

SUMMER ADVENTURES
ON THE ROAD

Book Quest



ADVENTURE GUIDE HANDBOOK

Dear Adventure Guide,

Welcome!

Book quests are interactive journeys that guide young readers through a series of challenges to connect them to the characters, engage them in the plot of the story, and activate their inner explorer's mindset. We are grateful you will be a guide along the way and have designed this **Adventure Guide Handbook** to help you lead your readers through each step of the quest.

We hope readers leave this quest with an increased curiosity, wonder, and a deepened love of reading - and continue reading as a way to further their own exploration of the world. And we hope you'll be inspired to keep guiding readers and learning alongside them as more book quests are developed over time.

Yours in Navigation,

Captain Atlas

Mystery Literary Navigator





ABOUT THE BOOK

Strange Birds by Celia C. Pérez is a book about true friendship and the search for truth and justice. To learn more about this story, check out the [author's website](#). There you will find out more about the author and fun resources like a music playlist to accompany the story.

ABOUT THIS BOOK QUEST

Strange Birds is a story about the power of community, social justice, and the paths we can all take to right the wrongs from the past. The challenges for this Book Quest will take readers through a journey of curiosity, action, reflection, and empowerment. These challenges are meant to get readers out of their comfort zone and create change around them.



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AT A GLANCE

How a Book Quest Works

1

GET READY

- Read this **Adventure Guide Handbook**
- Read the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**

You might consider:

- surprising your reader by leaving it in the mailbox or a special place. Create mystery around its arrival.
- checking out the book from your local library.
- downloading an audiobook version or reading aloud, which are great ways to engage young learners in the book quest if they are reluctant or not fully independent readers. The challenges along the way do not require access to the text itself.

2

GET READING

- Provide your reader with the book and the invitation letter from Captain Atlas.
- Have them begin reading and get ready to stop for the first set of clues, which reveal their first challenge.

The videos from National Geographic Explorers are meant to provide the rest of the clues to readers and launch them on their challenges, but they are also meant to help readers awaken the explorer within themselves.

3

CHALLENGE TIME!

- Clues are provided in two halves. The first half is in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**.
- The second half is delivered via video from a National Geographic Explorer. All videos can be found on [Learn Anywhere](#).
- Adventurers should record the video clue in their **Field Notebook** and then put the clues together to receive their challenge.
- They perform the challenge and record evidence of their accomplishments in their **Field Notebook**. They can collect evidence in a variety of ways such as through photos, artwork, videos, or written accounts.

4

BONUS TIME!

- Readers have the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge by performing bonus tasks.
- They are not necessary to successfully perform the challenges but can be helpful in gaining a deeper understanding of concepts in the book.
- Bonus opportunities can be accessed in the **Field Notebook**.

Ideas of how to celebrate:

- Spend a day with your reader exploring an opportunity connected to the story.
- Give a small gift that may enhance the love they have for the characters.
- Even a small amount of recognition can go a long way towards building a young reader's confidence.

5

CELEBRATE!

- Provide your reader(s) with the congratulations letter and perhaps a thoughtful token, gift, or experience if you're able to do so.
- Consider celebrating with other Adventurers across the globe by posting on social media with the hashtag **#ExplorerMindset**.

NEED TO KNOW

About a Book Quest

How are the books selected?

- They typically are chosen for readers ages 8-14. Explore the book on your own to determine if it is well suited for your reader. Book quests can be enjoyed as traditional print books, audiobooks or as read-alouds.
- They typically have a connection to deepening understanding of the natural world, protecting the environment, exploring social responsibility, and taking action as a global citizen.
- Selections are based on their potential appeal to a diverse range of young audiences.
- They are stories that expand thinking, elicit open-mindedness, and connect a reader to the larger world represented by the story. Our hope is that these are the kinds of books that will help a reader fall in love with reading—for the first time or the hundredth!

What should I know about the challenges?

- They are meant to be fun, thought-provoking, active, and engaging.
- There may be multiple ways to approach a challenge, so encourage your reader to interpret the challenges through their own unique perspectives and context. For example, for young readers in an urban environment, if a challenge asks them to explore a natural setting, this might mean a local park rather than a backyard.
- They follow the [National Geographic Learning Framework](#). The goal of these challenges is to bring out the characteristics of an explorer within each reader, such as curiosity, responsibility, persistence, and critical thinking.

How can I be the best Book Quest Adventure Guide I can be?

- **Ask questions!** The best teaching tool is a well-framed question. Ask your reader things like:
 - What do you love most about the story so far?
 - What is confusing or troubling for you?
 - What does the story inspire you to do?
 - How does the story make you think and feel in new ways?
- **Extend and Expand.** Books are catalysts for other opportunities to learn or be inspired. Find what resonates with your reader to extend learning opportunities beyond the book. Some ideas: take mini-explorations within your surroundings that are connected to the story or its themes; watch movies together related to themes in the book; or read more books!

NEED TO KNOW

About a Book Quest

If your reader...	Then...
loved the illustrations?	give them a graphic novel next.
loved the relationships between the characters such as friendships, family relationships, or community connections?	give them a book with similar relationships next.
loved a particular set of facts, facet, or topics within the book such as the environment where it takes place, an issue a character faces, or something new they learned about?	give them a nonfiction book exploring that topic next.
didn't love the experience of reading, but is excited about the story anyway?	inspire them to write their own. And remember, writing stories can take many different forms, including prose, pictures, videos, poetry, lyrics, or drama.

Adventure Map

Below is the adventure map for *Strange Birds*. A full-size version is included in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**.



Created by Ashley Lamb-Sinclair
 Additional resources: <https://www.bookquests.org>

STEP-BY-STEP

Guiding the *Strange Birds* Book Quest

STEP 1

Start reading. The Adventurer should begin reading *Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers* by Celia C. Pérez. It is not required that you read a copy simultaneously, but could be helpful in guiding the challenges and provide an opportunity for rich discussion between you and your reader about the book.

STEP 2

Stop reading. The Adventurer should stop reading on page 28, Chapter 4 and perform Challenge 1.

STEP 3

Read the first half of Clue 1. The reader can find the first half of Clue 1 in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**. It's also in this guide.

STEP 4

Watch the second half of Clue 1. The second half of the clue can be found on [Learn Anywhere](#). As the Adventurer watches the clue they should take notes in their **Field Notebook** and then combine it with the first half to receive the whole clue.

STEP 5

Perform the challenge. As the reader performs the challenge, they should gather evidence of their success and record it in the **Field Notebook**. Evidence can be gathered in a variety of ways such as photo, video, and a written account.

STEP 6

Review the bonus challenge. Bonus challenges are optional and are a great way to learn more about a specific topic in the book. As with the other challenges, the Adventurer should record their accomplishment in the **Field Notebook**.

STEP 7

Start reading again. The Adventurer resumes reading and should stop when it's time for the next challenge.

STOP HERE:

PG 28	Chapter 4		Challenge 1
PG 66	Chapter 9		Challenge 2
PG 102	Chapter 13		Challenge 3
PG 145	Chapter 18		Challenge 4
PG 178	Chapter 22		Challenge 5
PG 220	Chapter 27		Challenge 6
PG 258	Chapter 31		Challenge 7
PG 300	Chapter 36		Challenge 8
PG 350	Chapter 40		Challenge 9

THEN DO:

CHALLENGE 1

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 1

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

These four young explorers will trek a connected path,
Each of them brings skills that differ and contrast.

Like Ofelia, Lane, Aster, and Cat - you too offer the world something unique,
What is it only you can do? What is your special passion or technique?

Observe your best skills and put yourself to your own test.
What is it that you - only you - can do best?

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

Put your passion to use for someone you know.
Paint a painting, mend a fence, or help something grow.

Think of what you love most and share your gift.
Collect evidence of your effort and show us whose life you enriched.

Book Connection

Each of the four characters - Ofelia, Aster, Lane, and Cat - have skills, talents, and passions unique to them. Their paths will eventually cross and those talents will be put to use as the characters collaborate and grow together.

Adventure Challenge

Take some time to observe your own talents, passions, and skills. What do you have to offer the world that is unique to you? Can you put your talent to use somehow? If you're a great writer, can you write something for someone else? If you love cooking, could you make something for someone else? If you're really handy, can you fix or mend something for someone else? Your first challenge is to consider who you are, what you have to offer, and how you can help others with the gifts you have. Take a photo or video. Draw a picture, or write about what you observed within yourself and how you put it to use for others.

Bonus Challenge

Who were the muckrakers and what impact did they make on the world? Explore the resources below and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[The Progressives](#)

[Who Were the Muckrakers in the Journalism Industry?](#)

CHALLENGE 2

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 2

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

Lane designs the perfect invitations and leaves them in secret places, Hoping to bring new friends her way to get to know some new faces.

Ofelia, Cat, and Aster each find a secret invitation,
And follow their curiosity to a brand new location.

Invitations can come to us in all kinds of ways.
Look around your world for a new question to raise.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

What path can you follow that you may have missed before?
What journey can you take that may lead to an unopened door?

Follow your curiosity and seek an invitation to discover something unknown.
Let the invitation guide you; you'll never know what you might grow.

Book Connection

Ofelia, Aster, and Cat follow their curiosity when they find a secret invitation left for them by Lane. Lane hopes that the exact right invitation placed in the exact right place will bring her the kind of friends her grandmother hopes she'll find with the Floras. But Lane has other plans, and the other characters seem to be just the kind of people Lane wants to bring into her life.

Adventure Challenge

Invitations can come in many forms. Sometimes they come to us as an idea or a question that sparks our curiosity. Other times they come when a new friend says hello or when we find a new book or movie that invites us to think differently about something. Observe the world around you and look for an invitation you may have missed before. Is there a park in your neighborhood beckoning you to come explore? A neighborhood friend you have yet to make? A recipe just waiting for you to bake? A blank page or canvas just waiting for you to create? Find an invitation around you and follow your curiosity to accept it. Take a photo or video, draw a picture, or write about where your invitation leads you.

Bonus Challenge

What is an ornithologist and how do they make the world a better place? Explore the resources below and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[Backyard Birding](#)

[How Small Actions Can Make a Big Difference](#)

CHALLENGE 3

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 3

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

New people, new ideas, new questions, and new places are never easy at first; Lane, Ofelia, Aster, and Cat are navigating experiences wholly unrehearsed.

Lane is learning how to make a friend,
While Cat is learning how to take a stand.

Ofelia wants to write her way to independence,
And Aster is exploring ancestors and their descendants.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

Like these characters, you too can seek new experiences,
Even when they are challenging or bring to the surface lots of differences.

Make a choice to stretch yourself beyond what you think may be possible.
You never know what you will learn or what problems might suddenly seem solvable.

Book Connection

After meeting for the first time, the characters embark on individual journeys of discovery. Lane is learning how to make new friends. Aster is learning what life is like on the other side of the Wall. Ofelia and Cat are learning how to ask for - and demand - what they really want. None of these new experiences are easy for these characters, but they are necessary for the kind of growth and independence each character seeks for herself.

Adventure Challenge

Each character finds herself in a challenging situation of some kind, but each character is brave enough to accept that challenge. New experiences like each character is having now can stretch us in ways that our regular routines cannot. Meeting new people, exploring new places, trying new things, and thinking about new ideas can help us grow. Your challenge is to seek a new experience that stretches you in some way. Try a new food, explore a new place, create something challenging, or learn about a topic you hadn't considered before. The more challenging your new experience, the better. Don't shy away from the challenge, but instead embrace the opportunity to expand yourself and your worldview. Take a photo or video, draw a picture, or write about the new experience you had.

Bonus Challenge

What can you learn from the Audubon Bird Guide App? What birds are in your area? Explore the app and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[Audubon Bird Guide App](#)

CHALLENGE 4

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 4

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

Ofelia and Cat have different opinions than their families,
And Lane and Aster manage a tricky debate rationally.

Opinions and perspectives can vary as often as people do.
If we don't listen and honor each other, our words can be misconstrued.

Issues don't have to divide us; we can often find a way,
Beginning with listening when someone has something to say.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

These characters are different and so are their perspectives,
But with respect and openness, they will work toward the same objective.

Explore a topic that matters to you and consider all the sides.
This is a skill that can help us all connect, rather than divide.

Book Connection

Everyone offers a unique perspective to the world and sometimes those perspectives can clash with others, causing conflict. In particular, Lane and Aster have a tense conversation about coming from different sides of the Wall. While conversations like these may be difficult, it is still important to honor other people and the perspectives they bring.

Adventure Challenge

Take the time to explore a topic that people tend to have strong, differing opinions about. A great website is linked in your Field Notebook if you need a place to start. Choose a topic to explore and take the time to understand the multiple perspectives people have about the topic. Then spend time asking the people around you - your friends, family, and neighbors - what they think and believe about the topic. Taking time to understand the opinions of others helps all of us cultivate more empathy and openness. Finally write, sketch, or create a video of yourself speaking about what you learned and what your opinions are.

Bonus Challenge

Who was David Fairchild and what does he have to do with avocados? Explore the resources below and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[Like Lemons? Quinoa? Thank This Food Explorer For Bringing Them To Your Plate](#)

["The Food Explorer" author on the man who helped shape America's diet](#)

CHALLENGE 5

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 5

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

Lane, Ofelia, Aster, and Cat are working collectively toward a common goal; They are contributing their talents and skills - each part important to the whole.

They want the Floras to drop the hat and return the feathers,
And they plan to do what it takes to make others feel the pressure.

Lane designs a sticker, Ofelia writes a letter,
Cat shares what she knows best, and Aster brings it all together.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

They communicate their call to action in ways that will be heard,
Because the protection of animals is bigger than just one bird.

You too have something important to say about an issue that matters.
Communicate to others what you think - your voice is much more than chatter.

Book Connection

The characters have found a collective goal that is important to each of them for different reasons - they want to get the Floras to stop using the feathered hat. Now they must communicate to others in order to reach this goal. Lane puts her artistic talents to use by designing stickers they will place around the community. Ofelia uses her writing talents to write a letter to the editor of the newspaper, with help from Cat, who will share her expertise. And Aster's understanding of social justice activism and her grandfather's research will help them all get their ideas out into the world.

Adventure Challenge

You've learned how to observe and use your own skills, how to follow your curiosity and embark upon new experiences, and how to explore multiple perspectives of an issue. Like these four characters, you can start to communicate what you are learning about yourself and the world around you. Communicate something you have learned to others in your community. The characters are communicating in multiple ways - through investigation, art, and writing - so consider how you best communicate and approach your challenge in that way. Write, design, draw, sing, act, or speak about something you have learned or are inspired by to an audience you believe should hear what you have to say.

Bonus Challenge

What is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and why does it matter today? Explore the resources below and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[Protect the Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#)

[Biden Moves To Make It Illegal \(Again\) To Accidentally Kill Migratory Birds](#)

CHALLENGE 6

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 6

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

Ofelia, Cat, Aster, and Lane have found a common cause,
Collaborating to create change in hopes to create new laws.

Small revolutions like the one they hope to lead
Require coming together, working within a collective creed.

Without people like these four, change might never come.
It takes many to make the world a better place, not just one.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

Follow in the footsteps of these four young advocates,
But first find your teammates with whom to cooperate.

Make a list of the causes you most care to defend,
And all of the communities on which you can depend.

Book Connection

Lane, Aster, Ofelia, and Cat are collaborating to create the kind of change they want to see. They have become a community working together toward an important cause.

Adventure Challenge

Who are your collaborators? Who cares about the issues you care about? How might you collectively come together as a community to create change you want to see? Sometimes our collaborators are people we know - like our friends, family, classmates, or neighbors. Other times our collaborators are people we may not directly know - like people who volunteer for the same organization, follow the same leaders, or care about the same issues. Find your community who cares about the causes you do. Make a list or a web for yourself, starting with the issues that matter to you and the members of your family, friend groups, classes, neighborhood, community, and organizations who work to create change around the cause you care about. Keep adding to this list over time - it will come in handy when it's time to take action.

Bonus Challenge

What is a Portuguese man-of-war and how are they critical to ocean ecosystems? Explore the resources below and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[Man-of-War: Killer Colony](#)

[5 Facts about the Portuguese Man O' War](#)

CHALLENGE 7

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 7

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

These four young explorers are really pushing the boundaries now, Sneaking and plotting and raising some eyebrows.

They believe their cause is true and definitely worth the trouble. They are all taking big risks for the sake of feathers getting ruffled.

Is it ever OK to disobey the rules or break the law?
So others might see how their actions are flawed?

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

Ofelia, Lane, Cat, and Aster certainly believe so,
But what do you think based on what you know?

Research activists like these four and ask others what they believe;
Form your own opinion, then create something to show what you see.

Book Connection

Aster, Ofelia, Lane, and Cat have attempted many actions they hope will be solutions to the problem represented by the Floras' hat. They have "stickered" the brownie boxes and written a letter to the editor. Now they are flooding the Floras house lawn with pink plastic flamingos and facts about bird conservation. Some of these actions could get them in trouble with their parents and the law. And the real question is - will these actions lead to solutions to the problem they want to address?

Adventure Challenge

Spend some time researching the terms "environmental activism" and "environmental activists". Find out what environmental activists have accomplished, how environmental activism is defined, and examples of environmental activists from the past and present. Ask the people around you - family, friends, neighbors, teachers, or leaders - if it is ever okay to get in trouble in order to solve a big problem. There may not be a clear answer to this question, but it is worth the discussion. Then write, draw, or create something to illustrate what you think about environmental activism, activists, or the idea of stirring up trouble in support of a larger cause.

Bonus Challenge

What is the history of Bahamians in Florida and why does it matter today? Explore the resources below and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

[South Florida and The Bahamas Share a Long History Together](#)

[Secrets of Spanish Florida](#)

CHALLENGE 8

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 8

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

Grandpa says, "No one ever said activism isn't scary."
Most things that matter include risks we must carry.

But the risk Lane, Aster, Cat, and Ofelia take this time,
Comes to an end requiring a steep downward climb.

Are risks like these worth taking when we care so much?
Could these young explorers have taken another path? You judge.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

Because it's your turn now to take a step toward action,
To create the change you want and build some traction.

Like Grandpa says, it may not be easy or come quick,
But taking action toward change is building brick by brick.

Book Connection

Aster's grandfather says, "No one ever said activism isn't scary...most things that matter carry some risk." But the risk Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane take is more than scary - it is dangerous. And the consequences of their actions could have been much worse than they were. However, do you think their actions were justified? Do you think they regret their choices? These are not easy questions, but they matter when we embark on our own journeys of taking action to create change.

Adventure Challenge

Your task is to take action on an issue that matters to you. These four characters have escalated their actions throughout the book because the issue matters to them. When we care about something, taking action can feel like the most important thing. All of your challenges up to this point have led you to this moment. What has your quest helped you to uncover about who you are and what you care about? How can you take a step toward change on that issue right now? If you're passionate about animal rights, are there local animal rights organizations you could learn from? If you care about the environment, what environmental issue around your community could use your attention right now? If you see an injustice in your school or your neighborhood, how could you be part of the change? Take a single step toward a positive action on an issue that matters to you. Take a photo or video, draw a picture, or write about the action you take.

Bonus Challenge

Choose one of the facts Lane, Ofelia, Aster, and Cat write on Post-it notes to explore further. Research what you can find and record any important information you discover in your Field Notebook.

CHALLENGE 9

Strange Birds Book Quest

CLUE 9

(Also found in the **Adventurer's Field Notebook**)

Taking accountability and facing consequences is a sign of growth,
And Lane, Ofelia, Cat, and Aster have each done both.

But their passion for change never faltered,
Even if the path they walk now may be a bit altered.

Grandpa told Aster that change may not come when we hope it might.
These four explorers will keep going forward to continue their fight.

(Found in the Explorer video on [Learn Anywhere](#))

Cat sent them all a note with a call to action for "Plan B."
To right the wrongs of the past, they all absolutely agree.

What plan will you make to build change over time?
Build your plan, take the steps, and keep up the climb.

Book Connection

Ofelia, Lane, Cat, and Aster take accountability and face the consequences of their actions. This is a sign of maturity and growth. But they are also still committed to their cause and willing to keep taking actions to raise awareness, even when those actions aren't necessarily approved of by adults. Most significantly, their actions created a ripple effect by inspiring others like Olive to also care about the cause they are fighting for.

Adventure Challenge

As you finish your quest, consider how you also might create a ripple effect of change around you. You took one action toward a cause that matters to you, so now consider how you might build a team and a plan to address the issue over time. What will you do next? Who do you know or who might you connect with to help you? Build a plan for change starting with today but that also includes action steps over the next few months to a year. What change could you be leading this time next year? Your quest may be ending, but your explorer journey is ongoing. Write, draw, or take photos or videos of the plan for change you build.

EXPLORE MORE

Ways to Continue Exploring

BOOKS

The First Rule of Punk

By Celia C. Pérez

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

By William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Song for a Whale

By Lynne Kelly

Hello, Universe

By Erin Entrada Kelly

Rad American Women A-Z

By Kate Schatz and Miriam Klein Stahl

Be a Changemaker: How to Start Something That Matters

By Laurie Ann Thompson

Craftivism: The Art of Craft and Activism

Edited By Betsy Greer

ACTIVITIES

Celia C. Pérez, the talented author of *Strange Birds*, created a [music playlist](#) aligned with the story. Check it out and create your own playlist for the change you will lead on your own!

The Reader's Guide in the back of the book has activities led by each of the four characters such as baking Aster's famous "Chips & Chips Cookies" or Lane's *Guide to Crystals*.

DOCUMENTARIES

[Brave Girl](#)

[Wadjda](#)

[He Named Me Malala](#)

[Girl Rising](#)

[If You Build It](#)

[I Am Greta](#)

[Disobedience](#)

[This Changes Everything](#)

TOPICS TO EXPLORE

Social justice

Environmental activism

Bird conservation

Youth activism