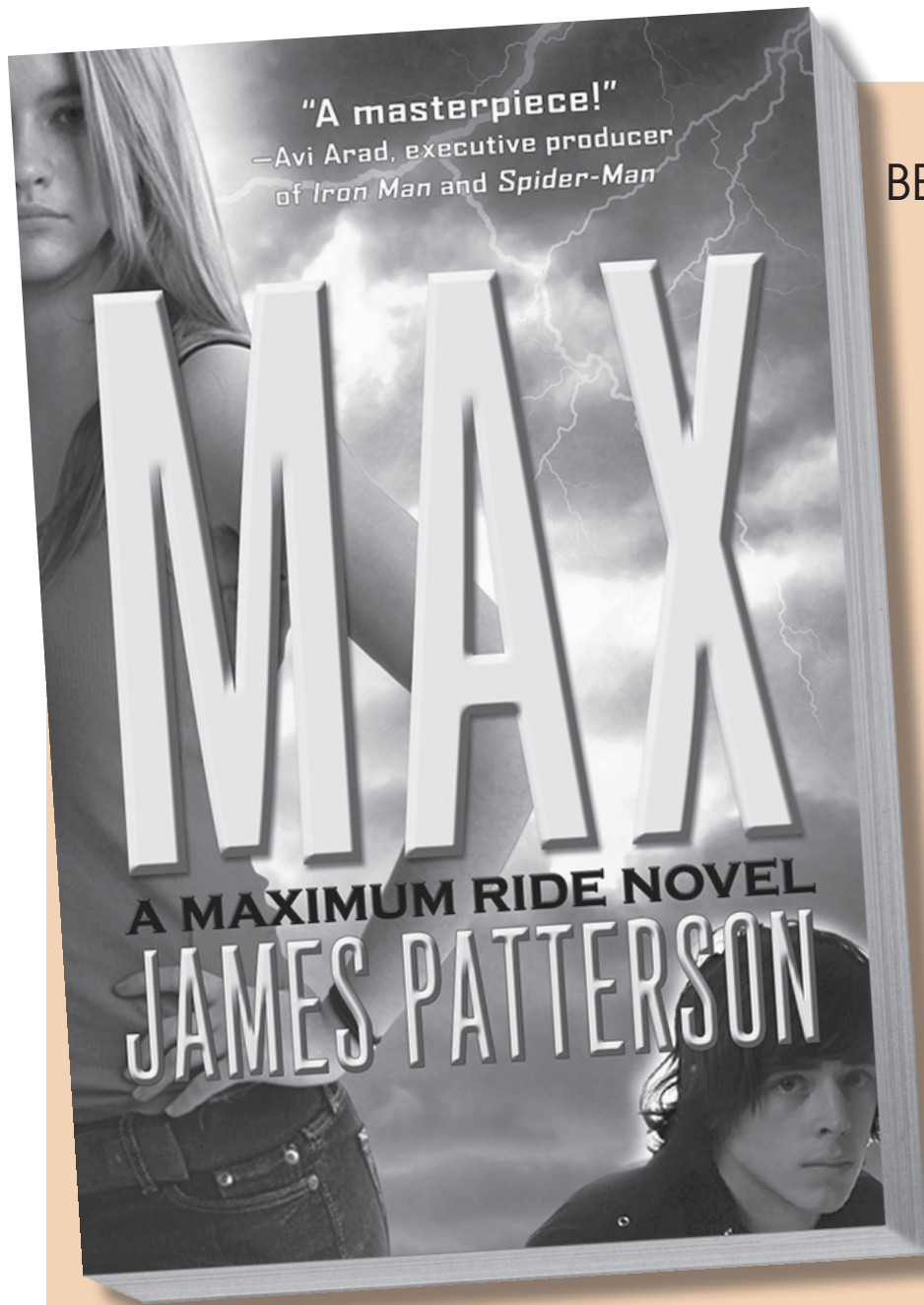


# MAXIMUM RIDE

## MAX



BESTSELLING SERIES FROM  
THE #1 INTERNATIONAL  
AUTHOR

### Thematic connections

- ✦ Responsibility
- ✦ Family
- ✦ Loyalty

All Ages

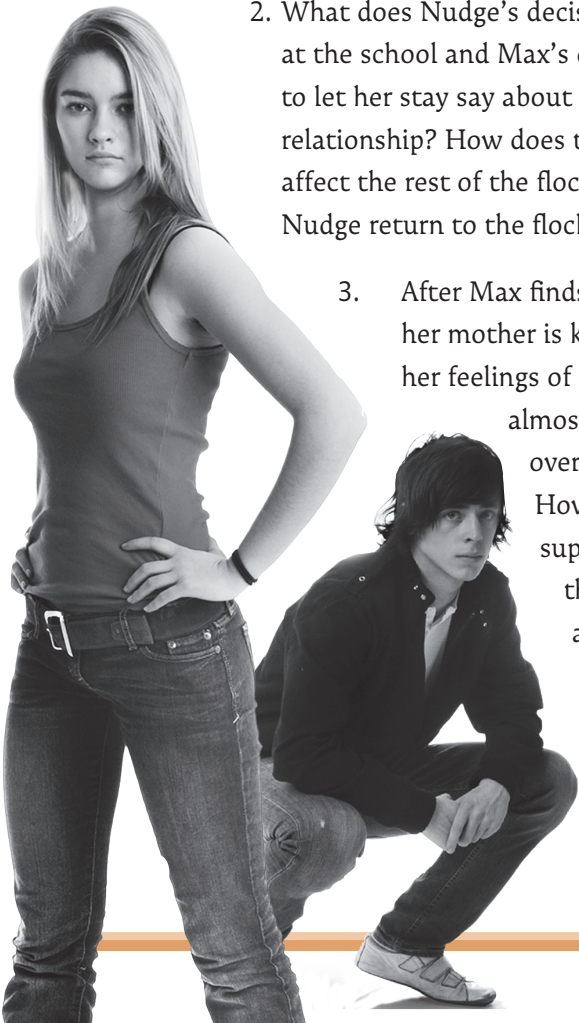
BY  
JAMES  
PATTERSON

## PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Being on a submarine makes the flock, especially Max, anxious and uncomfortable. Divide the class into three groups. Ask one group of students to investigate submarines typical of the *USS Minnesota* to determine what the interior would look like. The second group can determine how an air pressure lock chamber works. And the final group of students can research the type of smaller, investigative submarine used on a large submarine and how such a craft would be launched. Have each group report to the class using visual aids.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *MAXIMUM RIDE: MAX*

1. Max does her best to ignore her emotions. On page 35 she says, "Hate crying. Hate feeling sad. Am not even too crazy about feeling happy." Why does Max hate the vulnerability she feels toward Fang? Or toward everyone and everything outside of the flock? Is her tough, cynical exterior just a mask? Why or why not?
  2. What does Nudge's decision to stay at the school and Max's decision to let her stay say about their relationship? How does this decision affect the rest of the flock? Why does Nudge return to the flock?
  3. After Max finds out that her mother is kidnapped, her feelings of responsibility almost completely overwhelm her. How does Fang support her through this adventure? Why is Max willing to let the U.S. Navy help the flock instead of charging off on her own with the flock in tow?
4. At their training school and on the submarine, Max and the flock enjoy showing the Navy what their powers are and how they can use them. What is the reaction to Max and the flock from the Navy commanders and scientists? How do they treat them differently than the scientists have in the past?
5. Angel is more rebellious and outspoken than she has been in previous adventures. Why is this change in Angel difficult for Max to handle? How does Max finally accept the changes in Angel's behavior?
6. As the relationship between Max and Fang continues to change, what does Max begin to understand about Fang? How does trust play a role in their relationship? What is the flock's reaction to Max and Fang's relationship?
7. Max accepts the fact that this is one situation that she and the flock cannot handle by themselves. From whom does the flock accept help in order to rescue Dr. Martinez? How do these resources save the flock's lives as well as the life of Dr. Martinez? What role does Fang play in teaching Max to be more accepting of outside help?



## CROSS CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

### Math

In *MAX*, the scientists were extremely worried that Angel and Max would be killed by the water pressure outside of the submarine. Also, Dr. Martinez witnessed the death of the fourth-in-command when he was ejected into the water. Ask students to research and use mathematic formulas to determine how many pounds per pressure it would take for a normal 100 pound person to be killed by underwater pressure. Students can also research at what ocean depths this amount of pressure would be found.

### English/Language Arts

In *MAX*, Fang does not maintain his blog. Ask students to create a class blog and maintain it during their study of the book. Students should post original comments as well as respond to others' comments and questions.

News reports can vary depending on the perspective of the news media covering the story and the public information officials responsible for presenting the story. Ask students to assume the voice of a representative from a variety of news media and organizations; the U.S. Navy, GreenPeace, Nuclear Energy Commission, FOX News, CNN, or MSNBC. Students should create and write the events of what happened based on the viewpoints of who they are representing. Students should include interviews of characters from the book to make the articles more entertaining.

### Geography

In *MAX*, Max and the flock do not understand how the Hawaiian Islands were formed or that islands are land structures surrounded by water. Assign students different Hawaiian islands and ask students to prepare a poster presentation explaining the formation and features of their particular island. Ask students to present their findings and after all presentations, discuss the similarities and differences of the islands.

### Thematic Connections

**Responsibility** – Max still assumes full responsibility for the flock, especially Angel, although she could share some of the load with Fang. Why is she so reluctant to share her responsibilities? How does trust play into her decision? Will the change in her relationship with Fang alter her role in the eyes of the flock?

**Family** – The flock's family is growing and changing. Max's mother has, to some degree, become a mother to all of the bird kids. Total is pursuing marriage to Akila, while Max and Fang are falling in love. And with each adventure more scientists want to help the flock instead of hurt them. How will these changes affect the solidarity of the flock's family unit?

**Loyalty** – Max is devoted to her mother and tells her, "I'll always, always come Mom. You can count on it." (page 300). Does her loyalty to her mother detract from her loyalty to the flock? How does the situation in *Max* put Max's loyalty to the test? Does the flock stand by Max or do they feel betrayed by her in some way? Why or why not?

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## INTERNET RESOURCES

### HOW SUBMARINES WORK

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/submarine.htm>

### THREE-EYED FISH AND RADIATION

[http://www.firstscience.com/home/perspectives/editorials/radiation-and-three-eyed-fish\\_34174.html](http://www.firstscience.com/home/perspectives/editorials/radiation-and-three-eyed-fish_34174.html)

### MENTAL TELEPATHY

<http://www.increasebrainpower.com/mental-telepathy.html>

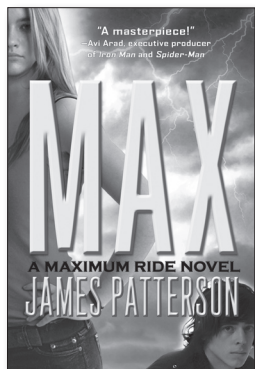
### UNDERWATER PRESSURE CAN BE DANGEROUS

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/articles/20040623/Feature1.asp>

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## about the book

James Patterson's young adult masterpiece of non-stop action, mystery, and suspense soared to the top of the bestseller lists and created an explosion of new fans for this beloved, multimillion-selling author.



Maximum Ride and the other members of the flock have barely recovered from their last arctic adventure, when they are confronted by the most frightening catastrophe yet. Millions of fish are dying off the coast of Hawaii and someone—or something—is destroying hundreds of ships. Unable to discover the cause, the government enlists the flock to help them get to the bottom of the disaster before it is too late.

**Maximum Ride: MAX**  
978-0-316-00289-9 HC  
978-0-316-00290-5 PB  
978-0-316-00290-5 MM  
978-0-316-00290-5 Audio  
AR 5.2 F&P

While Max and her team are exploring the depths of the ocean, their every move is being carefully tracked by Mr. Chu—a criminal mastermind with his own plans for the flock. Can they protect themselves from Mr. Chu's army of mercenaries and save the ocean from utter destruction?

## What Teachers Are Saying...

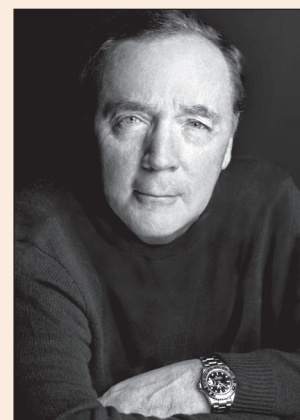
**“I am excited as a teacher to see a student get so into a book and will for sure keep copies in my classroom for other reluctant readers. THANK YOU James Patterson for doing what you do.”**  
—Karie, *Teacher*

**“The teachers read *Maximum Ride* again today, and the students begged them not to stop when the time was up!”**  
—Terri S., *Teacher*

**“This book deals with some heavy themes—the idea of social responsibility, activism, the importance of family, and the empowering idea that one person can change (save) the world.”**  
—Brooke Y., *Librarian*

**“Unbelievable...My kids and I can't wait for #3. Thanks for penning such thought-provoking, action-packed literary experiences.”**  
—Jill, *Teacher*

## 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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