

READING GROUP NOTES



ABOUT THE BOOK

ETHAN is supposed to be doing regular teenage things - like playing sports and hanging out with friends.

He is *not* supposed to be in hospital getting a brain tumour removed by Gemini, a high-tech android doctor. But just as the operation begins, the medical facility is hit by an unusual bolt of lightning ...

When Ethan wakes up he discovers that things are different. He's always been good with computers, but now his skills are next-level. Ethan almost feels like he's ... part of the machine.

And what about the android, Gemini? If Ethan is now part robot, does that make the robot part human?

Ethan will need all his new skills just to stay alive.

INFLUENTIAL INFLUENCES

E-BOY follows a long science fiction/comic book tradition of a protagonist gaining additional powers via an accident. And like the best of Marvel and DC, this story moves at break-neck speed, with complex heroes, villainous villains and, of course, classic comic illustrations that feature square jawed heroes, hard shadows, lines to denote action and movement (known as zip ribbons) - and plenty of *Wham!*, *Pop!* and *Gzzzt!*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ANH DO is one of Australia's best-loved storytellers. His junior fiction series *WeirDo*, *Hotdog!* and *Ninja Kid* are adored by millions of kids around the country, having sold in excess of 2.5 million books.

In his new series *E-Boy*, *Wolf Girl* and *Rise of the Mythix*, Anh brings his talent for break-neck plots and brilliant, relatable characters to a slightly older audience.

LET'S TALK!

BEFORE OPENING THE BOOK:

- Does the cover of *E-Boy* help you to guess what sort of story this will be? How does it do that? Look closely at the title, subtitle, fonts and colours used, illustrations and special effects (metallic foil) and discuss how each might provide clues about the story to come? In which genre would you expect to see this type of cover?
- Turn to the back cover and read the book's blurb. Does it confirm what you predicted when you looked at the cover?
- What are some of your favourite superheroes and what is it about them that you like? Did they ever need to face their own fears and ethical dilemmas?
- Have you ever read an Anh Do story before? Does this story seem like it will be similar or different to his other books?

CHAPTER 1

- Why do you think some sentences are written in italics in this chapter? What do these sentences tell us about Ethan?
- How would you describe Dr Penny Cook and her invention, Gemini?
- Rather than describing everything in words, Marvel and DC comics often depict loud sounds or rapid movement visually. Can you find examples of each in the first chapter of *E-Boy*?
- Sometimes words are incorporated in illustrations but they are presented in special ways. How has the illustrator made the word Krakoom stand out on page 12 and did this add to your reading experience?
- The perspective of an illustration often tells the reader something about characters or situations.
- What is the perspective of the images on pages 9 and 10 and how does each show us something about how Ethan is feeling as he is about to be operated on?



YOUR THOUGHTS?

- Gemini kills Reno and his men in order to save the hostages, and Ethan steals from tax-evading Helen Welling to help his parents. Do you think it is ever okay to do a bad thing to someone you think is bad, especially if you believe that bad thing will help someone else?
- What human qualities do you think Gemini got from Ethan and what robot qualities did Ethan get from Gemini? Who do you think improved the most after the incident in the hospital?
- Do you think that Anh Do is saying that the thing that separates humans from robots is the ability to recognise right from wrong and to make decisions based on it?
- Ethan isn't for a moment angsty about his new superpowers (pages 52-53) which makes him very different to many of the classic superheroes. How else is he different to superheroes and how is he similar?

JUST FOR FUN

- Where might the story go from the final scene in the book?
List three things that might happen in *E-Boy 2*.
- Write a sentence that could open the next book.
- Who would you cast as Ethan, Dr Penny Cook and Gemini in the film version of *E-Boy*?
- Who would you cast as the evil Agent Ferris and General Mawson?