Note To Homeschool Guide / Teacher

This guide is designed as a high level overall to understanding of Larceny—book one of the Cadre Kids series. The questions and activities are pulled together as an instructional guide. The story is intended to open dialect around political topics as a fun fiction absent from outside influence. The book is designed to encourage teenagers to think for themselves about issues.

Series Introduction

Cadre Kids series takes place in the current day. The approach is deliberate to help aid in discussion assisting parents to understand some of the technology differences teenagers in today’s world may incur. Truer words cannot be spoken when a bullied teenager tries to explain to today’s adult ‘you don’t understand how bad it is.’

The plot to the series is structured as a crime thriller. The individual books develop as action adventures with looming plot injustices keeping the reader guessing if a character is a perpetrator or simply a protagonist. When is it right to be wrong, is a common theme.

Overview

Book one of the Cadre Kids series is a fiction based around two homeschooled-fraternal twins Jake and Rosa as well as their older sibling Ted. Homeschooling, an individual state right, has fifty different legal histories. It is a battle that still surfaces in modern day culture and undergoes scrutiny. This fiction ignites that battle at an elevated level under the premise of battling illiteracy.

Themes

1. Standing up as an individual

* When is it okay to stand up for your individual rights?
* Can others you care about be hurt by your actions?
* Is it ever justifiable to be the aggressor?
* How do you handle things not going the way you hoped?

List of Characters

Rosa Murphy—twin to Jake Murphy, sister to Ted Cramer, Gretchen and Charlie Murphy’s daughter

Jake Murphy—twin to Rosa Murphy, brother to Ted Cramer, Gretchen and Charlie Murphy’s son

Ted Cramer—brother to Rosa and Jake Murphy, son of Malcolm Cramer ‘Uncle Malcolm’

Grandma Mary—Rosa and Jake’s maternal grandmother

Hunter Harris—Congressman Jonathan Harris and Megan Harris son

Mike Swanson—best friend to Hunter, Abbey and Chip Swanson’s son

Isabella Swanson—Congressman Harris’s aide, Chip Swanson’s sister

Maria—Nanny hired to tour D.C. with Hunter

Shabir—Driver for the Harris family

Amanda—Congressman Harris’s girlfriend

Mr. and Mrs. Sweet—Murphy Grandparents neighbors and parents of Scarlet ‘Scout’, Cody, Sam, Max

Eva—waitress at The Bogota

Missy—hostess at The Bogota

Paco—Detective and friend to Charlie Murphy

Master Matt—owner of Gracie Tampa South

Courtney—university activist

Nikki—Rosa’s bunkmate and Jake’s Cryptozoology

Willard—Resident Assistant at Robinson High School

Professor Luger—Jake and Rosa’s Homeroom teacher

Ms. Fischer—Contemporary Social Issues teacher

Mr. Sylvia—Cryptozoology teacher and track coach

Synopsis

Cadre Kids begins with Jake, Rosa and Ted on summer vacation with their grandparents. The children’s experiences allows the reader to have a glimpse of the world Rosa and Jake know in absence of television and limited access to technology. Chapter one explains to the reader the unique dynamic of the Platoon Cramer-Murphy family. The reader also learns about the Twins, and get a glimpse of Ted’s struggle to understand bullying.

Chapters two and four introduces the protagonist to the family at multiple levels and contrasts the dynamics of the two families. In addition, it explains the dreaded Community Charter School Program which is the threat to homeschooling. This is a glimpse at the beginning of the the real crime—larceny.

The development of a shared dream to become YouTube celebrity ghost hunters develops with their summertime friends the Sweet children in chapter three. Chapter five and six dive into adventures around the videos they dare to create.

In Embalmed Beef, chapter seven, the entirety of Platoon Cramer-Murphy becomes active recording a ghost-hunting video. The reader experiences the full Cramer-Murphy Platoon for the first time. The fun is almost whisked away as their mother, always in teaching mode, makes sure to end the ghost-hunting video adventure with a pop quiz.

Tables are turned in chapter eight and nine as the teens’ mom, GTM, collides with Congressman Jonathan Harris. She learns the deck is stacked against her, but doesn’t understand how high. Can she teach her children the importance of the right to question the government while still sheltering her children from political drudgery.

In chapter ten, GTM grasps the extent of her grievance with the bill and the ramifications it has on all parents right to homeschool. Hoping her opposition to the bill becomes a lone voice, Congressman Harris puts his aide to work singling GTM out and embarrassing her. Extreme silencing measures are taken, but what is she really teaching her children if she retreats quiet and complies.

Chapter eleven explores the teen’s father’s approach enrolling the children in Jiu Jitsu to help them cope with their changing surroundings. Congressman Harris’s aide, Isabella, seizes an opportunity to perpetuate one last act of defiance, but it pushes Platoon Cramer-Murphy too far.

After a delicate balance examining the situation and as a family, Platoon Cramer-Murphy decides to fight for the ability to be heard about homeschooling. They not only become heard, bu their mother becomes national headlines. While at the same time in chapter thirteen, Mrs. Sweet teaches that sometimes you can do the wrong thing for the right reasons.

Chapter fourteen and fifteen discuss how the children must learn to endure. As the title of fourteen states, ‘When Nothing Goes Right, Go Left!’ No matter what happens good always struggles against bad. Not every battle is won. High school becomes the ultimate test of endurance for the children.

Learning Questions / Discussion Topics

Chapter 1

What is the difference between identical and fraternal twins?

What is the significance of Independence Hall and where is it located?

Name the six branches of the military?

What is the significance of the Liberty Bell and where is it located?

Who Fredrick Douglas?

Chapter 2

What is the current capital of the United States? Was it always Washington DC?

How many branches of government are there? 3

What are the two parts of the legislative branch?

How does a bill become a law?

Why is the House of Representatives considered the lower chamber?

Chapter 3

Where and when did the Brimmer massacre occur?

What does SUV stand for?

Chapter 4

What are lobbyists and how did the team come about?

Who was Malcolm X?

What does CCSP stand for?

Chapter 5

What is Surstromming?

What type of reptile is Scout afraid of?

What is a Tory?

Chapter 6

What is a dead ringer?

Who crossed chasing Hudson in 1776?

What does Jake call the tunnel and who has to explore it?

Wha does Coditell Rosa his mom’s number 1 lesson is?

Chapter 7

When was the Spanish American war?

What was the Embalmed beef scandal?

Who fought in the Spanish American war and later became President?

What two acts did he have enacted because of it?

What are the five things the first amendment ensures?

Chapter 8

What is Bogota the capital of? In the book, where in Tampa is the Bogota restaurant located?

What was the Abraham Maslow quote Sam’s father stated?

What is impressionist art?

What does Isabella hand Rosa at the Bogota? What does GTM haveRosa do instead?

Chapter 9

What is the grey bar hotel an analogy for?

Who is Paco?

Discussion topic- What movie does Paco first quote to Jake? Answer: Ferris Beuler’s Day Off.

Chapter 10

Who says, “There is only one Good—Knowledge and only one Evil—Ignorance?

What is a long form interview?

If strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, what would a weak mind discuss?

Chapter 11

What is the first thing the kids see when they walk into Gracie Tampa South?

What does Ted prefer being homeschooled?

What was Charlie supposed to do while GTM was being interviewed?

Chapter 12

Where did Jiu Jitsu originate?

What does MMA stand for?

What famous book does GTM originally hope the children will read?

Chapter 13

What is Letchworth Village?

What does Scout take home from Letchworth Village?

When did The Great Depression take place?

Chapter 14

Which states adopted the CCSP bill?

What program at Plant High School makes Abbey suggest switching the kids school to GTM?

When do Jake, Rosa and Ted have to report to school?

Chapter 15

What is the translation of Carpe Noctem?

Why are the children staying at Robinson High School?

What was Professor Luger’s prior profession?

What do the Murphy kids get on their first day of school?

Who wrote the Tell Tale Heart?

Discussion Topic: Could CCSP happen in the US?