

Taking Flight



Air travel can be a real challenge for people with disabilities. Wings for Autism helps families get ready to fly.

LEXILE: 1010L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.9, SL.6-8.4

ENGAGE THE READER

Start the lesson by asking students to think of some of their least favorite sensory experiences. These can be anything from clogged ears preventing them from hearing well to a smell or noise that really bothers them. How do experiences like this make them feel? Explain that a person with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) might experience different sensory input. Someone with ASD might experience heightened senses. Or sensory experiences might be lessened. People like this might seek out loud sounds, strong tastes, or more contact or touch. Have students consider how heightened sensitivity to sound, taste, touch, or smells might be challenging. Discuss how a need for more sensory input might also create challenges.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What's the purpose of the Wings for Autism program? Why is it important?
- Why might flying be difficult for some people? How does Wings for Autism help?

EXTEND LEARNING

After reading, have students think about all the steps a person has to take to travel on public transportation. This can be on an airplane, a bus, a subway, or a ferry. Have them talk to a partner about the experience, and about what noises, sights, smells, etc., a person might encounter. Jot down some things that might make this form of travel difficult for people with autism or other disabilities.

Bring the class back together and invite partners to share some ideas, which you can list on the board. Work as a class to identify some ways that these experiences could be made easier. Ask: Is there anything transportation companies can do to support people who are experiencing difficulty? Why is it important to make people with disabilities more comfortable when traveling? Invite students to research companies to share their suggestions with.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

- 1. B** (RI.5) **2. C** (RI.8) **3. A** (RI.2) **4. A** (RI.4) **5. D** (RI.1)
6. C (RI.6) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Taking Flight," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

1. What's the purpose of the first two sentences of the article? A. to inform the reader about the Wings for Autism program B. to show how the experience of flying might be overwhelming for some people C. to detail the steps involved in the airport process D. to persuade the reader to support the Wings for Autism program	4. The word <i>chapters</i> in "Air Travel for Everyone" is used to mean A. branches of an organization in different areas. B. sections of a book. C. special events. D. parts of someone's life.
2. Which detail explains what inspired Wings for Autism? A. The program is meant to benefit anyone who needs support. B. The Arc now organizes between 20 and 25 Wings for Autism events each year. C. The airport proved too stressful for one of the children, who is autistic. D. More than 31,000 people in 34 states have taken part.	5. The Wings for All name used by some chapters is meant to show that A. the program is open to people with any type of disability. B. the program is open to people of all ages. C. the program is running in all airports. D. both A and B
3. Which best summarizes what happens during a Wings for Autism event? A. Participants practice all the steps involved in the airport process. B. The plane doesn't take off, but it may taxi on the runway. C. Participants and airport staff ask questions. D. TSA staff get training on how to engage Wings for Autism participants.	6. Which word could be used to describe the Wings for Autism program? A. overwhelming B. challenging C. supportive D. intellectual

7. If you have flown in an airplane, describe the experience in detail for someone who has not. If you haven't flown in an airplane, describe another form of transportation.
