Reading Guide

For reading Pango's Secret Armor aloud, or any story about a small creature and the people who help it. Read-aloud time is about fifteen minutes; the discussion around it can run as long as the group stays curious.

Ages 5-8

Before you read

- Ask what an animal does when it is frightened. Collect answers: run, hide, freeze, make noise.
- Show the picture of Pango and ask what this animal might do. It rolls into a ball.
- Say the one fact the whole book rests on: pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same material as fingernails.

Ages 5-8

While you read

- Pause when Pango is afraid. Ask: is armor enough this time?
- Notice who helps. Ask what each helper actually does, not just how they feel.
- Count how many small actions add up before anything changes.

Ages 5-8

After you read

- Ask what a "big friend" means. Steer toward: someone who uses what they have to help someone smaller.
- Name one small creature near your home that could use a big friend.
- Decide together on one thing your family, class, or group will actually do this month.

Ages 9-12

Going further

- Read the Sunda pangolin profile on this site and list three facts the story matches.
- Explain in your own words why a defence that works against a leopard fails against a person.
- Find where pangolins live on the Living Atlas and describe why the map does not show exact locations.

Words worth teaching

- **Keratin** - the material fingernails, hair, and pangolin scales are all made from.
- **Habitat** - the particular place an animal or plant can actually live in.
- **Trafficking** - taking and selling wild animals against the law.
- **Endangered** - so few are left that the species could disappear.

- **Stewardship** - looking after something that was entrusted to you.

Pango is an illustrated character created for this project, not a wildlife photograph. Every factual statement here comes from the canonical, sourced species records on endangeredspecies.humanity-project.org/species. Free to copy and print for classroom, church, youth-group, and family use.