

HAZYSCAPES 2

THE
MIRROR
PEOPLE



EDUCATION GUIDE



About this guide:

This education guide contains classroom discussion questions and extension activities to help teachers, librarians and parents help their students and children to consider and expand on the learning themes presented in *The Mirror People*. This guide will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts.



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About the book



THE MIRROR PEOPLE

ISBN: 9781948931441

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Guided Reading Level: X
Grade Level Equivalent: 6

LEARNING THEMES

- **Identity**
- **Chosen families**
- **Technology ethics**
- **Corporate ethics**

Confined to her high-tech Silicon Valley mansion by a rare, untreatable condition, Linnda Thomas has always suspected her life was stranger than most. And that was before her creepy doppelgänger started slinking around her bedroom. When this disturbing paranormal entity emerges from the shadows looking and sounding exactly like Linnda, the twelve-year-old is forced to unravel a mind-bending mystery that will forever transform her understanding of life itself.

About the author:

Kyle Sullivan is a writer and creative director based in Portland, OR. He holds an MA in English Literature from the University of British Columbia, and a BA in Creative Writing from the University of Washington. His works for children include the board book *Get Dressed, Sasquatch!*, the picture book *Hazel and the Spooky Season*, and the middle-grade *Krampus Confidential*.

Discussion Questions

1. On page 86, Linnda learns a secret that changes her life forever. Did you guess the big secret? If so, what were the clues that led you to your understanding? If you didn't guess, what clues can you identify in retrospect that hinted at Linnda's reality?

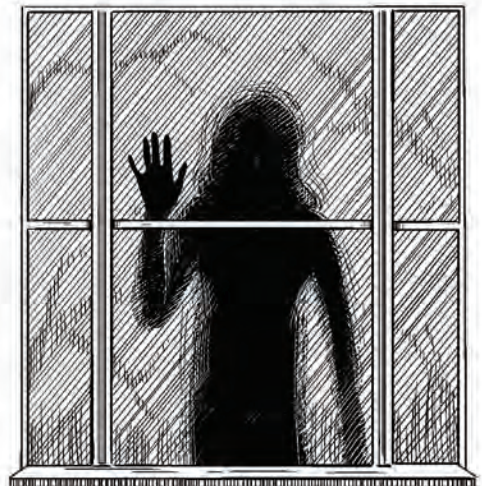
2. Given what we learn about Linnda's origin story, do you view her life differently than you would that of a human? Why or why not?

3. With the previous question in mind, how do you view the following aspects of Linnda's existence as being different or similar to that of a human?:

- Free will
 - Civil rights
 - Family
 - Emotions
-

4. Later in the book, we learn that Conor's employees are androids instead of humans. How does Conor explain this decision? Do you find Conor's "employment" of androids instead of humans to be an ethical decision?

5. Given Linnda's life confined to her mansion, why does it make sense that she loves Gothic stories and literature?



Discussion Questions

6. Over the course of the story, how do your feelings evolve regarding Linnda’s mom? How do the events of the story change your feelings of empathy for the character?
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7. What are Roz’s motivations for putting herself in danger to help Linnda, Linn, Melinnda? Would you do the same if you were in her position?
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8. Linnda’s, Linn’s, and Melinnda’s android existence comes with a variety of benefits in comparison to a human’s existence. Consider the benefits of their existence, and then consider the benefits of being human compared to the androids. Comparing the lists, which type of existence would you prefer?
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9. A “cliffhanger” is when a story or a part of story ends with the reader not knowing what will happen next. *The Mirror People* ends a cliffhanger with the reader not knowing what will happen after the androids walk into the San Francisco Bay. What do you think happens next? What is it like for them at the bottom of the bay? What kind of lives will they lead when they surface once again?

Extension Activities

1. Choose one of the android girls (Linn, Linnda, or Melinnda) and choose one of the adults (Linnda’s mom, Conor Wunderlich, or Roz). Write a paragraph from each of the two chosen characters’ perspectives that answers the following question: What do you want your life to be like in ten years? Make sure that each paragraph pays special attention to the differences in the characters’ styles, tones, and diction (i.e., word choice).

Language

CCSS.ELA.-Literacy.L.6.3.B

Maintain consistency in style and tone

2. Split the class into pairs and then assign each pair to adopt one of these four perspectives.

Pro: Creating humanoid androids like Linnda	Anti: Creating humanoid androids like Linnda
Pro: Humans colonizing Mars	Anti: Humans colonizing Mars

Ask the pairs to work together to design an argument in support of their adopted perspective. Ask each pair to present their argument to the class, and ask each class member to decide whose argument was more persuasive by delineating the speakers’ arguments and specific claims, and distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

Speaking & Listening

CCSS.ELA.-Literacy.SL.6.3

Delineate a speaker’s argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

Extension Activities

3. Check out a book (or find an article) from your school library or a community library that explores the ethics of artificial intelligence. Write an essay discussing Linnda’s experience and/or Conor Wunderlich’s decisions and company with what you learn from your book or article. Explain how what you learned in your book or article may have affected your feelings regarding *The Mirror People*.

Writing

CCSS.ELA.-Literacy.W.6.9.A

Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”).

4. Linnda’s perspective changes as she learns more about her existence. Read back through the book and record the moments when you see Linnda’s perspective and emotions changing in relation to the facts of her life.

Reading: Literature

CCSS.ELA.-Literacy.RL.6.6

Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

5. The book ends on a cliffhanger, with the central conflict not fully resolved. Although we know that Linn, Linnda, and Melinnda are safe for the moment, their existences are still in danger with Conor Wunderlich likely on the hunt. Pretend you’ve been hired by Hazy Dell Press to write one more chapter of this book. Write a draft of this chapter that describes what happens directly after this book ends. What happens when the girls surface? Who do they encounter along the way? Be sure to use dialogue and description to make the feelings and experiences of the group tangible for your reader.

Writing

CCSS.ELA.-Literacy.W.6.3.B

Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.