



Jaden Toussaint, **The Greatest** Episode 2

THE LADEK

INVASION

STORY COMPANION GUIDE





Giant Afro - Even Bigger Brain

This story companion guide was developed to assist adults in getting the most out of early reader story time, by offering questions and activities that help to build fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Readers are prompted to extract and recall key ideas and details. They explore the craft and structure of the story, and are encouraged to integrate knowledge and ideas.

In this episode, Jaden Toussaint, 5 year-old scientist and all around cool dude, must save his school from a (possible) alien invasion. His only weapons are science, ninja dancing, and the super-powered brain power of his seriously awesome group of friends. Can Jaden Toussaint and his crew come up with a plan that doesn't involve (dunh-dunh-dunh...) the EXTERMINATOR?

!! GETTING PREPARED FOR THE LADEK INVASION

Looking at the title and the cover and table of contents, what do you think the story will be about? What do you think a **LADEK** is? Imagine what a ladek invasion might be like. Take another look around JT's room. What more do we learn about our hero?



Observations

TAKE NOTES IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

To encourage active reading with a purpose, give readers things to search for in their reading. For Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest Episode 2, tell your reader: "Here's your mission: write down any new word

you come across in your word box. Notice any ideas or phrases that get repeated. Also make note of the different problems JT encounters. Later ask: Were they resolved? If so, how?

Even if your children are motivated to read, supporting them with a variety of ways and options will keep the momentum going. Active reading helps the reader engage with the content to understand purpose and learn key concepts. Have your reader pay attention to the extra details and information that can be gathered from the illustrations. What can you see, hear and touch in the story? Stop at points and ask: "What do think will happen next?"



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SEASON?

Chart what we like about each season. Chart your least favorite thing about each season. Do the pros outweigh the cons? Based on the chart, what's the best season?



THIS REMINDS ME OF A TIME

Making connections from text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-world helps children remember information. Model saying "This reminds me of a time." Have readers think of similar books, life experiences or things they've learned.



STOP! 3 MINUTE DANCE PARTY

It's the perfect way to kick your brain into top gear! JT's friends have added some super cool moves! Stand up and try them. Do you have some sweet new moves to share? What do you call them?



LOOKING AT THE DATA

Kicking our brains into gear to solve a stubborn problem!

After your 3-minute dance party and before page 43, look at the Epilogue. Discuss the information JT collected and research done by his friends. How would you keep the playground safe for children and caterpillars? Why will this work?

Feeling finder:

Stop whenever JT is expressing an emotion or feeling. Why is he feeling that way? How do we know? Have you felt that way? What did you do?

Fact or fiction:

What facts do we learn about Dr. Hoooo? And the ladeks? Are these historical or fictional figures? How do we know?

Who are the characters in this book?
How are they alike and different from JT?
● Which character is most like you?

- How are they like you?
- How are they different than you?
- Who had the best "polar bear armor" – ummm coat? Why do you think that?
- How were the grownups helpful in this episode?

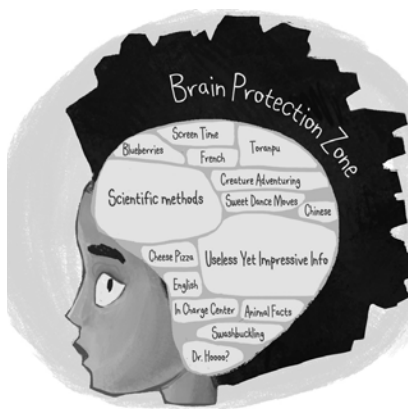
Ask your reader to retell the story. Who was telling the story? Where did the story take place? What were the main events? {When recalling key events, encourage the use of key words such as: FIRST, NEXT, THEN, LAST, AFTER THAT, and FINALLY.} What did you learn from the story? From your notes: What phrase or idea was repeated? What do you think about the methods JT tried to solve his problem?

O ur hero, JT, IS the greatest, but he's still learning

Tell me about the character, JT. Talk about what's on the outside and what's on the inside. What obstacles did he overcome? – "At the beginning of the story, JT _____. Then, _____. Now, JT _____".

W hat was the big idea of the story?

What was this story mostly about? What was JT's problem? How did his methods to solve his problems work out? What happened in the end?



THINK LIKE AN INVENTOR:

Be curious. Be creative. Make mistakes. Never stop learning!

The scientific method can be used to study and learn, whether or not it's a scientific topic. It simply helps children come up with answers. It starts with an observation that leads to a question. Then, the child develops a hypothesis or prediction. They test their ideas, record the results and draw conclusions. How does JT use this method to get more save the playground from the ladek invasion? What problem can you use it for?

Have your reader try these strategies for building reading comprehension: **Make predictions:** Keep children interested and engaged asking them to infer what will happen. ("Looking at the pictures, chapter headings, etc. what is the book about?") **Visualize:** Create pictures in their minds to go with the words. **Ask & Answer Questions:** This helps identify confusing texts

and vocabulary. **Retell & summarize:** Putting the story into children's own words clarifies language issues, highlights main ideas vs. supporting details, and encourages remembering the complete story. **Connect the text to life experiences, other texts or prior knowledge:** Helps readers to personalize and retain information.



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