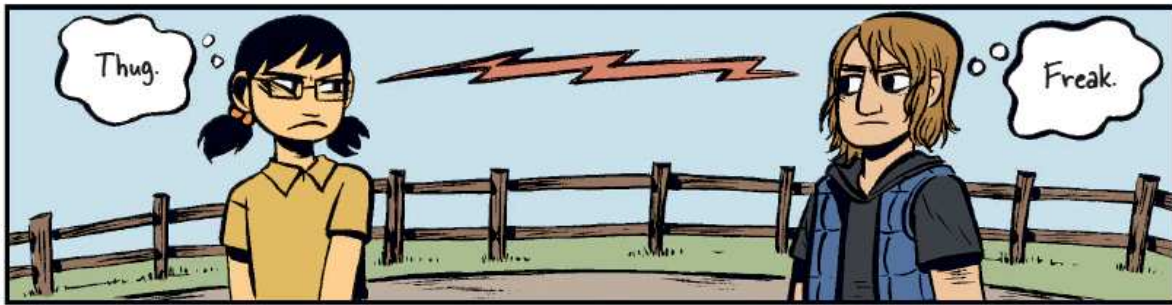


BRAIN CAMP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Book Description

Brain Camp is a graphic novel written by Susan Kim and Laurence Klavan and illustrated by Faith Erin Hicks. It tells the story of two kids whose summer camp turns out to be a lot stranger than they'd expected.



For Discussion

Brain Camp is a graphic novel, a story told with words and pictures. How do you think this story would be different if it was a novel, told with only words? Or a movie, with no written text at all?

At the start of the book, both Jenna and Lucas' parents feel that their children should be achieving more. From what you know of Jenna and Lucas' lives, what do you think?

If your parents had sent you to Camp Fielding, do you think you would have figured out what was going on?

On page 128, Jenna and Lucas realize that their parents have known what was going on at the camp the whole time. What would prompt their parents to go along with the camp's plans? Did they think they were doing what's best for their children? Or acting purely selfishly?

Think about the events of this story from the perspective of the purple bird-alien. Do you feel sympathetic for him at all? What do you think will happen to him and his species?

There are a number of adult characters in *Brain Camp*, but few (if any) of them are portrayed as 'good guys.' Pick one of the following characters and think about their perspective. Could their actions be perceived as positive? Jenna's parents; Lucas' mom; Don Fielding; Tracy Vanderheaven; Hal Braymin.

At the end of *Brain Camp*, it is clear that the threat of bird-alien invasion is not yet over, and Jenna and Lucas are prepared. If you knew that the earth was going to be invaded by aliens, how would you prepare? How would you convince people that this is something that needs to be taken seriously?