

BESTSELLING SERIES
FROM THE #1
INTERNATIONAL
AUTHOR

FANG

BY JAMES PATTERSON



Thematic connections

- ❖ Family
- ❖ Loyalty
- ❖ Betrayal

All Ages

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask students to join the flock by signing up on the following website:
<http://jointheflock.maximumride.com/experiment/index.html>

Students can design their own bird-kid and join the flock.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. After seeing Dr. Gunther-Hagen's demonstrations on pages 51-56, why is Max so quick to dismiss the doctor's offer to ensure the survival of humankind and to help her in her mission to save the world? What does Max see in the doctor that she does not trust?
2. How does Dylan's entry into the flock affect the dynamics of the group? Why are Fang and Max so unwilling to accept him? What does Dylan add to the flock? What does Dylan hope to gain from the flock?
3. Why does Jeb return? What do you think he hopes to gain? How does his presence help or hinder the flock?
4. What is behind Angel's desire to be the leader of the flock? How does Max respond to being voted out as leader? How does Fang help Max through the pain of being ousted?
5. Once Angel is leader she says, "Maybe living is more important than surviving" (page 194). What decisions does Angel make to justify this statement?
6. How does Max prove her true love and loyalty to the flock? How does the flock respond to Max?
7. In the final fight, why does Max ask Dylan not to kill the doctor? Why do you think Dylan sticks the syringe into his own arm?



CROSS CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

Geography

As the flock flies over Africa, they discuss the names of the countries and how the countries acquired them as well as the biomes of the various countries in the continent. Ask students to find a partner and select one of the countries in Africa to research. Each pair of students should discover the reason behind the country's name and the major biome and report back to the class. Have students post findings on a large classroom map display.

Science

The science of cloning, robotics, and stem cell research opens doors to a wide variety of possibilities for medical discoveries and applications. While Dr. Gunther-Hagen's theories and applications are fictional, is there a basis of sound science behind them? Ask students to work in small groups to investigate the real life possibilities of research and application in the areas of cloning, robotics, and stem cell research. Students can answer questions about the projected time frame for possible applications and inventions, current successes of testing, and the actual use of cloning, robotics, and stem cell research in other countries. Have each group publish and present a science newsletter of their findings.

English

Fang's final letter to Max is heart-felt, and the rationale he gives for leaving the flock is sound, but the rationale doesn't make it easier for the flock to lose him. Working in small groups, ask students to select one member of the flock and to assume the voice of that character. Have students create a scrapbook collection of pages for Fang. Include personal letters, poems, thank you notes, diary entries, illustrations, and highlights of their time together; all expressing their feelings for Fang and what his decision to leave means to them. Bind the pages into a scrapbook for Fang.

Media

The media has a field day when the bird-kids appear anywhere because of their popularity with the masses. In small groups ask students to plan a media blitz using the Internet, TV, radio, and newspaper reports and ads for

a flock appearance to bring attention to and raise funds for CSM's humanitarian relief mission in Africa. Each group should write and illustrate the reports to be released and the ads to be published. The campaigns should be posted on tri-fold boards, presented to the class, then displayed in the school library.

Thematic Connections

Family – The flock as a family unit is threatened by the arrival of Dylan, the sudden exit of Max voted out as leader, and the permanent departure of Fang. Now a broken family, the flock will have to learn how to function as a whole again. Based on past knowledge, who will bring them together? How will they cope without Fang? How will trust be rebuilt between Angel and Max?

Loyalty – Max proves her loyalty to the flock by supporting them even after they voted for her to leave and start her own flock. What does this say about Max's character and her leadership qualities? Why does Fang stand by her side through this trial?

Betrayal – Angel betrays the flock by secretly working with Dr. Gunther-Hagen and putting the flock in danger by having them work in public. Why is the flock so willing to follow her? Why does Angel betray Max and the flock? How is Angel proven to be wrong in the decisions she has made?

INTERNET RESOURCES

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/pros-and-cons-of-cloning.html>

Pros and Cons of Cloning

<http://www.yenra.com/pros-and-cons-of-human-cloning/>
Pros and Cons of Cloning / Stem Cell Research

<http://stemcells.nih.gov/>

Information about Stem Cell and recent research reports

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLA8eC6hjmjg>
Animation of DNA repair

<http://www.newscientist.com/topic/robots>
News reports on robots and their value

about the book



Fang

978-0-316-03619-1 HC

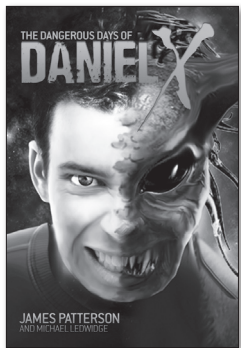
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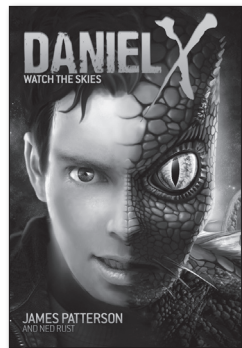
Finally, the flock has their own safe house in the mountains of Colorado where they can come and go as they please with no fear of being hunted. Or so they think, until they choose to participate in a humanitarian relief mission. Their first day in Chad, Max has an altercation with the evil scientist Dr. Hans Gunther-Hagen who is working with Dr. Chu, a former nemesis of the flock. Max and the flock return home determined to research all they can on the evil doctor and his newly created bird-kid, Dylan. But chaos erupts upon the flock's return: Angel's prediction of Fang's impending death causes Max to panic, Max and Fang's romance heats up stirring the flock's resentment, Dylan and Jeb join them at the safe house, and Max is overthrown by Angel. When Angel defects to join with the evil Dr. Gunther-Hagen, the flock is left in an extremely vulnerable state. As the Erasers return to try to kill them all, Fang is forced to make a decision that will forever affect the flock.

also from James Patterson



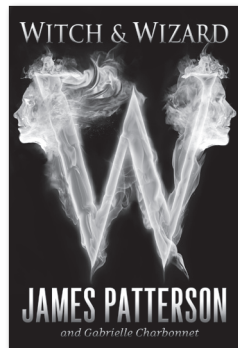
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Daniel X: Watch the Skies

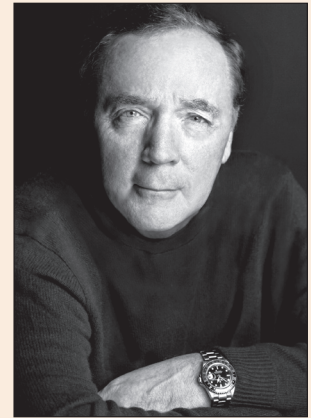
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Witch & Wizard

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about the author



The subject of a recent *Time* magazine feature called, "The Man Who Can't Miss," James Patterson is the bestselling author of the past year, bar none, with more than 12 million books sold in North America alone. In total, James' books have sold an estimated 130 million copies worldwide. He is the first author to have #1 new titles simultaneously on the *New York Times* adult and children's lists and is the only author to have five new hardcover novels debut at #1 on the list in one year — a record-breaking feat he accomplished twice — in 2005 and 2006.



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