ABOUT THE BOOK:
Swift lives with his pack in the mountains, until one day his home and family are lost. Alone and starving, Swift must make a choice: stay and try to eke out a desperate life on the borders of his old hunting grounds, or strike out and find a new place to call home. The journey Swift must go on is long and full of peril for a lone wolf, and he’ll need to take every chance he can. Will he find the courage to survive all by himself?

‘Storytelling at its best. Captures all the magic and wonder of the wild’ ABI ELPHINSTONE

‘A rare gem, a book celebrating the rawness and beauty of nature . . . Spell-binding’ GILL LEWIS

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR READING GROUPS

‘A lead wolf feeds his pack. No other trick matters.’ Why is family so important to the wolf pack in A Wolf Called Wander?

Throughout the book, Swift encounters many different animals and plants, as well as humans. What do you think this story has to say about nature and humans’ effect on it? What can we do to help protect the environment?

Swift must make a journey across the wilderness to find a new territory. Write a short piece imagining what you would do if you had to spend a month alone. Consider the things you might need and how you would find food, water and shelter. How would you feel, and what things that you have now would you miss the most?

‘I would follow you anywhere.’ Warm is Swift’s brother. Talk about a member of your family you are particularly close to and what they mean to you.
Swift befriends a raven who helps him find food and water. Turn to the back of the book to read about how wolves and ravens cooperate in real life. Can you find other examples of animal partnerships in nature?

Write a short story imagining what happens to Wander and Night’s pups after the story ends.

Throughout history, wolves have been treated with suspicion and hatred by humans. Think of some examples of folk tales about wolves and compare them to how wolves appear in this book.

At the back of the book, there are facts about some of the environments featured in A Wolf Called Wander: prairies, deserts and wetlands, and forests. Write and illustrate a poster about an environment of your choice – examples might be a rainforest from South America, a tropical coral reef, or a wood near you. Find out about the animals and plants that live there – which three are your favourites and why?

Together with your group, choose an animal from the book to write a short presentation about. Think about the way this animal lives, what it eats, and how it is adapted to its environment. If this animal is endangered, find out why and what could be changed to help it survive.

You can find out more about the real-life wolf, OR-7, his incredible journey, and what became of his new pack on http://or7expedition.org/