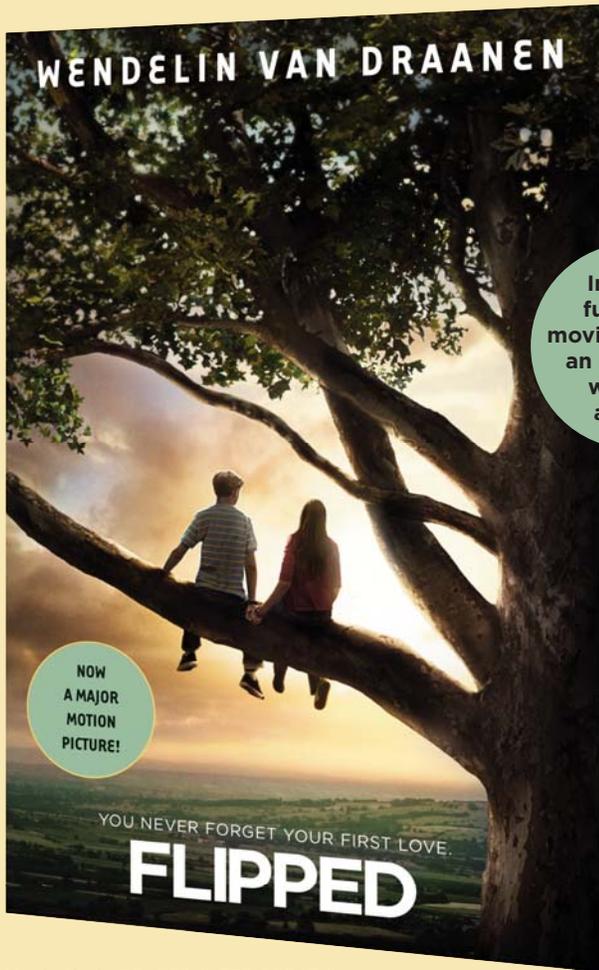


# FLIPPED

READ THE BOOK/SEE THE MOVIE DISCUSSION GUIDE



Includes full-color movie stills and an interview with the author!

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Flipped* is a romance told in two voices. The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped. The first time Bryce saw Juli, he ran. That's pretty much the pattern for these two neighbors until the eighth grade, when, just as Juli is realizing Bryce isn't as wonderful as she thought, Bryce is starting to see that Juli is pretty amazing. How these two teens manage to see beyond the surface of things and come together makes for a comic and poignant romance.

## ABOUT THE MOVIE

Wendelin Van Draanen's highly acclaimed he said/she said teen romance is now a major motion picture. Directed by Rob Reiner (*Stand By Me, When Harry Met Sally*), from a script he wrote with Andrew Scheinman, the film features Madeline Carroll and Callan McAuliffe as Juli and Bryce, along with Rebecca De Mornay, Anthony Edwards, John Mahoney, Penelope Ann Miller, Aidan Quinn and Kevin Weisman.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wendelin Van Draanen worked as a high school teacher for many years before turning to writing full time. She is the author of the highly acclaimed Sammy Keyes mysteries, *Runaway*, *Swear to Howdy*, and *Confessions of a Serial Kisser*. She lives in Central California with her family.



Photo courtesy of the author.



IN THEATERS AUGUST

[flipped-movie.warnerbros.com](http://flipped-movie.warnerbros.com)



# FLIPPED

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### ON *FLIPPED*, THE BOOK . . .

- Contrast Bryce and Juli's families. Which family appears to have the stronger sense of values? How is Juli's relationship with her father different from Bryce's relationship with his father? Discuss how Bryce's father helped shape his view of Juli the first day they met.
- Explain the following metaphor: "The world is her playground, and watch out below—Juli's on the slide." (p. 4) What does this say about Juli's character? How does Juli have a stronger sense of purpose than her peers?
- Discuss Bryce's relationship with his grandfather. How does his grandfather see something in Juli that Bryce is unable to see? What does Juli teach Bryce about his grandfather?
- Explain what Juli's father means when he tells her, "A painting is more than the sum of its parts . . . put them all together and you've got magic." (p. 34) How does Juli finally understand the magic from the top of the sycamore tree? Discuss Juli's loneliness and her desire to share the magic with someone. Debate whether Bryce is too much of a conformist to join Juli's cause to save the sycamore tree.
- The day that Juli tried to save the tree is the day that her view of things around her started changing. What are some of the things that she began to see differently? At what point does Bryce begin to change? Which character has the longest journey? Which faces the most obstacles?

### AFTER READING THE BOOK AND BEFORE SEEING THE MOVIE . . .

- The novel is told in alternating voices. Debate whether this allows the reader to be objective about the conflict of the story. Discuss which character garners the most sympathy from the reader. Select a scene from the novel that clearly reveals Bryce and Juli's opposing views. Rewrite the scene in a third person omniscient point of view. How does this voice change the way the reader sees the scene?
- Some critics believe that setting is an important element in fiction because it gives a novel purpose. Think about how setting is usually revealed in a work of fiction. Where and when do you think *Flipped* is set? Support your answer with clues from the novel. Keep the setting in mind as you view the movie.
- Be a casting director. Choose from children and adults in your school or neighborhood, cast the following roles: Bryce, Juli, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Loski, Bryce's grandfather, Bryce's sister, and Juli's brothers.

### ON *FLIPPED*, THE MOVIE . . .

- What is the theme of the novel and film? How does the opening scene of the film set the stage for the theme development? How are the many meanings of "flipped" revealed in the film?
- Take a look at your notes about the setting of the novel. What did you say about the time period? Why do you think the filmmakers changed the time period? Discuss the things in the novel that were changed in the movie to reflect the era in which it is set.
- Often characters in a novel seem very different when portrayed in a movie. Which characters in the novel *Flipped* are changed in the movie? Debate whether these changes correlate with the era in which the movie is set.
- How does the movie deal with the alternating points of view? Note whether the scenes change as the narrator changes.
- What was your mental picture of Juli Baker's house in the novel? How does her house in the movie compare to that?
- Discuss the scene where Juli goes with her father to visit Daniel. How does the visual image of this scene make it more real and poignant than reading about it? Discuss how meeting Daniel changes Juli.
- The film is largely faithful to the novel, but there are some changes. What are some of the significant changes, other than the setting?
- Debate whether plot or character is the most important element in *Flipped*. How does the movie advance this element? Discuss the symbolism of the sycamore tree. How does it give meaning to the novel in a direct and indirect way?
- Think about the scene where the Bakers have dinner with Bryce's family. Which family seems the most uncomfortable? Who changes the most during the course of the evening? Debate whether the two families are simply too different to be more than just neighborly to one another.
- Juli's father helps her see that all of the parts together form "magic," and Bryce ultimately begins to see it. What does the movie reveal about this type of magic to its viewers?



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