



# PROJECTS

**Choose one of the projects and complete it.**

- 1) Research other environmental “disasters.” Some possible topics are

Love Canal (New York)

Chernobyl (Russia)

Bhopal (India)

The Exxon Valdez oils spill (Alaska)

Three Mile Island nuclear plant (Pennsylvania)

Deepwater Horizon oil spill, 2010 (Gulf of Mexico)

Flint (Michigan) Water Crisis 2014

Compare and contrast what happened in real life to the disaster in the book. Write a report, prepare a PowerPoint, or create a poster or other visual display to share your findings with your class.

- 2) Research Alexander Fleming and his discovery of penicillin. Write a report, prepare a PowerPoint, or create a poster or other visual display to share your findings with your class.
- 3) Research disease outbreaks that have taken place in history. The Black Death in Europe in the 1300s, the Spanish flu in 1918 (in the U.S. and worldwide), yellow fever in Philadelphia in 1793, and bird flu (H1N1) in 2009 are some possibilities. Compare these outbreaks to the fictional disaster in Heath Cliff, Pennsylvania, in the book. Write a report, prepare a PowerPoint, or create a poster or other visual display to share your findings with your class.
- 4) Research and do an oral report on the biosphere. Prepare a poster, PowerPoint, or other visual display to go with your report. Show how different living things are connected.
- 5) Research and do an oral report on cell division. Prepare a poster, PowerPoint, or other visual display to go with your report.
- 6) Research and do an oral report on genetic mutations. Prepare a poster, PowerPoint, or other visual display to go with your report.
- 7) Research epidemics and pandemics. Compare and contrast the two.

- 8) Choose a character from the book. Draw a picture of the character and write at least 7 sentences that describe his or her personality.
- 9) With a partner, create a computer game based on this book. Passages from the text should play a part in the action of the game. Write a detailed description of how it will be played and draw samples of the graphics. Write out the rules to play the game.
- 10) Create a poster about a new fuel alternative and discuss it with your classmates. What would it be made of? How would it work? What would be the possible disadvantages or advantages of this fuel alternative?
- 11) Act out your favorite scene from the book.
- 12) Write a brief newspaper article about the Heath Cliff Disaster. Include details that answer the 5 W questions: who, what, when, where, and why. Draw a picture to go with your article.
- 13) Create a comic strip based on one scene in the book. Write your own dialogue with two or more characters. Be sure to illustrate your work and block it into frames.
- 14) Create a movie poster for a movie that could possibly be made about the book. Include a short summary of the story. Draw a scene from the book. List the names of actors that you would cast as each character. Give the story a rating of one to five stars, with five being the best book you've ever read. Give reasons for your rating.
- 15) Make a timeline of the main events in the book.
- 16) Write a different ending to this story.
- 17) Read another book by Louis Sachar. Give a book talk about it to your class. Compare and contrast the characters, settings, and plots of the two books.
- 18) Tell this story to someone in your own words.

## On the web

### **Make connections to the real world to extend your students' understanding:**

- <http://www.pbs.org/pov/foodinc/lesson-plan-3/>  
lesson plan about genetically modified foods for grades 6-12
- Take a quiz: What do you know about GMOs? FUN!  
<http://www.pbs.org/pov/foodinc/quiz/>
- <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/04/160427081533.htm>  
(describes a one-celled organism capable of learning!!!)
- <https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>  
the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic
- <http://www.history.com/topics/1918-flu-pandemic> (video)
- <https://www.biofortified.org/2015/11/gmo-salmon/>
- Go online to find what the world population is right now.  
<http://www.census.gov/popclock/>

#### **Graphics In This Novel Study Courtesy of:**

<http://www.mycutegraphics.com>

<http://www.openclipart.org>

<http://www.clipart.com>

<http://www.clker.com/>