

Discussion Guide for *Just Watch Me* by Erin Silver



Twelve-year-old Simon Rosen has qualified for the Canadian Video Game Championships in Vancouver. His parents agree to take him if he can get straight As in school. Simon is sure this trip is exactly what his parents need to fall in love again.

Unfortunately, Simon is enrolled in Technology, and the class isn't what he expected. Instead of building robots, it's a social media course! To get an A, he needs to create "engaging content" on his own live-streaming VideoKids channel. Simon accidentally streams one embarrassing video after another. Nothing goes right!

The pressure mounts when it's announced that only one student will get an A, pitting Simon against his best friend Joceyln, who also needs an A. Things get worse when he has to confront two bullies who are out to get him. In this hilarious story about growing up in the social media era, one thing is for sure: Simon is in for the toughest semester of his life.

Just Watch Me

AUTHOR: Erin Silver

Common Deer Press • 134 pages

TYPE OF ACTIVITY: Individual work and class discussion

LEVEL: Grade 5 and up

SUBJECT: English

CATEGORY: Juvenile fiction; Technology; Family/Marriage & Divorce; Friendship; Bullying; Diversity & Multicultural



Start the activity with a quick discussion:

1. Look at the cover art. What do you think the book is about?
2. Who do you think is the target audience?
3. What do you like about the cover? Explain your answer.

Talk about the students' thoughts on Just Watch Me:

1. As you continue on in the book, do you find you relate to any of the characters? Name some things you have in common with this person. What are some differences?
2. Who is your favourite character? Why is that?
3. If you could go to one competition, what would it be and why?
4. Have you ever made a vlog (video blog)? If you haven't, do you want to? Explain your answer.
5. What is your favourite scene in the book? Explain why.



Name:

Date:

After reading the first chapter, what do we know about Simon Rosen, the main character? What's motivating him to get an A in Tech class? What challenges does he face? (There are several!)

Social media can be a great tool, but it also has its challenges. How do you use social media at home? In school? In your experience, what are some of the benefits and dangers of these sites and apps? What are some tips you have for keeping safe online?



Bullying is often discussed in elementary and middle schools. It can take many forms, including online. Have you discussed bullying in class? Do you have any experience with online bullying or bullying in school? How did you deal with it? What advice would you give Simon for coping with the Mendelson twins?

4/5 JUST WATCH ME • DISCUSSION GUIDE

Name:

Date:

Do you have any experience with divorce? What have you learned from these experiences, whether they are your own or based on the experiences of friends?



Meg is a big comfort for Simon, and he loves his golden retriever more than anything. Is there something that brings you comfort? Maybe writing in a diary, drawing, a special pet or even a

friend or grandparent?

Jocelyn is a strong girl who isn't afraid to stick up for her friends. Why do you think she's drawn to MMA? Why does she believe she needs the A in Tech class more than Simon? Can you relate to her experience?

Name:

Date:

Simon and Jocelyn end up in a big fight. Why were they angry at each other? Can you see things from both their points of view? Have you ever had an argument with a friend? How did it make you feel? How did you resolve it?

Even though Simon ends up in the hospital and his parents separate, he learned a lot along the way. What are some of the things he learned? How did he grow and develop throughout the book? What were some of the positive things that came out of his experience?

If you could write a different ending for this story, what would you change and why?
