

EVERY SOUL A STAR

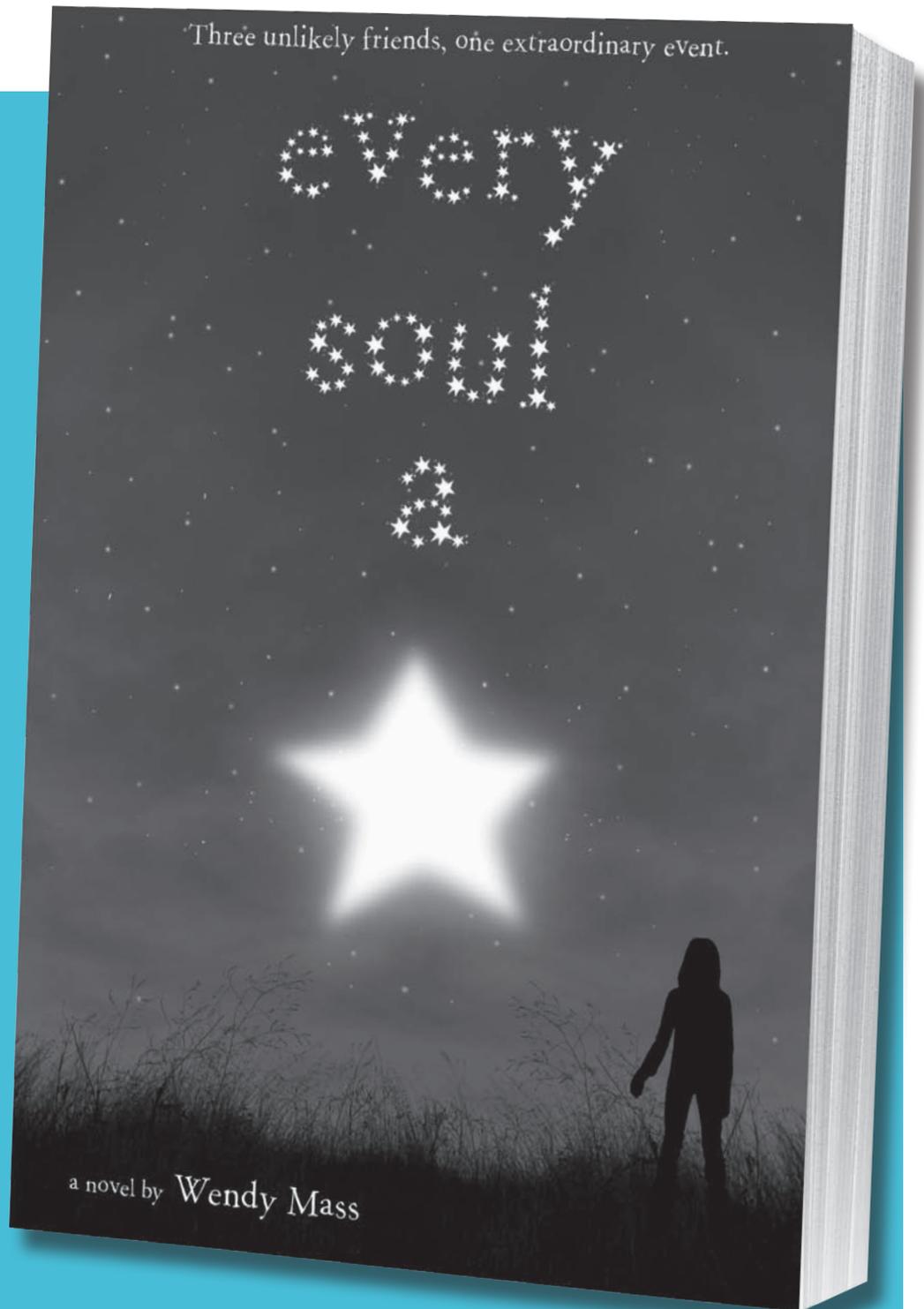
Thematic & Curriculum connections

- ❖ Family
- ❖ New Friends
- ❖ Astronomy

Ages 8 – 12

A compelling and humorous novel about three very different kids and one life-changing experience....

By Wendy Mass



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- At the beginning of the book, Ally, Bree, and Jack are introduced in separate, short chapters. The alternating chapters continue through the entire book. How does this format help compare and contrast the characters? What does each character want at the beginning of the story? Does this change as the story progresses?
- What are the Unusuals and why are they important to the Moon Shadow Campground? Why does Bree resist walking the labyrinth for so long? What makes her finally walk it? If you were to visit Ally's labyrinth, what question would you ponder and what answer would you hope to receive?
- Using three words, describe Bree's personality at the beginning of the book. Does Bree change during the story? What three words would you use to describe her personality at the end of the book?
- What does Jack mean when he says he can fly? Why does he like "flying" so much? Where does he go when he "flies?"
- Bree and Ally both have to move. What concerns do Ally and Bree have about moving? How does Ally's reaction to moving differ from Bree's? How are their reactions the same? Have you ever moved? If you were going to move, what do you think you would miss most about your hometown?
- Bree and Ally come up with plan to change their parents' minds about moving. Do you think it's a good plan? What would you do if you were in their position?
- In regards to her friendship with Ryan, Ally thinks, "It's almost like nothing's changed. Except, of course, everything has." (p. 213) What does this mean? How has Ally's friendship with Ryan changed? Have you had a friendship that has changed as you and your friend got older? What happened to that friendship?
- Why does Bree decide to join the others in the shed during the storm?
- Several times Jack says he doesn't want to leave Moon Shadow Campground. Why do you think he feels that way?
- Melanie and Bree have very different advice for Kenny and Ally about how to survive in a new school. Jack also offers his own take on fitting in at school. Which character's advice and experience at school do you identify with more—Melanie, Bree, or Jack—and why? Which character would you want for your friend in a new school?
- Bree has a strong reaction when she looks at the moon through the telescope. What does Bree realize about herself and her life?
- What makes a total solar eclipse so special and rare? Would you ever travel the world to see one?
- For a total eclipse to take place, the Earth, the sun, and the moon must all line up perfectly. In a metaphorical sense, how does this also apply to the lives of the characters, Ally, Bree, and Jack?
- How does the eclipse affect Ally, Bree, and Jack? How does it change their outlook and attitude for the future?
- The author titled her book *Every Soul a Star*. She also includes a passage by Plato in the epigraph. The passage contains a phrase similar to the title. Why do you think the author titled the book the way she did?

about the book



Ally, Bree, and Jack are strangers brought together to the isolated Moon Shadow Campground, where thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total solar eclipse. Not only does the singular experience of seeing the eclipse shake up their perspectives on life, but their unlikely friendship will also change their lives forever.

Every Soul a Star
By Wendy Mass

978-0-316-00256-1 HC

978-0-316-00257-8 PB (Fall 2009)

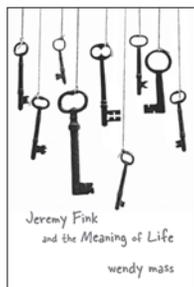
AR 4.7 • F&P U

praise for *Every Soul a Star*

★ A “compelling and thought-provoking story.” —*SLJ* (starred review)

“Confirming her mastery of the middle-grade novel, Mass combines astronomy and storytelling for a well-balanced look at friendships and the role they play in shaping identity.” —*Publishers Weekly*

also available

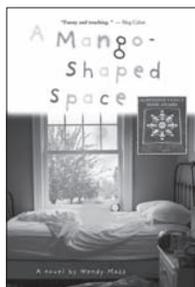


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Ages 8 – 12 • AR 4.5 • F&P U



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Ages 12 and up • AR 5.4

about the author



Photo © D. Becker

Wendy Mass is the author of the ALA Schneider Family Award-winner *A Mango-Shaped Space* and other books for young readers. She lives in Sparta, NJ, with her husband and children. You can visit her online at www.wendymass.com.