

THE FIRE KEEPERS

STUDY GUIDE

The Fire Keepers



By Sue Lawton

Written by artist Sue Lawton while she was an artist-in-residence at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in our 2013/2014 season, *The Fire Keepers* is the first book published by the Wilson Center. The story it shares of a young girl living in 19th century Brookfield and the fantastical creatures she encounters while on adventures with her feline friend is inspired by Brookfield's landscape and the Wilson Center's performances!

In the story, can you find:

2 Cows	12 Cats	Double Railroad Tracks
An 8-Sided Clock	Butler's Garter Snakes	5 Drummers
A Conductor	15 Dancers	Fathers Hat

Can you answer these questions about the book?

1. How many cats is Norah friends with?
2. Who is Norah's favorite cat?
3. What animal is the Steward of the Hidden River?
4. What instrument does Norah play?
5. Name one instrument a musician of the reeds plays.



Get up and MOVE!

In the story, the deer asks Norah how a river moves. In your mind, imagine a flowing river. Is it a fast or slow? Is it sharp or soft movements? Now, get up and move how you imagine a river flows!

Did you Know?

The column of water illustrated in the book was inspired by the fireplace at the Wilson Center. It is titled *Streaming* and is 40 feet tall! It took sculptor Susan Falkman nine months to hand-carve the fireplace out of limestone, and she began working onsite before the walls of the Wilson Center had even been built, so much of the time, she had little to protect her from the elements.

The average giraffe is about 20 feet tall. That means the fireplace is the height of two giraffes standing on top of one another!

If you were 5 feet tall, how many of you would it take to reach the top?



Vocabulary List

Writhed: Twisting, squirming movement. “The shining river twisted and writhed.”

Conferring: To have discussions or talk with. “She imagined him conferring with herons and foxes.”

Silhouette: To see a dark shape with the light behind it. “All she saw was a large silhouette gliding across the moon.”

Exotic: Unusual or out of the ordinary. “Men and women in exotic costumes danced and whirled.”

Undulating: Smoothly rising and falling motion. “She moved her hand in an undulating fashion.”

Can you write new sentences using these words?