An Armadillo in NEW YORK

Pre-reading Discussion / Activities
1. Reveal the cover and ask for predictions about the story's plot, characters and setting.
   - Who is in the story?
   - What is the problem that needs to be solved?
   - Where does the story take place?
   - What kind of a story do you think this will be?

2. Talk about the title of the story.
   - Has anybody been to New York before?
   - Is what part of the world is New York located?
   - What do you know about New York?
   - Is there anything unusual about the title?

3. Find out what students know about armadillos.
   - What do you know about armadillos?
   - What is it that people like about them?
   - What do you think armadillos can be found naturally in New York? How do you know?

4. Discuss why people travel and allow students to share their personal travel experiences.
   - Why do people travel?
   - What can you learn about when you travel?
   - What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of visiting a city or town in a different country?

5. Re-read the story aloud a second time and in particular, pay attention to Augustin's journal and the illustrations.
   - Make a list of clues (in your own words) that Augustin gave to Arlo.
   - Circle the clue that, upon reading a second time, is the most obvious clue to Lady Liberty's identity.
   - Underline the clue that is obvious now that you have read the whole story, but when you read it the first time, was the least obvious.

6. Make a list of all the times Lady Liberty is given the qualities of a human or described as “doing” something. Explain aloud and/or in writing what the author is really referring to now that you know the true identity of Lady Liberty.

7. Augustin writes that he cannot wait for Arlo to discover “the amazing architecture, interesting history and vibrant culture.” Locate moments in Arlo's adventure in which he experiences the city’s architecture, history and culture. Think of a synonym for each of the following descriptors – amazing, interesting and vibrant.

8. Map out the location of the places Arlo visits in New York City.
   - Do you think the order in which Arlo visited these places was important? Why or why not?
   - If you had to choose just one of the places Arlo visited, which one would you choose? Why?

9. Locate additional reading material about New York City as a tourist destination, and together with Arlo’s experiences, brainstorm a list of words as a class that would describe New York City. Assign one word to each pair of students and ask them to illustrate how this word describes the city. Encourage students to use the illustrations and events in the story as inspiration.

10. Make a list of all of the famous places Arlo visits on his trip to New York City. Select one of the places and further research its significance. Why is New York City referred to as “the big apple”?

11. If Arlo were coming to visit your city or town, what are five places you would recommend for him to visit? Draw a picture and briefly describe in writing what he will find there.

12. This trip may be just the beginning of Arlo’s travels. Where do you think he should go next? Select a destination (outside of his home country of Brazil) and research three tourist attractions, local food, weather and traditions that he should be prepared for.

13. Research some of the common characteristics of armadillos. Write a short report, with illustrations, that outlines what you have learned about this unusual creature. Consider including the following information:
   - Where does it live?
   - What does it eat?
   - What does it look like?
   - How long does it live?
   - What does it like to do?

14. Redesign the cover of the book using a scene from the story as your inspiration. Try to stay true to the style of illustrations used in the story. If available, use graphite pencils and erasers.

15. Draw, color and cut out a small version of Arlo, preferably on sturdy paper. Take Arlo home with you for the weekend and photograph him accompanied by you around your home and community. Write journal-style entries in the voice of Arlo that describe what he has done and seen on his weekend away.

Discussion Questions and Activities

2. Arlo feels it. The twitch in his left claw. The twitch that only stops when adventure begins …
   - What prompts Arlo to take a trip to New York City?
   - What did his grandfather Augustin like so much about the city?
   - How might Arlo have been feeling before he left? Why might he have been feeling both excited and nervous at the same time?
   - Do you like to go on adventures? How do you feel right before starting a new adventure?

3. There are two different voices involved in the telling of the story.
   - Who are the two voices?
   - How might the story have been different if Augustin’s journal was not included? How does the journal develop the curiosity of the reader?

4. “Curiosity has run in their nine-banded family for as long as anyone can remember.” Armadillos are known not only for their unusual appearance, but also for their reputation as curious creatures.
   - What does it mean to be curious? How does being curious connect to somebody wanting to travel to different parts of the world?

About the Book
Arlo is an armadillo who is always up for adventure. His grandfather, Augustin, loved adventure too. When Arlo was born, Augustin wrote special travel journals for him to use when he was old enough to go exploring on his own. When Arlo reads about New York City and the famed Lady Liberty, he decides it’s time to visit “the city that never sleeps!” Guided by Augustin’s journal, Arlo discovers the joy of New York living at the vast skyline, visiting the Guggenheim, walking across the Brooklyn Bridge and, of course, meeting Lady Liberty … but who is she? Arlo has to read the journal carefully to figure it out! Join this adorable little friend for an exciting stroll through New York—a stroll you’ll want to take again and again! This wondrous walk through New York can be used in a number of ways including:
- Exploring themes and concepts such as family, travel, culture, architecture, exploration, adventure, curiosity and identity
- As an engaging read-aloud experience

Discussion prompts and suggested activities have been linked to Common Core State Standards where applicable.

Links
juliekraulis.com
penguinrandomhouse.ca

About the Author
Author-illustrator JULIE KRAULIS knew Arlo would love to visit New York City. It is the perfect place for an adventurous armadillo (and adventurous author-illustrators, too)! Julie lives and works in Toronto, but her heart belongs to the world. She developed her wanderlust growing up in a few different places, and her travels always bring new inspiration. Julie is a stop-and-smell-the-roses kind of gal who loves to create. This is her third picture book; she is also the author and illustrator of Whemmy’s Haury Things and An Armadillo in Paris.