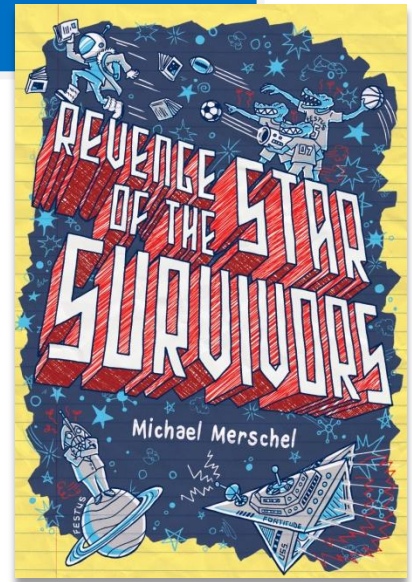


EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

REVENGE OF THE STAR SURVIVORS

Michael Merschel

Surviving middle school is not an easy task for 8th grader Clark Sherman on a good day, BUT showing up for his first day in his new school wearing an Arctic-ready, fur-lined RAF-certified parka is dangerous! Misunderstood and beaten down, Clark deals with vicious bullies, burned-out teachers, and a power hungry principal by living vicariously through his "sci-fi" TV show characters. Will he ever find "kindred life-forms" on Planet Festus?



9780823436675 • Ages 10–14 • E-book available

Guided Reading Level: X

Grade Level Equivalent: 6

Interest Level: Grades 5–12

Instructional Standards

Reading Literature: RL.6-8.1,2,3,4,5,6,10

Writing: W.6-8.4,6,7,8,10

Speaking and Listening: SL.6-8.1,1c,3,4,6

Language: L.6-8.3,4,5,6

1. Write a summary of the beginning of the book (who, what, where, when, why, and how). Explain how making inferences helped you analyze the setting, plot, and character development in the story.
2. What are the central messages/themes of *Revenge of the Star Survivors*?
3. What is the author's "statement" about these ideas? Find examples from the book.
4. Describe the "statement" the author makes when he begins the story. How does the opening chapter set the tone?
5. What is the author's attitude toward these ideas? How does he develop the themes over the course of *Revenge of the Star Survivors*? How is the theme reflected through the characters, behavior, and elements of the plot? Be specific.
6. Describe the point of view of each character.
7. How does the author use figurative language throughout the book? Find examples and analyze their role in the text. For example: "My mouth went dry. Just minutes into the mission and I was already outed as an alien interloper."
8. What is the "Revenge of the Star Survivors"? At what point in the story do you realize the meaning of the title?
9. Describe the tone or feeling of the book as the plot develops. At what point in the book did it feel dark, unhappy, joyful, melancholy, cheerful, pessimistic, fearful, sarcastic, gloomy, and optimistic?
10. How does the author's tone affect your attitude about the book?
11. Identify and describe the main character (Clark Sherman).



12. Discuss the main and supporting characters: What are their hopes, dreams, beliefs, ideals, fears, strengths, weaknesses, vices, virtues, and talents?
13. Describe how the different characters including Clark respond to change as the plot moves toward resolution.
14. Did you relate to any of the characters during the course of the book? Explain.
15. What is the author's style? How does the style contribute to the overall effect that he wishes to create?
16. Describe the relationship between Clark, Les, Ricki, and Ms. Beacon.
17. Does Clark have a good relationship with his parents? Why does he wait so long to confide in them about what is really happening at school?
18. Who are Clark's "tormentors"?
19. How do the characters conduct themselves throughout the story? What do they do and say to reveal their personalities in the beginning, middle, and end of the book?
20. Discuss how Clark transforms from the beginning to the end of the story.
21. Analyze how Clark develops over the course of the text, interacts with other characters, advances the plot, or develops the theme.
22. Analyze the author's choices concerning how to structure the text, and order events within it. Did the structure of *Revenge of the Star Survivors* enhance your understanding?
23. What people, forces, interests, values, and institutions oppose each other in the book? Find examples of man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. fate, man vs. nature, and man vs. self.
24. How does the author use "cosmic irony" in the story? Are good people or individuals in a bad situation due to circumstances beyond their control? Explain.
25. Exposition: What background information does the author give about the characters, setting, and situation in the beginning of the book?
26. Complication: When does the first conflict arise? What other problems start to arise and continue to develop?
27. Crisis: When is the main character faced with an internal conflict and when does he realize he must make a decision?
28. Climax: When does Clark MAKE his decision and ACT on it? What is the highest point of action in the story? When is the suspense regarding what Clark will do to solve his problem over?
29. Resolution: How does the author tie up loose ends?
30. Write about the impact of bullying on your life. Share as a group. Discuss the themes, similarities, and differences in people's experiences. Is bullying a problem? Why?
31. How does bullying impact family, friends, school, and the community as a whole? How did it impact characters in the story (both adults and young adults)?
32. Think about ways to address the problem of bullying in school. Work in groups to develop a plan. Research current events and investigate and debate the issues.
33. Write a book review for *Revenge of the Star Survivors*. (See page 3: **Writing a Fiction Book Review**.)



WRITING A FICTION BOOK REVIEW

Think About . . .

1. What was the story about?
2. Who were the main characters?
3. Were the characters credible?
4. What did the main characters do in the story?
5. Did the main characters run into any problems? Adventures?
6. Who was your favorite character? Why?

Your personal experiences

1. Could you relate to any of the characters in the story?
2. Have you ever done or felt some of the things the characters did?

Your opinion

1. Did you like the book?
2. What was your favorite part of the book?
3. Do you have a least favorite part of the book?
4. If you could change something, what would it be? (If you wish you could change the ending, don't reveal it!)

Your recommendation

1. Would you recommend this book to another person?
2. What type of person would like this book?

Guide written by Marla Conn, reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant

