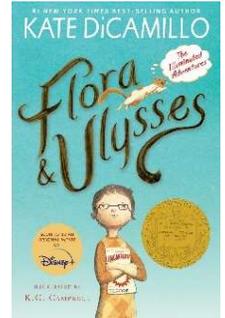
Instagram: [@CandlewickPress](#)

Twitter: [@Candlewick](#)

Website: www.candlewick.com



Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo



Next Book Connections

If you loved *Flora & Ulysses*, here are some other books your family might enjoy reading together...

Other novels written by Kate DiCamillo:

- *Because of Winn-Dixie*
- *Beverly, Right Here*
- *Louisiana's Way Home*
- *The Magician's Elephant*
- *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*
- *Raymie Nightingale*
- *The Tiger Rising*

Picture books with similar themes:

- *Superhero Instruction Manual* – Kristy Dempsey
- *La La La* – Kate DiCamillo
- *Brave* – Stacy McAnulty
- *The Adventures of Sparrowboy* – Brian Pinkney
- *Poetree* – Shauna LaVoy Reynolds
- *The Secret Life of Squirrels* – Nancy Rose
- *Scaredy Squirrel* – Mélanie Watt

Novels with similar themes:

- *Gypsy Rizka* – Lloyd Alexander
- *The One and Only Ivan* – Katherine Applegate
- *The Chicken Squad* – Doreen Cronin
- *The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole* – Michelle Cuevas
- *Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere* – Elise Gravel
- *Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge* – Kristin L. Gray
- *Harold's Tail* – John Bemelmans Marciano
- *Pax* – Sara Pennypacker
- *Nuts to You* – Lynne Rae Perkins
- *Figgs & Phantoms* – Ellen Raskin
- *Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan* – Cynthia Rylant
- *Appleblossom the Possum* – Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Liar and Spy* – Rebecca Stead
- *Three Times Lucky* – Sheila Turnage
- *Squirrel in the House* – Vivian Vande Velde
- *Toaff's Way* – Cynthia Voigt