



## *Pax*

by Sara Pennypacker

### TIPS FOR FAMILY BOOK CLUB:

*Pax* is a book about the power of relationships and how those relationships shape us. During family book club, you have a chance to talk about extraordinary stories with the people you love. Use the opportunity to make those relationships even stronger by really listening to each other and hearing each other's point of view. Discuss what motivates certain characters to act the way they do, and consider their perspective before you judge their actions. It will help you understand the book, and it's also good practice for life.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. At its heart, this book is about a relationship between a boy and his pet. What is that relationship like, and how did it develop? Have you ever had a special connection with an animal?
2. Discuss the relationships Peter has with Vola, his father, his grandfather, and Pax. How are they similar? How are they different? Which do you think is the most important to him, and why?
3. Why do you think the author chose to write the book from alternating points of view? How did that help you understand the story?
4. What happened when Pax met the other wild foxes? Why did they accept him? How did meeting them change Pax?
5. In Antoine de Saint-Exupery's *The Little Prince*, a fox tells the prince, "You become responsible forever for what you've tamed." How does this relate to Peter's relationship to Pax? Is there a difference between having a pet like a cat or a dog and domesticating a wild animal?
6. War affects all the characters in the story, but the war itself isn't named, and the author doesn't tell you where the story takes place. Why do you think she chose to do that? How does war touch each character, both physically and emotionally, in the book?
7. Adults make decisions in this story that affect children and animals. Is that fair? Should children have a say in decisions like going to war, or where to live?
8. Did the ending of the book surprise you? What did Peter learn about himself and Pax that led him to make his decision?
9. What does the last line in the story mean to you?
10. What was your favorite scene or moment in this book and why? Compare your answers.