

Stormbreaker Knowledge Organiser

Key Information:

Plot: In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger. ...

Setting: The novel is set in England, the country in which the author also resides. The novel begins in London, the large city where Ian and Alex Rider make their home. In time, the novel's setting switches to Port Tallon, Chelsea, where the Sayle Enterprises plant is located

Themes: Mortality, Coming of Age, Lies and Deceit. Fear, Technology and Modernization, Perseverance. Violence. Power.

Discussion Points:

- Considering both the cool "spy toys" and Alex's riveting adventures, in what way does Horowitz play into the wish-fulfillment of young people (and older folks)? Is this what's made the book (and the series) so successful?
- What makes Alex suspicious of the official explanation given for his uncle's death? Trace the steps that eventually involve the reluctant 14-year-old in the dangerous undercover world that Ian inhabited.
- The book addresses power in interesting ways: bullying, nations at war, using power for good or evil, etc. How did that make you feel? Should powerful people be prevented from using power in immoral ways and how should that be done?
- What is the most valuable character trait Alex learns at boot camp? Ex: Perseverance? Grit? Courage? Teamwork? What would be the hardest thing for you to overcome in that situation and in what ways do you think would it make you a better person?

Author Voice:

Anthony John Horowitz, CBE is an English novelist and screenwriter specialising in mystery and suspense. His works for children and young adult readers include The Diamond Brothers series, the Alex Rider series, and The Power of Five series.

Key Characters:

Yassen Gregorovich	Alex first met the Russian contract killer who killed his uncle on Herod Sayle's ground during his mission in Stormbreaker. At the time, Alex originally vows to kill him.
Mrs Jones	Mrs. Jones is very sympathetic to Alex, and offers reassurance when Alex is uneasy about what is required to do for his missions.
Alan Blunt	The former chief executive of the Special Operations division of MI6.
Alex Rider	Alex Rider is the main character
Herod Sayle	Herod Sayle is a wealthy man, and owns a computer company as well as a string of racehorses. He has invented a revolutionary computer called Stormbreak
Ian Rider	Alex's Uncle. After being sent on a mission to Cornwall to investigate middle-eastern billionaire Herod Sayle, Ian is shot and killed by Yassen Gregorovich,
Jack Starbright	Jack Starbright is Alex Rider's American caretaker and close friend.

Key Quotes:

"You're never too young to die."

"Believe me, It would be better if we didn't meet again. Go back to school. Go back to your life. And next time they ask you, say no. Killing is for grown-ups and you're still a child."

"When the doorbell rings at three in the morning, it's never good news."

"I love to kill fish,' Sayle went on. 'But when I saw this specimen of Physalia physalis, I knew I had to capture it and keep it. You see, it reminds me of myself.'

'It's ninety-nine per cent water. It has no brain, no guts and no anus.' Alex had dredged up the facts from somewhere and spoken them before he knew what he was doing."

"In the old days, spies had done they'd done because they loved their country, because they believed in what they were doing. But he'd never been given a choice. Nowadays, spies weren't employed. They were used."