



Infiltration

Sean Rodman

Reading Level: 2.5

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Book Summary

Bex is known online as the rock star of urban explorers, and since he has a reputation as a Boy Scout at school, he thoroughly enjoys his secret life. For Bex, breaking and entering old buildings is just for online bragging rights; he never takes anything but pictures, and doesn't leave anything but footprints. However, when the new kid, Kieran, moves to town, he offers Bex cold hard cash to entice him into breaking into the security facility where Kieran's father works. Bex agrees to help Kieran, but when they break in, Kieran surprises Bex with a new plan—a plan that nearly gets them both killed.

Prereading Idea

Go to <http://srodman.com/booktrailer> and show students the book trailer for *Infiltration*. Then, ask students to investigate urban exploration. Students should write a definition, give an example, explain how people in the groups communicate, and try to discover if their city can claim a group of urban explorers. Ask students to share what they learn with the class.

Connecting to the World—Writing and Research Ideas

- Ask students to work in groups of three to create a three to five minute digital presentation using PowerPoint, Photo Story, Movie Maker, Glogster or another tool of their choice. Each group should combine the results of their Prereading activity and extend the activity to include photos that have been taken inside buildings, blog entries, adventure stories and other items pertinent to urban exploring. On the flip side, students should also include stories about arrests, convictions and punishments that have been meted out by judges. Each group can show their presentations to the class.
- Explain to students how to write found poetry using instructions found at the following website: www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson33/found-poem-instructions.pdf. Then, ask students to select a partner and to write a found poem using one of the following scenes: Bex breaking into the Orpheus with Jake and Asha in chapter 1, the DMA exploratory trip with Jake and Kieran in chapter 8, or the DMA with Kieran in chapters 11-14. Have student add illustrations to their poems. Students may also add optional appropriate background music as they read their poems to the class.

Connecting to the Text—Elements of the Novel***Plot***

Ask students to work with a partner to search for a plot diagram on the Internet that has at least five elements: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and conclusion. Students can then use the diagram to map the plot of *Infiltration* with a brief explanation of each stage. Have students select one of the plot stages and using information from that stage write a movie trailer for the movie *Infiltration*. Have students practice and present their movie trailers to the class.

Conflict

Bex, Jake, and Kieran all face conflicts. With a partner, ask students to brainstorm a list of the conflicts each character faces and separate them into two columns: internal and external. Then, in a third column, ask students to write the resolution of each conflict. Ask the partners to choose two of the conflicts and to write a skit depicting an alternate resolution. Students may write serious, cynical, humorous, exaggerated or other types of skits to perform for the class.

Point of View

Ask students to work with a partner or in groups of three and assume the “voice” of one of the main characters. Ask students to prepare a collage of specific visual and written images that convey the character’s feelings and point of view. Students should use color, pictures and fonts that convey the character’s personality and state of mind. Display the final products in the classroom.

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. What is Bex's secret power? How does he use it? How has it helped him to be the rock star of urban explorers?
2. Bex begins his relationship with Kieran based on a series of justifications. Why is Bex so willing to justify Kieran's behavior and choices? What does Kieran offer Bex that Bex does not have?
3. Bex enjoys his relationship with Asha and does not want it to change, so he is upset that she accepts a summer job away from him. Why is Asha so upset with Bex? What is the end result of their disagreement?
4. When Kieran asks Bex to help him break into DMA, what does he use as a carrot to tempt Bex to help him? How does finding out about Kieran's past further help convince Bex to assist Kieran?
5. How does Jake prove his friendship for Bex? When Jake is hurt, what is Kieran's response? What should this prove to Bex? Why is Bex so unwilling to see the truth?
6. Kieran's relationship with his father is in shreds after the death of Kieran's mother. What does Kieran's father do to help him overcome his grief? How does Kieran misinterpret his father's actions? What kind of help does Kieran need to regain control of his emotions?

Writer's Craft

Simile and Metaphor

Ask students to read the following sentences, focusing on the simile and the metaphor.

His eyes were weird, a pale light blue like a husky dog (ch. 2)

Harborhead Bridge was a dinosaur (ch. 4)

Ask students to choose a situation in the book and to write their own simile or metaphor. Have students illustrate their written examples and display the students' work in the classroom.

Author Biography

Sean Rodman wrote his first book, *The Aliens of History*, at age five. After that humble beginning, he received a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Trent University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Victoria. He has travelled around the world and worked with teenagers in Australia as well as at an international school with teens from more than one hundred countries. It is his work with teens that inspired him to write *Infiltration*. He currently lives in British Columbia and is the Strategic Partnerships Manager at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

Author Website

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