

'Meteorite Strike'

by
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Teachers' Summary

This is a fast-moving thriller with a gripping plot involving alien viruses, superpowers, conspiracy and a world in which the roles of children and adults are suddenly confused.

Sarah and Robert are sure they are going to die when their aeroplane crashes over the Australian desert. But this is no ordinary air disaster. A meteorite strike has impacted on Earth, bringing with it a deadly alien disease. Thousands fall victim to the virus, falling into a deep coma. Luckily, Robert and Sarah appear to be unaffected - until they begin to exhibit some extraordinary superhuman side-effects. This quickly makes them a target for HIDRA, a rogue international agency determined to experiment on them like lab rats in an attempt to control their superpowers. Before long, the children are captured in HIDRA's secret desert HQ, a prison for superhuman kids who can control fire, create storms and tear steel with their minds. They must join forces if they are to escape HIDRA.

There are many learning opportunities throughout the novel:

- writing – character descriptions and fact files; storyboards; diary entries; posters about keeping safe; newspaper headlines and articles; interviews with crash survivors; interviews with children about their superpowers; different ways of communicating
- listening and talking – listening for information, debating and discussing, expressing ideas and feelings, respecting others' values and ideas
- science and social studies – finding out about Australia and its geographical features; meteors and meteorites; forms of communication; dust clouds and weather variations; desert conditions; viruses and their spread; reading maps; stars and constellations; senses; psychic powers; record breakers
- moral education - the rights and wrongs of certain behaviour
- IT - using search engines to locate information about Australia, meteorite strikes, red dust clouds, weather variations, viruses etc
- Drama techniques – still pictures, role play, conscience alley and circle of advice
- Art work exploring line, colour, pattern, texture and developing creative displays – with sand, interpreting weather etc.

An exciting class novel with some challenging vocabulary. However it is still simple enough for pupils to read on their own in class or at home.