Synopsis

Soren, a young barn owl, is kidnapped by owls of St. Aggie’s, ostensibly an orphanage, where owlets are brainwashed into becoming soldiers. He and his new friends escape to the island of Ga’Hoole, to assist its noble, wise owls who fight the army being created by the wicked rulers of St. Aggie’s.

Discussion Questions

- Soren wanted to escape St. Aggie’s from the very start? His brother Kludd decided to stay and work on the side of St. Aggie’s. Would you have thought that these brothers would have chosen such different paths? Why?
- The brothers had very different personalities despite the fact they were raised in the same place with the same parents. Do you have any siblings? How are you like them and how are you different from them? Why do you think there are such differences?
- Kludd probably considered his brother Soren to be weak? Do you think Soren was weak? What does it mean to you to be strong?
- The leaders of St. Aggie’s and the Queen and King of Ga’Hoole were extremely different? In what ways were they different?
- Was the fight between the two groups the end of the war or do you believe this was just a battle as part of a larger war? Why do you believe this?
- It was mentioned several times in the film that the owls needed to trust their gizzard, especially while flying. What does this mean to you? Has someone ever told you to trust your gut?
Activities

• Create a habitat for owls in your area. Find out if you live in an area that has owls. Some owls use any artificial cavity to develop their nest. This means that you could make them a nesting area. Visit the Hungry Owl website for instructions on how to make your own Owl Box: www.hungryowl.org/boxes.html.

• Egletine had her first owl pellet at the beginning of the film. Owls really do create these pellets and you can find them all over the wild. Grab a pair of gloves the next time you’re in the woods and keep your eyes peeled for a furry little round pellet about the size of a golf ball. When you find one you can open it up and discover what the owl ate for dinner!

• Read the book from which this movie was adapted, Guardians of Ga’Hoole: The Capture, by Kathryn Lasky. What are the similarities and differences between the book and the movie?

Get Involved

• In the film we saw young owls get kidnapped. Kidnapping is a serious problem that can happen to children in places all over the world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited children provides many ideas to help out. See the Get Involved section on their website www.missingkids.com for a full list of ideas.

• Certain types of owls have been a protected animal for many years because of the destruction of their habitat. Learn about the wildlife in your area. Are there animals in the area that are endangered or protected? What are they? Educate your family, friends and neighbors about your “other neighbors” who may need help to stay alive.