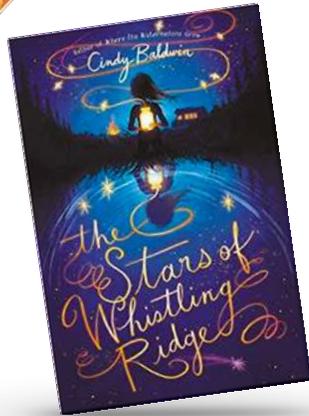


CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



The Stars of Whistling Ridge

Written by Cindy Baldwin

400 pages / Grades 5-8

Ivy Mae Bloom is a 13 year old girl who lives with magic and wishes desperately for it to take effect on her for a change. Longing for a home of her own more than anything, Ivy realizes that wishes are not always fulfilled as promised, feelings are not always cut and dry, magic comes in many forms, and that reflecting on one's own life, place and purpose in this world can bring the most profound magic of all.

C Context

Astronomy. There is an underlying presence to stars, the sky, and atmospheric events to the story.

Local History and its significance on current citizens.

Family relationships and dynamics - particularly that of siblings.

Growing up, gaining independence, and searching for a place in the world that you fit in and feel a sense of belonging in.

Dealing with **feelings and emotions**

A Arts

Color and its importance in the world, along with what can happen when it is missing.

Writing and wordplay as an art form.

Visualization
Finding patterns of threes

T Themes

Magic and where it is found

Sibling relationships

Wants and desires

Longing

Friendship

Love

Home

Family

Power of visualization and positive thinking

Feelings and emotions

C Create

Research a local town legend. Create a representation of it, using multiple art forms as Ivy, Simon and Ravi do.

Create a vision board for your future. Include wishes - from the biggest to the smallest.

Who are the magical stars in your life? Who brings the golden light to you and keeps you warm and enveloped? Find a way to represent them and thank them.

Keep a notebook like Ivy does, with sections. Rich vocabulary, sparks of ideas, and quiet wishes.

H Heart Words

"Wishes new unpredictable. Wishes are powerful. Wishes don't always work out the way you hope they will. Wishes aren't to be treated lightly or taken for granted. Wishes are to be respected, honored, earned."

"The world needs light, Ivy, and we stars have light to give."

"Trying to use a wish to change something that's a part of somebody is dangerous - you never know what may happen."

