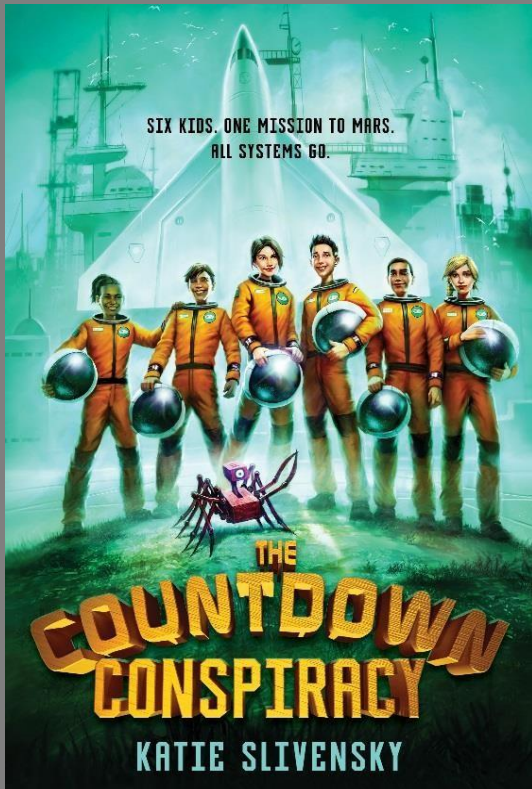


The Countdown Conspiracy: *Discussion Guide*



The Countdown Conspiracy is an action-packed, STEM-focused novel for readers Grade 3 and up that takes place in a fictional, not-too-distant future. This Discussion Guide will help readers focus their questions and thoughts after this high-adrenaline, page-turning read.

Story themes:

- Working as a team.
- Never giving up.
- Believing in yourself.
- Making hard choices.
- Having a problem-solving mindset.

Questions for Readers:

- Would you be interested in applying for the Destined for Mars Program? Why or why not?
- If you were selected to go, what role would you want to play on a mission to Mars?
- Would you stay in the program after multiple scary messages and attacks, like Miranda did? Why do you think Miranda stayed?
- How does Miranda's confidence change through the story? Who impacts it along the way?

Questions for Readers, Cont'd:

- What qualities do each of the six crew members have that help them on their mission?
- Which cadet do you relate to the most?
- Which cadet did your opinion change about the most throughout the story? Did any of them surprise you?
- Do you think Miranda got chosen for the mission on her own merit? Does it matter? Why or why not?
- Were you surprised to learn who was behind the attacks and why they did what they did? What clues helped you guess who it was?
- Miranda makes a major sacrifice near the end of the book. Would you have done the same?
- What do you think the epilogue means?



STEM Connections:

- Physical Science (Forces, Motion)
- Engineering/Technology
- Earth Science (Astronomy)
- Programming

For related activities, visit:

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