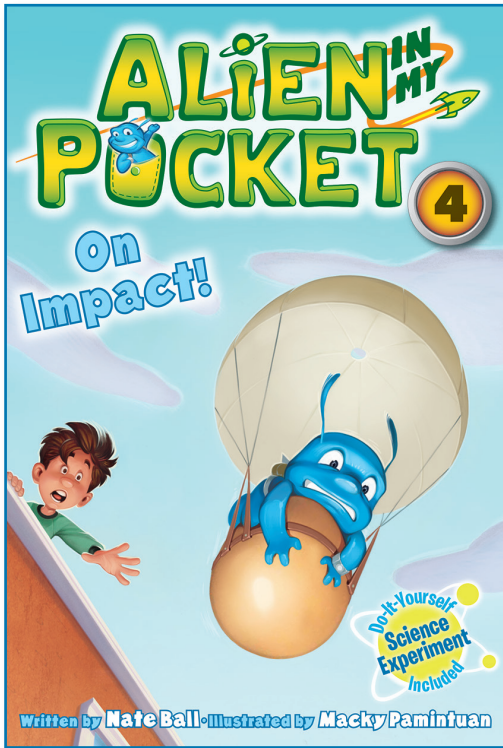


ALIEN IN MY POCKET

Discussion Guide

ALIEN IN MY POCKET: ON IMPACT! by Nate Ball



BOOK TALK

Zack is really in a mess this time. He crashed his bike after Amp took the brakes without telling him. With his arm in a sling, Zack's life quickly goes from bad to worse. Not only does it look like he's going to have to sit out baseball season, but his parents are forcing him to film his younger brother's science experiments! After Zack has a fight with his best friend, Amp escapes his room and creates a huge scene. All Zack really wants is for everything to return to normal—and that starts with helping Amp get his spaceship working again and helping him get home.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Amp need Zack's bike brakes? Why doesn't Amp tell Zack he took them?
2. Why does Zack ask Olivia and Amp to leave his room? How are their relationships altered as a result of their fight?
3. Why are Zack's parents so insistent on Zack helping Taylor with his science experiments?
4. Zack's parents and teachers think Zack is lazy and looking for trouble. What could Zack do to change the way his parents and teachers think about him?
5. What is the scientific connection between Taylor's egg experiments and Zack's bike crash?
6. Why doesn't Zack just report Amp to the authorities and be done with him and the trouble he causes?

The above questions correlate to CCSS (Speaking): SL.3.1, SL.4.1, SL.5.1; CCSS (Reading Literature): RL.3.1, RL.4.1, RL.5.1; CCSS (Language): L.3.1, L.4.1, L.5.1 and L.3.3, L.4.3, L.5.3

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Kinetic Energy at Its Best

Taylor experiments with kinetic energy by designing an apparatus that will keep an egg from breaking when dropped from a designated height. With a partner ask students to search for an experiment they can conduct for the class that will demonstrate kinetic energy. Students should write a paper explaining kinetic energy and how their experiment shows kinetic energy in action. Students can share the information from their papers while conducting the experiment for the class.

Basically, It's Physics

Amp does his best to explain physics and the forces of motion to Zack using his bike crash to show the possible effects of drag and friction on a body in motion (page 26). Ask students to research the laws of motion and to write an explanation of how they operate. Then ask them to create a visual presentation showing how the laws of motion work in their everyday lives.

Display the presentations in the classroom.



CCSS (Writing): W.3.2, W.4.2, W.5.2, W.3.4, W.4.4, W.5.4, and W.3.7, W.4.7, W.5.7; CCSS (Language): L.3.1, L.4.1, L.5.1, and L.3.2, L.4.2, L.5.2.

Read all the books in the **ALIEN IN MY POCKET** series



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Guide prepared by Susan Geye.

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