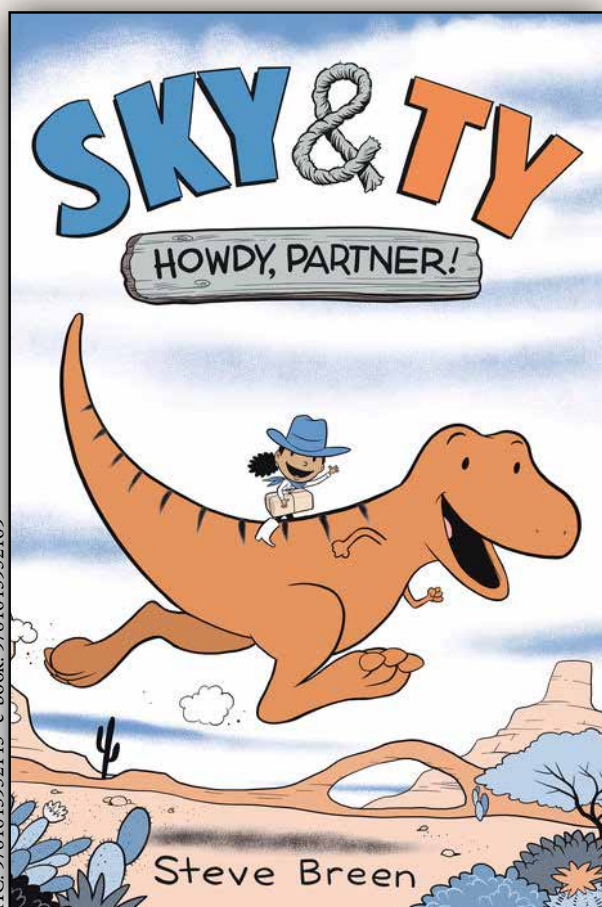


PIXEL INK

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Sky & Ty 1: Howdy, Partner!

by Steve Breen

★ “Light, lilting fair, a satisfying series opener that leaves lots of room for ambling fun and cowpoke banter in many amusing outings ahead.”

—*School Library Journal*, Starred Review

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection

ABOUT THE BOOK

Meet the new cowgirl and her T. rex pardner delivering delightful laughs and rollicking adventure along with their packages from a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. Perfect for young chapter book graphic novel fans.

Meet the best delivery service this side of the Mississippi, run by no-nonsense cowgirl Sky and her slightly goofy but always dependable pardner, T. rex Ty. No task is too big or too small for this dynamic duo. And they've never missed a delivery yet.

But learning to work together hasn't always been easy for them. Saddle up as Sky and Ty figure out they both can help solve a little bear problem. And teamwork and some speedy thinking save the day when they tackle getting their first package to its destination just in time.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Examine the cover art and the title of the book and discuss where the book is set. Look at the title page. How do you know Sky and Ty are friends? Debate whether there is a difference between a friend and a pal. At what point do Sky and Ty become pals? Point out the illustrations in the book that reveal their relationship.
- How are Sky McGill's dreams different from most cowgirls? Describe the dinosaur of her dreams. Why does Sky think that she can find a dinosaur on her family's ranch? Discuss her hunt to find a dinosaur. Explain how she discovers Ty. Contrast Ty with the dinosaur that Sky draws.
- Note the facial expressions on Ty and the bear on page 19. What is happening between them? Explain what leads to the face-off. How does the white space draw a reader's eye to Ty and bear? How do they resolve the issue? Describe the dance-off. What is Sky's role? How does the artist show movement?
- Discuss the humor in the book. How much is revealed through text, and how much through illustration? Read the Jurassic Jokes at the end of the book. Which are the funniest to you?
- How do Sky and Ty save the day when Mr. Rigby needs a package delivered? Define teamwork. In what ways are Sky and Ty a team? Explain what Ty means when he says, "I'm your partner, not your trusty steed" (p. 39).

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATOR



Steve Breen is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, and his video broadcast work has won several Emmys. He is a cartoonist for inewssource.org. His work is nationally syndicated by Creators Syndicate and appears regularly in the *Week* and other national publications. In addition to the *Sky & Ty* series published by Pixel+Ink/Holiday House, his picture books include *Stick*, *Violet the Pilot*, *Pug and Doug*, and *Woodpecker Wants a Waffle* (winner of the New Hampshire Ladybug Picture Book Award). He also created Universal Kids's *Powerbirds*. He lives in California with his family. In his spare time, he reads, runs, and plays the guitar poorly.