Meet Jack Stalwart. Code name: COURAGE. Jack is an ordinary kid who becomes a secret agent by night, thwarting evil all over the world as he searches for his missing brother, Max. In his second adventure Jack must investigate the scene where a diver has vanished from the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia as well as the unknown treasure from the wreck of the HMS Pandora. Can Secret Agent Jack Stalwart find the diver and defeat a deadly band of pirates before they sail away with the treasure forever?

PRE-READING:
Why do you think the information about the Pandora is included in the beginning of the book? Predict what Jack will do in this adventure? Will it be more dangerous than his run in with the dinosaur or less? Why?

DISCUSSION GUIDE:
1. How does the novel open? Why do you think the author chose to open the story with Alfie’s situation instead of Jack? How does that pull the reader inside the story?
2. What does Jack win? Do you think this is how he stays physically fit? How do you stay fit? Do you think that must be an important aspect of being a secret agent? Is it important for you too?
3. Explain how Jack lands on location. Would you like to travel like this? Predict how travel might be possible in 200, 500, even 1,000 years from now.
4. How does Jack hope to figure out what happened to Alfie? What must he do first? What predators and enemies does he face on his quest?
5. Summarize the goals and ambitions of the Komodo Klan. Would you consider them Jack’s enemies or not? Why?
6. Describe “the ‘Egg.’” Why does Jack need it? What does it do for him? How does he use it to his best advantage during the story?
7. Reconstruct the series of steps Jack uses to find and rescue Alfie. What was his most brave act during this adventure? What makes you choose this?
8. What animals become particular threats to Jack? How does he avoid them? What tools and facts does he use to his advantage?
9. Why has the Komodo Klan decided to explore the wreckage of the Pandora? What did they find? In the end, who does it belong to? Why?
10. Which part of the story was most exciting for you as a reader? Why do you think the author decided to only let Jack use invisible milk on one mission only? Do you think it would be exciting to write a series like Jack Stalwart? Why or why not?

For other Teacher’s Guides or to learn more about Jack Stalwart, please visit: www.jackstalwart.com
PROJECTS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

- Fill out the following graph by listing six of the main events in order.
- Next, rate each event (10 as most exciting 1 as least) by coloring the graph.
- Discuss your results in class.

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**Major Events:**

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Math:
Research the exact distance between your home and Australia. Then, figure out how long it would take you to travel there in a variety of ways—by ship, plane, or even on your own steam (how many miles an hour do most people walk?)

Geography/Science:
Research the ecosystems of the Australian continent. Then, choose one to create a three-dimensional project which shows the flora and fauna of your ecosystem. You can use any materials you like to create your ecosystem and be sure to list at least ten facts of things you learned.

Art:
Australian Aboriginal art is one of the oldest in the entire world. Explore images from this tradition at: http://www.aaia.com.au/ Next, create a piece of your own which depicts some aspect of Jack Stalwart’s adventure which is inspired by these images.

History:
Research one of the following topics and create a presentation about what you learned:

- The aboriginal people of Australia
- The founding of Australia by the British
- An animal exclusive to that continent
- HMS Pandora
- HMS Bounty
- The exploration and diving around historic wrecks

This guide was written by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist and children’s author. Visit her website to find hundreds of guides to children’s literature.