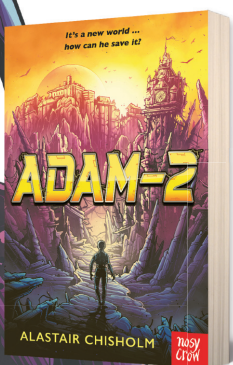


ADAM-2

Discussion Notes

Warning!
Spoilers
ahead!

- The story starts from Adam's perspective. Did anything in this first chapter make it obvious to you that Adam isn't human?
- Linden and Runa have very different responses when they find Adam, why do you think they each react the way they do?
- Adam 'replayed their conversation and realised: perhaps the angry human wasn't angry, but scared. That was interesting.' (p. 24) Why do you think Linden appeared angry? Why do you think Adam finds humans 'a mystery'?
- Adam has been living in a basement for over 200 years. Imagine going outside for the first time and seeing your city destroyed – how would this feel?
- What do you think Callum means when he says to Linden, 'It won't be fine. You're not Funk; you're human. Remember that.' (p. 40)
- Adam discovers that a lot has changed while he has been in the basement – what do you think is the hardest thing for him to process?
- Funks have always been viewed as 'the enemy', so Linden has a hard time accepting that Adam can help. Why is it important they don't write Adam off as an evil robot? Can you think of a time when one of your beliefs was challenged?
- Why do you think Linden is so offended when Adam suggests they are similar? (p. 74) Do you understand why Adam suggests this?
- Adam realises, 'Runa and Della saw robots as danger, but Linden... Linden hated them.' (p. 82) Why do you think ze hates them so much?
- What do you think about the Cailleach? Do you think it's good that she helps the Funks?
- The Cailleach has a difficult choice to make about whether to help Della – do you think she should? Why or why not?
- Adam is made to take part in a Trial to prove his allegiance. What did you think about this scene? Was Adam's choice the right one? Do you think there was a better way his allegiance could have been tested?
- Runa says, 'Killing Funks is what makes us human.' (p. 133) Discuss what you think about this statement – why do you think they believe this? What human characteristics are more important than this?
- Linden says, 'You think this is all just some technical puzzle, a problem. These people are dead, don't you understand?' (p. 159) Why do you think ze gets so frustrated with Adam in this scene?
 - Adam Six says that what 'Father' was trying to create was, 'A machine smart enough to follow orders, but too stupid to rebel. Able to solve problems, but only those the controllers allowed. Slave machines to replace those awkward, disobedient humans.' (p. 186) What do you think the issue with this is?



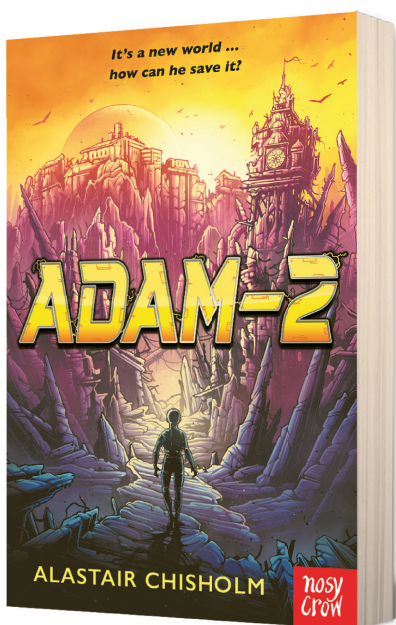
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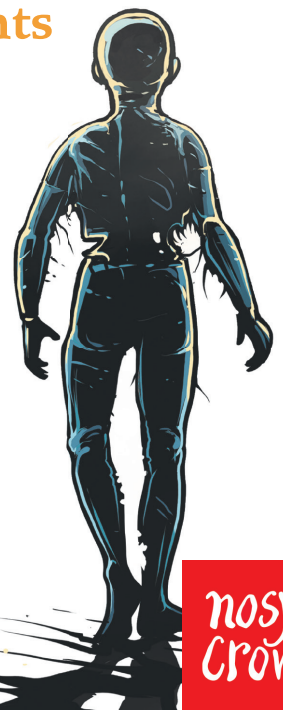
ADAM-2

Discussion Notes

- When the humans started attacking the robots, Adam One reprogrammed them to fight back. Why do you think Adam One saw this as its only option? What could it have done instead?
- Adam has to make a lot of difficult decisions – which do you think is the hardest?
- The robots and humans seem only to be able to view each other as ‘the enemy’ and they believe that each should kill the other. Why do they all think in this way? What has influenced their beliefs over time?
- Red Sky describes humans as ‘parasites with no morals. They consumed the world. They destroyed the environment. They destroyed each other. They destroyed themselves.’ (p. 215) What do you think about this description? Is there any truth in it?
- Why does Adam blame himself for Runa getting hurt? What does his reaction show about him? Is he more human or more robot?
- Linden says that what really makes us human is ‘being wrong’. (p. 269) Can you think of any times when you’ve been wrong, or you’ve messed up? How have you fixed it?
- Adam confronts each side with their idea of ‘peace’, do you think his tactic is a good one?
- Why do you think Adam is the only one who can see the way to peace – what about him makes him the best fit for this job?
- Not many people or robots join Adam’s new settlement – what do you think happens after the end of the book? Will more join?



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Adam-2! Share your thoughts
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ADAM-2

Activity Ideas

My City in Ruins

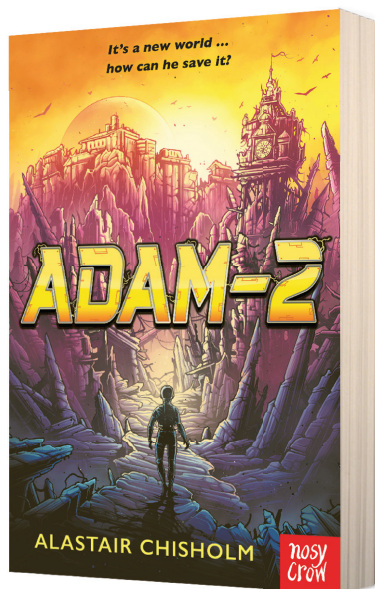
Adam emerges from his basement to find Edinburgh in ruins. Imagine you have been inside for 200 years and discover that your city or town has been ruined by war. Describe the sight as if you are seeing it for the first time. Are you still able to work out any landmarks? Are there new buildings or campsites? What do you find most shocking? Think about how you would feel and react to what you see.

Report on the War

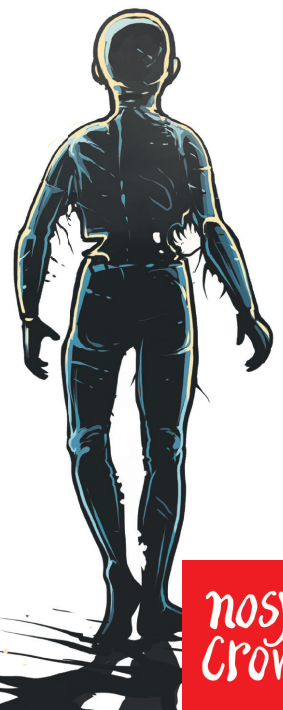
Adam learns about what has happened from the humans he meets, but none of them were around when the war started. Split into groups and write a news report for TV on the beginning of the war between humans and robots. Choose someone to be the news reader in the studio, someone to be a reporter at a specific location and a few people to be interviewed as witnesses. You could focus on a key event that has happened in the war such as a specific robot fighting back against their owners, or report on the war as a whole. Perform your news reports to the class – did you all have different ideas about how the war began, or were your ideas similar?

Class Debate

There are a lot of big decisions to make in Adam-2. Split the class in half and run a debate, with one side arguing for wiping out the robots and the other side arguing for making peace. Give the class 20 minutes to come up with three main points for their side, and then allow them 10 minutes to present their argument to the other half of the class. Following on from this, let the class debate their arguments. Is anyone convinced to join the other side?



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