

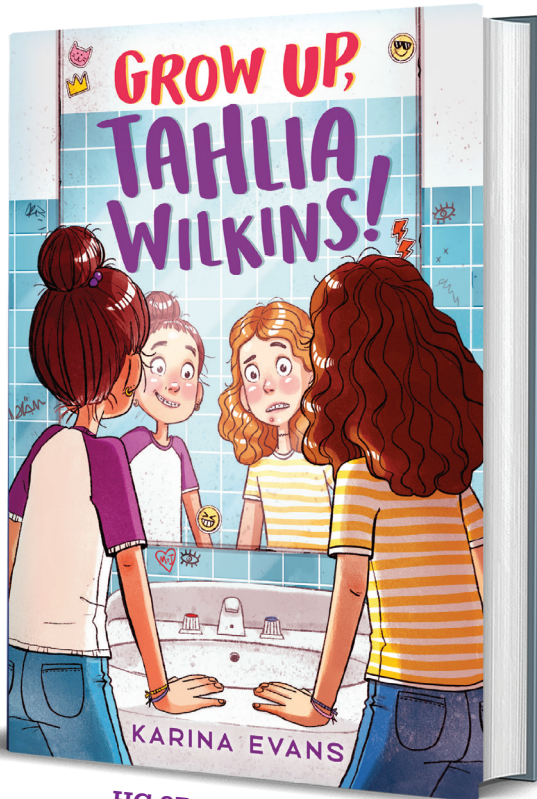
GROW UP, TAHLIA WILKINS!



KARINA EVANS



TEACHING TIPS



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FAQ FOR TAHLIA

Although it is a work of fiction, *Grow Up, Tahlia Wilkins!* addresses some very real issues that adolescents face. Puberty discussions are often included as part of the school experience. As part of this learning, it may be helpful to use the situations faced by Tahlia to have a proactive conversation. Begin by having students identify the major problems Tahlia faced when she first realized she was beginning her menstrual cycle. These might include:



She did not have a collection of products, so she was not prepared.



She did not have a trusted adult (at first) to ask for guidance.



She was getting conflicting or incorrect information from others.

After students identify the problems, consider some solutions that might have helped Tahlia. If the learning environment allows for it, students might want to take action by creating an FAQ guide that could be shared with families. They can interview a health educator or consult other resources.

THEME FINDING

There are several themes that can be found within the book. After reviewing the concept of theme or central idea, ask students to brainstorm a few themes. Write these on chart paper or on the board, leaving space under each one. Then, working in groups, challenge students to support their ideas by finding evidence in the text. Students can use self-stick notes to jot down their evidence for each of the themes. After groups are finished working, students can place their evidence under each theme. Consider as a class and decide if the evidence helps support the theme or not. The self-stick notes can be moved around as needed.



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COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

Tahlia and Lily are similar, but also very different. Ask students to consider how the two friends are alike and different. They may want to create a chart or Venn Diagram. Then, ask them to consider which one they think they are most like. What character traits do they share? Ask students to write about which character they are more similar to and use evidence from the story and their own life to support their thinking.



POINT OF VIEW SWITCH

This story is told from the point of view of Tahlia. How would it be different if it was told from Lily's point of view or Tahlia's mom's point of view? Choose a few key scenes from the book. Then, list several different characters. Randomly assign pairs of students a character and scene. Ask them to work together to rewrite the scene from the new point of view.

RESPONDING TO CHANGE

Tahlia has some very obvious changes as the story progresses. Have students show how Tahlia changed and which events led to that change by drawing a timeline that shows which major events happened. Then, explain how Tahlia changed as a result. They should use evidence from the book to support their claims.

VOCABULARY

Lily is described as having a no-nonsense attitude. Ask students to look for examples throughout the text where either a word or phrase is used to describe a character, and then look for character actions that help illustrate those words or phrases. Help students expand their vocabulary even more by encouraging them to find synonyms for the words that also match the actions.



These Teaching Tips were created by Dr. Jennifer McMahon, Education Consultant