

THE **MINOR** MIRACLE

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF NOAH MINOR



WRITTEN BY
MEREDITH DAVIS

ILLUSTRATED BY
BILLY YONG

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Minor Miracle is the first book in *The Amazing Adventures of Noah Minor*, a middle-grade adventure series featuring a superhero meets secret agent mash-up in a modern-day school setting. The story is filled with superpowers, the CIA, the Macy's Day Parade, and a touch of humor, science, mystery, and more!

Themes: Superheroes and Spies, Friendship, Adventure, Family and Relationships, Self-Esteem, Making Choices

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Meredith Davis is a wife, mother, and grandmother living in Austin, Texas. She is the founder of the Austin chapter of the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators and holds an MFA in writing for children and young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her first book, *Her Own Two Feet*, which she co-authored with Rebeka Uwitonze, earned a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, was a Junior Library Guild selection, a nominee for the NAACP Image Award, and *World Magazine's* Children's Book of the Year for nonfiction.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- *The Minor Miracle* references a comic book quote, "With great power there must also come—great responsibility." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What real-world examples show how power and responsibility go hand in hand?
- In response to Noah's unusual power, which he calls 'The Cling,' Uncle Saul encourages Noah in Chapter 3, saying, "The things that make you different, even make you suffer, can be your greatest strengths." What makes you different? Has it made things hard for you? How has it been good for you?
- Noah took longer than expected to progress in his gravitar training. In Chapter 7, his good friend Haley encouraged him to "be patient and trust the process." Think of a time when you had to learn something new. What was it like? What did you like or dislike about the process?
- Rodney's favorite musician is Dizzy Gillespie, an American jazz trumpeter. Who is someone famous or important that you look up to? Why?
- What are some ways you relate to the Gravitas trainees in the book—Noah, Haley, Dawson, Olivia, or Phillip?
- Noah and his friend Rodney named Chuck Gallusky, their eighth-grade school bully, 'The Tormentor.' Do you consider bullying a severe problem in your community? Why or why not?
- Bullying is unkind and unacceptable. Have you been bullied or tried to help someone who is bullied? What happened?
- *The Minor Miracle* includes strong themes of friendship and loyalty. Friendships can be challenging and complicated. How does the book illustrate these ideas?
- Noah broke Gravitas' rules by using his powers on Chuck at school. Evaluate Noah's actions. How else could Noah have defended his friends?
- Friends like Haley and Rodney supported Noah and stood by him through good and bad times. What are some of the ways you can be a good friend to others?
- The book describes Gravitas as an organization that protects and defends all that is true, good, and beautiful. What are some things that are 'true, good, and beautiful' to you? How can you protect and defend them?





**DRAW
YOURSELF
DEFYING
GRAVITY!**



**WELCOME TO
GRAVITAS!**

AGENT _____

DESIGN YOUR ALIGNMENT MEDAL



WHAT WILL YOU PROTECT AND DEFEND?

**NOAH'S SUPERHERO NICKNAME IS
"THE MINOR MIRACLE."
WHAT'S YOURS?**



LET'S TALK ABOUT **ONOMATOPOEIA**

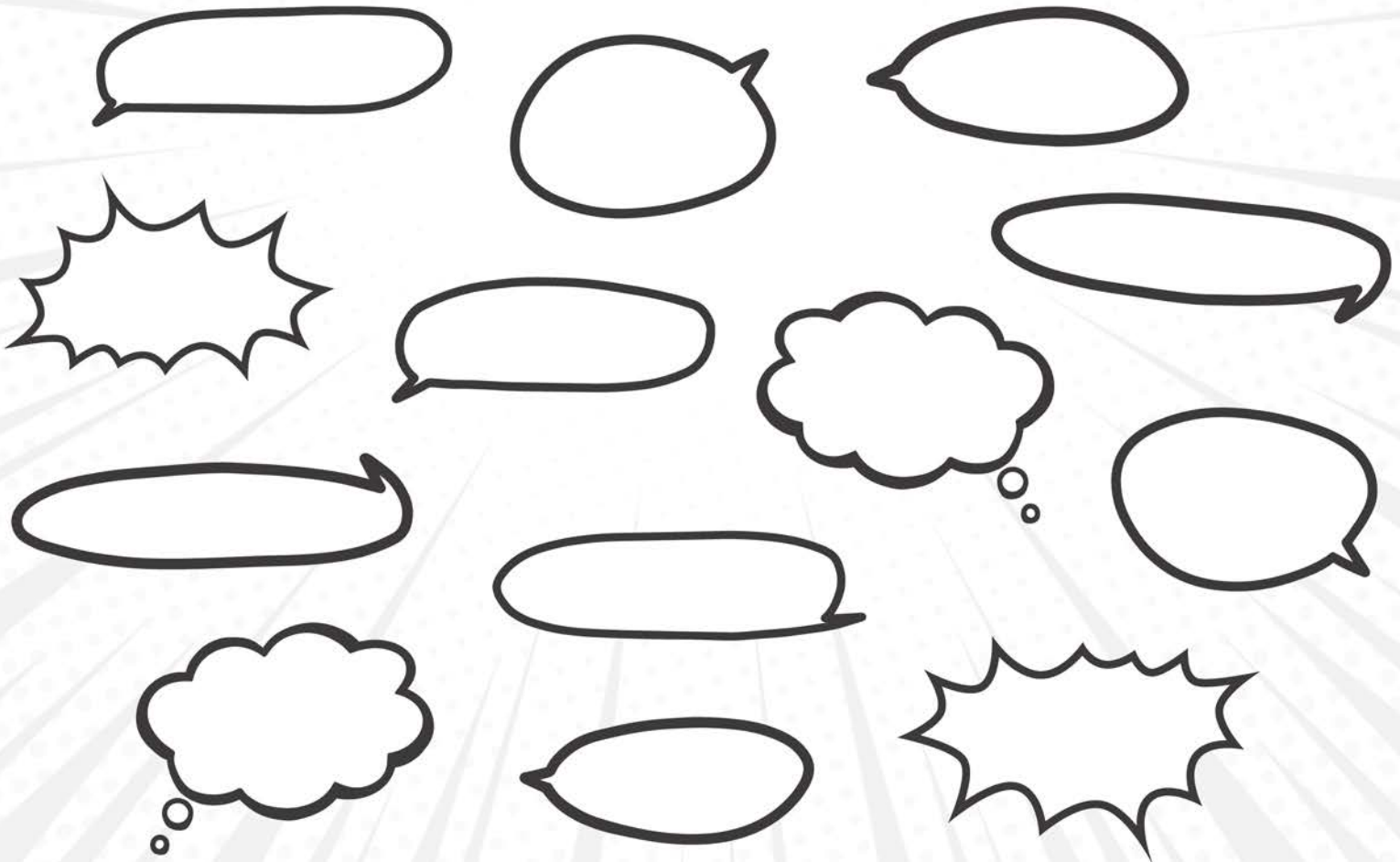
SLAM!

OOF!

BOOM!

Onomatopoeia is a figure of speech referring to words that sound the same as their meaning.

The Minor Miracle has many examples of onomatopoeia. List the words in the speech bubbles below, or create your own.



PRAISE FOR THE MINOR MIRACLE

"THE MINOR MIRACLE HAS EVERYTHING! SUPERHEROES, BAD GUYS, EPIC TRUMPET SOLOS, SLAM DUNKS, AND HILARIOUS HIJINKS GALORE. IT WILL MAKE YOUR HEART ZING!"

—Max Brallier, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Kids on Earth*

"THE MINOR MIRACLE IS MAJOR FUN! NOAH AND HIS SUPER CREW MAY STRETCH THE LAWS OF PHYSICS WITH THEIR FANTASTIC FEATS, BUT IT'S THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT GIVE THIS STORY ITS TRUE POWER. YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF ROOTING FOR NOAH—AND LAUGHING OUT LOUD—ALL THE WAY!"

—Christina Soontornvat, bestselling author of *The Tryout*

"A FRESH, FUN, AND FANTASTIC TAKE ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SUPERHERO!"

—Cynthia Leitich Smith, author of *Ancestor Approved* and *Sisters of the Neversea*

"WE MIGHT THINK WE KNOW ALL ABOUT SUPERHEROES, BUT MEREDITH DAVIS, IN HER DEBUT NOVEL, GIVES US A SPECTACULAR NEW ONE—NOAH MINOR. IN A PLOT FILLED WITH TWISTS AND TURNS, READERS WILL DISCOVER THE SAME THING NOAH DOES—THAT SUPERHEROISM ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT SAVING THE WORLD USING EXTRAORDINARY POWERS. SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT SAVING YOUR BEST FRIENDS, AND THAT REQUIRES THE MOST AMAZING POWER OF ALL: LOVE. THAT ALONE IS A MIRACLE."

—Kathi Appelt, Newbery Honoree and National Book Award finalist

"THIS IS A FAST-PACED, FUN LITTLE STORY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS. IT RAISES SOME INTERESTING 'WHAT WOULD YOU DO?' QUESTIONS FOR KIDS CONCERNING THE USE OF SPECIAL ABILITIES, SERVICE TO OTHERS, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND FRIENDSHIP."

—PluggedIn

"HUMOR, HEART, AND SUPER HEROICS—ALONG WITH SOME GREAT LIFE LESSONS—AWAIT YOUNG READERS."

—Reading Is My Superpower

"A FUN ADVENTURE STORY READERS WON'T WANT TO PUT DOWN!"

—Kids Bookshelf

"THIS IS AN ENTERTAINING STORY OF GROWING UP WITH SUPERPOWERS AND MAKING GOOD CHOICES."

—Imagination Soup

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