

# Watched

TIHEMA BAKER

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES



# INTRODUCTION

---

This activity booklet will require you to think critically about the events in the novel *Watched* by Tihema Baker. It will encourage you to think about how these events reflect issues that occur in the world we live in. Although the novel is based in a fantasy world, there are underlying issues and ideas that are both applicable and important to life here in the 'real' world.

Jason and Rory are two teenage boys from Wellington, New Zealand, who live relatively 'normal' lives. However, after a few strange and indescribable experiences, they are taken away to a parallel universe where they find out they have been 'watched' for most of their lives. Here, they are told they have been selected as part of a secret programme to protect humankind from danger. They are put through rigorous training sessions that enable them to harness their newfound super-powers. However, they soon learn that with such life-altering experiences, knowledge, power and responsibility, comes challenges and hardships.

Through this novel, Tihema Baker not only creates a world of superheroes with incredible powers that coexist with our very world, but addresses how people deal with situations when their lives change abruptly and drastically.

## LEARNING INTENTIONS

The **learning intentions** for this booklet are that you learn how to:

- answer questions by finding information in the text
- answer questions by inferring certain information from reading the text
- make judgements and think critically about ideas in the text, and explain your reasoning.

The **success criteria** for this booklet are that you can:

- find answers to questions in the text
- think critically about ideas in the text and use evidence to support your thoughts
- relate issues inside the text to the real world
- explain your rationale with confidence.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. If you could have one super power, what would it be?  
Explain why and what you would do with this power.
2. Are your motives for choosing this superpower to primarily help yourself, or to help others?
3. Brainstorm at least three different ways people deal with circumstances when they are under pressure. Explain which one of these you think is the most common way of dealing with pressure, and why.
4. Think of the last time you did something for the first time. Describe the situation, and how you dealt with the feeling of the 'unknown'.
5. Do you think that being powerful is more likely to make you a good person or a bad person? Explain your thoughts.
6. Do you think having big responsibilities is more likely to motivate someone, or make someone crumble under pressure?  
Explain your thoughts.

## VOCABULARY

Put these words into sentences:

- glade
- elite
- negate
- nonplussed
- monotonically
- nullify
- augment
- arcane
- irrevocable
- assail.

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Use text evidence to support each answer.

### PREFACE:

**ON THE LINES:** Jason Carter is Magnus. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Where do you think Jason is, and what abilities does he have there?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain how Jason changes from the beginning of the chapter, to the end of it.

### CHAPTER 1

**ON THE LINES:** Jason and Rory have both experienced the same dream. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** What happens to Jason that makes him think he is being watched?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain how Jason and Rory are different in the way they deal with their unexplainable experiences.

## CHAPTER 2

**ON THE LINES:** Jason is happy to pretend that everything is okay. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** How has Jason's experience in his hostel bathroom affected him?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** To what extent are the boys in control of their situation, and how well do you think they understand what is going on?

## CHAPTER 3

**ON THE LINES:** Jason and Rory realise they are both experiencing the same thing. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Do you think the boys realise what the Watchers are doing? Explain your answer.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** How is Rory coping differently to Jason with his newfound powers? Explain the different effects the superpowers have over each of the boys.

## CHAPTER 4

**ON THE LINES:** Rory wakes up in St. Andres College. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** What do the boys, and the rest of the members of Genesis, find out that explains why they are there?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Do you think it is fair that these teenagers from the world have all been selected against their will to help Chaos? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 5

**ON THE LINES:** Jason is struggling to believe his experience is real. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** When Rory leaves Jason on his own, what exactly does he begin to wonder, and worry about?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** If the Watchers really do exist, and really are protecting the world from harm, to what extent do you think they are achieving this goal? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 6

**ON THE LINES:** Jason enjoys his roommates, and finds it easy to fit in. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Explain why Jason's heart sank when he found out the members of his training team, Unum.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain why it might be important that these teams work well together, and understand each other's powers.

## CHAPTER 7

**ON THE LINES:** There appears to be a power struggle between Rory's and Jason's team. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Why do you think Rory wonders '*what exactly... the Watched do that warrant[s] training like this?*' (p. 92)

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain Rory's power. How might his power reflect the kind of person he is?

## CHAPTER 8

**ON THE LINES:** Rory and Jason have completely drifted apart. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Why might Jason think they '*need to prove [themselves]*' before they are allowed to know everything about the Watched? (p. 104)

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain how Team Unum begins to strengthen as a group, and why this is important for them.

## CHAPTER 9

**ON THE LINES:** The Genesis subjects are all one week into their programme. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** When the members of Team Unum are awarded for their bravery after helping Volta/Aki with her uncontrollable electric powers, Jason reaches his hand out to shake Chaos', who seems taken aback by the gesture (p. 118). Why might he have reacted this way?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Do you think Jason is keeping his group strong? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 10

**ON THE LINES:** Jason's success pushed Rory to try harder. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Rory was '*used to being the one in the spotlight*' (p. 127). He was jealous that Jason had taken that away from him. What do you think this says about Rory's character, and his friendship with Jason?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain how the battles between Team Duo and Team Unum may be training their egos more than advancing their special abilities.

## CHAPTER 11

**ON THE LINES:** Kate is being sulky for no good reason. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Lucian states that '*it is [the Watcher's] responsibility to protect the world from whatever dangers may threaten it*' (p. 147). What kind of dangers do the subjects think he might be talking about?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Why do you think Chaos is still being so elusive about the purpose for which the Genesis subjects are being trained?

## CHAPTER 12

**ON THE LINES:** Jason believed he would be a good team leader. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** How well did Unum act as a team during the flag defending simulation? Explain your answer.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Do you think that Team Unum is ready to face real world dangers yet? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 13

**ON THE LINES:** Jason acknowledges the rift between himself and Rory for the first time. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Rory tells his teammates '*I think we should leave [Unum] alone for a while ... We've taken them down a notch. We don't need to worry about them taking all the limelight anymore*' (p. 175). Do you think this is the real reason Rory wants to leave them alone? Explain your reasoning.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** What do you think the 'electrical disaster in Japan' was about? How do you think the news of this disaster affected the teams differently?

## CHAPTER 14

**ON THE LINES:** Dale wants to be left alone. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** What is one benefit that has come from Dale's dangerous leap back home? Explain why it is a benefit.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** What exactly is a 'fusion'? What kinds of fusions of skill do you think exist in real life? What are the benefits?

## CHAPTER 15

**ON THE LINES:** Rory does not feel guilty about walking away from Jason. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** What do you think Rory meant when he was thinking: '*Genesis had changed everything ... He was a different person now – and so was Jason*' (p. 200)?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** After Unum was awarded their new uniforms, Jason thought '*The uniforms suddenly gave them a purpose, a belonging, a unity*' (p. 207). To what extent do you think that the things we do (i.e. participate in sports, engage in hobbies, practise religion, wear clothes), define who we are? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 16

**ON THE LINES:** Dale is the team leader for Unum's examination. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** What do you think went wrong for Team Unum in their first examination? Was it anyone's fault?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** What was Chaos' first concern when Unum arrived back from the examination? How does this make you feel about Chaos' motives and priorities? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 17

**ON THE LINES:** Jason's health was at risk after the examination. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Chaos coldly and disappointingly delivers the news to Unum that they failed the examination. Jason '*had expected*

*Chaos to be worried about them, concerned for their safety*' (p. 232).

Do you think Chaos was too harsh on Team Unum about their failure? Explain your answer.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** To what extent should people put their own safety at risk for the benefit of others? Is it ever okay? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 18

**ON THE LINES:** Team Duo passed their examination. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Why does Chaos want to know what Rory saw amongst the 'confidential evidence'? Why might it concern him?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** After exhibiting particularly impressive skills, Jason and Rory are both selected for the new team, Septem. Explain how their friendship has changed since they first entered Genesis.

## CHAPTER 19

**ON THE LINES:** Jason and Rory are uncomfortable around each other. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Why does Jason decide to tell his Unum teammates about the private conversation he had with Chaos?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Kenny begins to question Chaos' motives with Genesis: '*Chaos just wants us all trained up to take out this other guy for him*' (p. 259). To what extent do you think it is okay to question a leader? Do you think it is right that Kenny doubts his protector?

## CHAPTER 20

**ON THE LINES:** Rory was determined to be better than Jason. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** When can we understand that the relationship between the Dominor and Tempest might be quite similar to Jason and Rory?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain how the responsibility and power at Genesis has affected Rory's character. How has he changed, even since leaving Team Duo for Team Septem?

## CHAPTER 21

**ON THE LINES:** Jason is mostly struggling with his emotions because of Septem's intense training regime. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** What does Jason mean when he says: '*One of the two prodigies in the security footage – Chaos thinks – has the power to augment or negate another prodigies abilities*' (p. 274)? How is this important for Chaos?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** To what extent do you think Jason understands his duty as a Genesis subject?

## CHAPTER 22

**ON THE LINES:** Rory is the team leader of the Septem examination. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Cole says that '*Chaos is the one we need to defend the world from.*' Do we have any good reason to believe him? Explain your answer.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Do you think Jason was right in giving up Nullia to the opposition to save Anna? Explain your answer.

## CHAPTER 23

**ON THE LINES:** Jason was the only subject that Chaos told about Nullia. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Do you think Jason is starting to question Chaos' motives and orders? Explain your answer.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain how Chaos justifies putting his subjects in constant danger. What are his reasons behind all of the fighting?

## CHAPTER 24

**ON THE LINES:** Jason does not blame himself for Septem's failure. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Jason has been told he has to '*practise by [him] self so [he] can prepare for the fight*' (p. 307). How does this isolation go against prior teachings at Genesis?

**BEYOND THE LINES:** Explain why Jason apologised to Anna, and turned away from her.

## CHAPTER 25

**ON THE LINES:** Jason is not worried about his own safety anymore. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Do you think Chaos is using Jason? Explain your answer.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** To what extent is Chaos protecting the world from danger?

## CHAPTER 26

**ON THE LINES:** Rory was not too concerned about Jason's safety. True or false?

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** In your own words, explain what Cecil was trying to reveal to Rory when he took over his mind.

**BEYOND THE LINES:** To what extent has our understanding of Chaos' intentions changed since we first met him at Genesis? Is this how you expected the novel to end? Why? Why not?

# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## CHARACTER PROFILING

CHARACTER TRAITS	BEFORE ENTERING GENESIS	AFTER ENTERING GENESIS
JASON		
RORY		

## THEME-BASED DEBATING TOPICS

- It is important to have good role models to help us realise our true potential.
- High expectations are necessary if we want to achieve great success.
- It is important for people to try things they have never done before and push themselves beyond their comfort zone.
- The more power vested in an individual, the more likely they will end up using it for selfish reasons.
- Greatness is more easily achieved through unity.
- Sometimes we have to compromise our morals for the greater good.

## CREATE YOUR OWN SUPERHERO

If you were a superhero, what would your powers be? Draw or create a representation of your imagined superhero, and explain what powers you have chosen and why. You may want to consider the following questions:

- What kinds of problems exist in the world that you could fix with this power?
- Who exactly do you want to help, if anybody?
- What kind of protective gear does your superhero wear and why?
- Would your superhero fit into Genesis, or not? Why?

Write a brief description of your superhero, including their name, and their main purpose.

## PLANNING THE SEQUEL

Tihema Baker is currently writing the sequel to his novel *Watched*. Is there anything in *Watched* that you hope is resolved in the sequel? If so, what would you like to see happen and why?

Supplementary notes written by Jasmine Novak

Published in 2016 by Huia Publishers  
39 Pipitea Street, PO Box 12280  
Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand  
www.huia.co.nz

Copyright © Huia (NZ) Limited 2016

These supplementary notes are copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without the prior permission of the publisher.