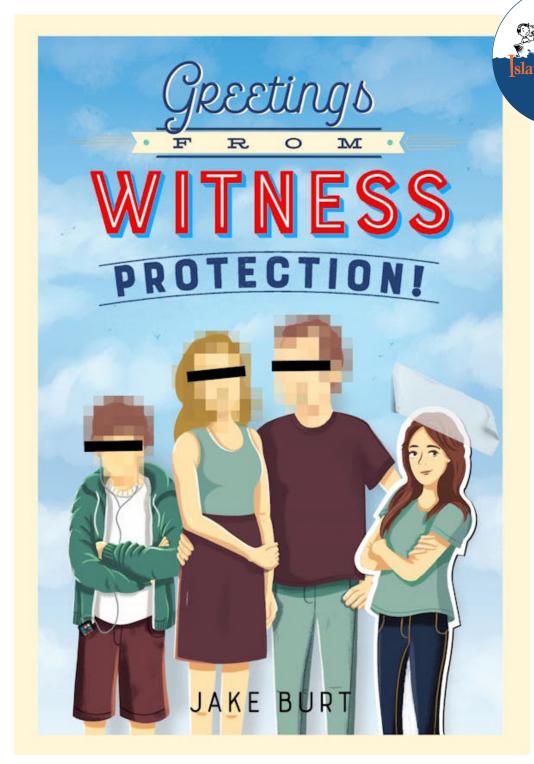


### **Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!**



#### **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Alison Johnson at IRW, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

## EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Getting Started: BEFORE reading the book!

Interested in a guided session with a trained facilitator in the Visual Thinking Strategies process?

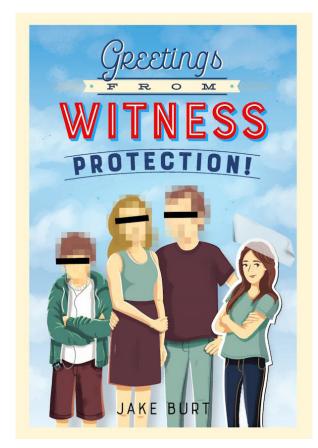


Please contact
Alison Johnson at IRW:
207-460-6828 or email.

### What is Visual Thinking Strategies?



Watch this <u>video</u> to learn more about VTS.



Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

If virtual, ask your students to summarize (or you paraphrase if synchronous) their ideas in short notes in a Google Doc or other format (Padlet, etc.) Build on the group ideas and communal knowledge during your discussion.

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)
- What more can we find?

## STANDARDS Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

- SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.
- SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.
- SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.
- R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.
- R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.
- R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
- R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.
- R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

### **EXPLORE GUIDE**



Jake Burt loves writing so much that when he's not telling tales for middle grade readers, he's writing the news for them.

You might say he's a little obsessed. In fact, if you thought of Jake as a one-dimensional guy who ate, breathed, and dreamed stories, he'd be fine with that.

Learn more about Jake HERE.

### **LET'S TALK!** Discussion Questions

- 1. Nicki had to choose her new name but she had some parameters to think about when making her decision. Taking her instructions into consideration, what name would you choose if you were in her place and why?
- 2. Why did Charlotte (Nicki) steal the ring from Harriet? Why doesn't she give it back?
- 3. When Britt gets bullied, Charlotte comes to her rescue. On p 150 she asks if Nicki would have handled it differently. What do you think? Would Nicki be the same nice kid as Charlotte? Would you?
- 4. Page 196 ends with Charlotte saying, "...I'm finally not the only orphan in the library without a tale to tell." What does she mean by this?
- 5. Charlotte and Jackson have to redo their "B" grade homework for their parents and turn it into an "A". Do you think this would be hard or easy after doing it the first time? Why do you think they are upset about this?
- 6. What does it mean to be "seen". Read page 257 where Brit is sharing how she doesn't feel seen but Nikki actually sees her. Discuss with your peers. Has anyone ever felt like Brit did?

# Rules

(The U.S. Witness Security Program)

Maintain a B-minus

personality, clean moderate appearance, stay boring social media or online presence

Happy family, respectful, caring front in public

### **LET'S CREATE!** Book-Inspired Art

1. What if you had \$1000 to spend on anything? Make a shopping list like Nikki did on page 125. What would you put on your list if all you had were the clothes on your back? Choose the 5 most important things on that list for Nikki. What would your 5 be? Can you illustrate your list?





2. CREATE A FREEZE FRAME from a scene in the book. Select and re-read the scene and assign roles. Discuss how you will go about it. You can add props if it helps but don't get overly complicated. Once you are all ready, have someone call "scene."

#### 3. LEARN HOW TO PLAY CRIBBAGE!

Research the game and find out when it was created, by whom, and where. Why is it called "cribbage?". Make your own cribbage board. Use cardboard and create a personalized design. What can you use for pegs? Designs can be anything, a number, name, baseball diamond, mountain... Here are some <u>IDEAS</u>.







- 4. Make an "essential foods" snack: Dried mangoes dipped in peanut butter are called "essential foods" in the book but that's a pretty odd snack. Can you come up with other strange combos for snacks? Host an *oddly essential foods* tasting session with your friends. Try substituting chocolate hummus for peanut butter!
- 5. Find new words using the letters in: *Ms. Fancypaws McKittenfluff.* How many words can you come up with? Set a timer and make this a competition!
- 6. Draw or paint a fantasy garden like Mr. Jordanson has them do in "art class". "Halla has drawn trees coming from the ceiling, a baseball bat growing out of a pot, and some sort of viney monstrosity." Add things you like to do in your own make-believe garden.



### **LET'S DIVE DEEPER!** Explore More

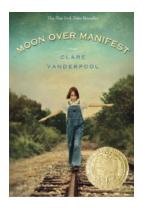
- 1. Another **GUIDE** for this book put together by the State Library of Louisiana.
- 2. WATCH a CIA Operative Explains How Spies Use Disguises.

### **READ MORE!** Text to Text Connections



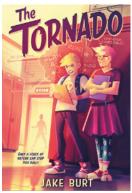


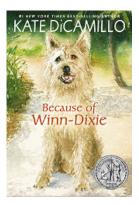












cut & use me as a bookmark!

## The 5 Rules of WITSEC

- 1. No crimes
- 2. Maintain a B-minus
- 3. No social media or online presence
- 4. No personality, clean moderate appearance, stay boring
- 5. Happy family, respectful, caring front in public