

Almost Super

AUTHOR: Marion Jensen
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GENRE: Fiction
LEXILE: 590

SUMMARY:

Every member of the Bailey family receives a superpower when they turn twelve. For as long as they can remember they have used these powers to protect the world from their evil nemesis, The Johnson Family. When Rafter and Benny receive super-lame powers, they are confused and disappointed. However, they are determined to find out what has happened, who was behind this occurrence, and then figure out a way to be super despite their seemingly useless powers.

BOOKTALK:

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Would you prefer invisibility? Speed? Strength? How would you feel if you were actually given a superpower at age twelve? In the book *Almost Super*, that is exactly what happens. For years, the Bailey family has used their super powers to protect the world from the evil Johnson family. However, something is a bit strange when Rafter and Benny Bailey get super-lame powers. How will the boys fit in with their super family? Will they finally overpower the evil Johnson family? If you think you can handle the mystery and action packed into this book, open the cover and prepare for an adventure!

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Author's Name: Marion Jensen
Author's Website: <http://marionjensen.com/>
Other books written by the author: *Searching for Super*

CHALLENGING WORDS

absentmindedly (page 6) adjective: so lost in thought that one does not realize what one is doing, what is happening

polyester (page 21) noun: a fabric made from such textile fibers

pinning (page 22) verb: to yearn deeply; suffer with longing; long painfully

kevlar (page 48) noun: a brand of aramid fiber

claustrophobic (page 74) adjective: suffering from an abnormal fear of being in enclosed or narrow places

chasm (page 79) noun: a deep cleft in the earth's surface; gorge

prose (page 110) noun: the ordinary form of spoken or written language, without metrical structure, as distinguished from poetry or verse

scepter (page 134) noun: a rod or wand borne in the hand as an emblem of regal or imperial power

armistice (page 143) noun: a temporary suspension of hostilities by agreement of the warring parties; truce

prosthetic (page 160) noun: a device, either external or implanted, that substitutes for or supplements a missing or defective part of the body

transatlantic (page 168) adjective: crossing or reaching across the Atlantic Ocean

materialized (page 216) verb: to come into existence; appear; become actual or real

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did Rafter feel when he got his super power? Have you ever felt similar? (Chapter 2)
2. Rafter and Benny figured out quickly that working as a team would make a difference when they went to battle. Share a time when working together with a team helped you accomplish a goal. (Chapter 5)
3. Why were the Bailey and the Johnson families constantly battling one another?
4. If you were to write the sequel to Almost Super, what would happen next?
5. What themes do you see in this book? What can we learn from it?

ACTIVITIES with COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Language Arts:

- Choose a character from the book and write a journal entry from their perspective about what happens after the end of the last chapter. Be sure to include details to describe the characters' actions, feelings, and encounters with others from the story.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3b Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

Mathematics

- Use graph paper to design your own superhero lair. On a separate piece of paper, find the area and perimeter of each room within your lair. Show your work.

CCSS.Math.Content.4.MD.A.3

Apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world and mathematical problems.

LIFE SKILLS:

Trust
Forgiveness
Understanding
Courage

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Almost Super Publishers Page

<http://www.harpercollins.com/9780062209610/almost-super>

Good Reads Reviews

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18090043-almost-super>

Various reviews about Almost Super

Duck Duck Moose

<http://www.duckduckmoose.com/educational-iphone-itouch-apps-for-kids/superhero-comic-book-maker/>

Create your own comic book superhero

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:

Name: Rebecca Staats

Position/Location: Assistant Principal/ Perry Township Schools